



CITY OF NEVADA CITY

317 Broad Street • Nevada City, California 95959 • (530) 265-2496

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APPLICATION TO RAISE BACKYARD CHICKENS IN R1 ZONED PROPERTIES

Applicant/Property Owner

Tenant (if Different than Property Owner)

Name

Address

City, State

Phone

email address

Street Address of Property

Size of Property

Description of Request (please include number of chickens, breed, and feed storage procedures):

A **Site Plan** is required with your application showing location of existing and proposed buildings, driveway, decks, fencing, any site drainage features, etc.

Applicant's Signature:

Date

NOTICE TO APPLICANT:

Owners/tenants acknowledgement of receiving information related to successful chicken raising, including information on coop construction, manure management, fly control, etc. By signing above, the owners/tenants acknowledge receipt of the city provided best practices handout.

This approval does not exempt the work from a building permit. Contact the Nevada County Building Department (265-1222) to check whether a building permit is required for your coop or other structures.

OWNERS AGREEMENT TO ADHERE TO ORDINANCE STANDARDS: By signing this form, I agree to adhere to the City Ordinance 2011-07 (Chapter 17.24.080 of the City's Municipal Code). Any deviation from these standards will result in code enforcement procedures from the City, which could result in a fine and/or permit revocation and abatement of chicken raising.

17.24.080 - Backyard chickens.

This section provides requirements and performance standards for the raising and keeping of backyard chickens on residential parcels as follows:

- A. Definition. Backyard chicken shall mean a domestic chick or hen kept on a residential lot. For purposes of this chapter, "backyard chickens" means a domestic chick or hen kept on a residential lot and does not include roosters or Guinea Hens or exotic varieties that are noisy.
- B. Permit requirement. A permit shall be required for the raising or keeping of backyard chickens on any R1 zoned parcel. A permit shall be submitted and signed by the property owner. The permit is to be processed ministerially by staff and approved by two (2) staff members, and accompanied by a filing fee in an amount to be determined by resolution of the city council.

The permit shall contain the following information to ensure the raising of chickens will not have any adverse impacts on surrounding properties:

- 1. Site plan, drawn to scale, indicating the locations of the existing residence and other buildings on the property.
 - 2. Distances of buildings from the property lines.
 - 3. Location of coop and distances from other buildings and the property lines.
 - 4. Description of coop construction, including size and materials.
 - 5. Owner acknowledgement of receiving city-approved information which includes guidelines for successful chicken raising, coop construction, predator control, manure management, control of odors and flies, etc.
 - 6. A site plan indicating the locations of the residence and the coop from the property lines, and sufficient information to ensure the raising of chickens will not have any adverse impacts on surrounding properties.
- C. Use requirements. The raising of backyard chickens shall only be allowed on properties containing a single family dwelling with a fenced rear yard area. Backyard chickens and their eggs are to be used for domestic uses only.
 - D. Lot size requirement. The following table identifies the maximum number of backyard chickens allowed on a single residential parcel.

MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE BACKYARD CHICKENS

Zoning District	Minimum Lot Size	Maximum Number
R1-Single Family	2,500 sq. ft.	2
	5,000 sq. ft.	4
	10,000 sq. ft. and greater	6

- E. Shelter requirement. A coop shall be provided that meets the following minimum standards:
 - 1. Be predator-proof from the sides, the top, and from below and built for the purpose of protecting the backyard chickens from predators (raccoons, dogs, bears, etc.).
 - 2. The coop must be located in the rear of the property and behind the residence.
 - 3. The coop must be located closer to the owner's residence than any surrounding residences or at least twenty (20) feet from the nearest abutting residence. In no case shall the coop be located less than five (5) feet from any property line.
- F. Feed storage. All feed for the chickens shall be stored within an enclosed container to prevent the attraction of vermin.
- G. Manure management. All chicken manure produced from the backyard chickens shall be managed in a manner that prevents odors, flies and pests.
- H. Erosion and drainage control plan. The permit shall include an erosion and drainage control plan to be approved by the city engineer. The plan shall provide measures to be taken to ensure that backyard chickens will not cause watershed contamination onto adjoining properties and that proper drainage measures are taken.
- I. Prohibited uses. The following are prohibited uses:
 - 1. Commercial sales of chickens or eggs.
 - 2. Slaughtering processes.
 - 3. Roosters.
 - 4. Guinea Hens (or other types of fowl, including exotic breeds that are noisy).

(Ord. No. 2011-07, Exh. A, 3-23-2011)

Backyard Chicken Information & Guidelines

Prepared by the APPLE Center, for Nevada City & Grass Valley

What to consider BEFORE you decide to get backyard chickens:

- 1. Do you or someone in your household have the time and dedication to care for animals?** The answer to this question should be taken seriously. Chickens can not be returned to animal shelters. They are an investment in time and money. Their welfare deserves the utmost respect.
- 2. Where will your coop go?** You must protect your chickens from predators, dogs and pests. You should also be sure that smells will not bother neighbors. Everything eats chicken, so be sure to have an appropriate coop that can be well secured at night from animals such as raccoons, skunks, dogs, mountain lions and in some areas, bears.
- 3. Do you have a compost system in place?** If not, how will you plan to dispose of the manure? Once chicken manure has been composted, it is considered "black gold." Amend your garden soil with composted chicken manure or arrange to give it to someone who will use it. This is an important consideration. If you do not have a method of disposing or composting the manure, you can cause the chickens (and possibly your family) to become ill. Coops that are not cleaned out will attract rodents and pests of all kinds.
- 4. How much will it cost to set up your chickens?** This depends on the number of eggs your family consumes per week. A chicken will lay approximately one egg every 24 hours. During the winter, and during a chickens moult, it may decrease to one egg every 48 hours. Stress will slow things down even further. So, determine the number of chickens you will need, then, plan or purchase a coop that is appropriate for that size. Coops can range from \$100 - \$800 depending on the size and features. Plans are available all over the internet if you plan to build your own.

Other useful information:

Chickens should not be kept in their coops during the day. They should be let out to eat bugs, scratch through the grass, receive essential sunlight and proper activity levels. Depending on where you live, you may have a need for electric fencing or hot wire for your current fencing. These are investments that you will need to plan for up front, but will pay off in a reasonable amount of time. Use materials from Habitat for Humanity's ReStore on Loma Rica Dr. You can build an affordable coop and fence it for a great price!

Your chickens will also need feed. You will want to secure the feed where it can not be reached by rodents and pests. Prevention is everything! Prevent fly larva and rodent infestation by using locked cabinets or air tight plastic containers. There are also specialty containers made just for chicken feed as well. Chickens should have access to both feed and water at all times.

What to do when your chickens get to old to lay eggs? Many people choose to keep the chicken as a pet. Some families choose to have the chicken processed and use it as a

“stewing chicken.” You can not slaughter or process a chicken anywhere within the city limits. There are a few solutions being considered for this but we do not have any programs available at this time. We suggest you contact the APPLE Center when you face this situation.

Resources for backyard chickens:

Books:

City Chicks: Keeping Micro-flocks of Chickens as Garden Helpers, Compost Makers, Bio-reyclers, and Local Food Producers by Patricia L. Foreman

[Chickens in Your Backyard: A Beginner's Guide](#) by [Rick Luttmann](#)
(available at the APPLE Center)

[The Backyard Homestead: Produce all the food you need on just a quarter acre!](#) by Carleen Madigan

Magazines:

Mother Earth News: www.motherearthnews.com

Backyard Poultry Magazine: www.backyardpoultrymag.com

Local Classes:

A to Z Supply
APPLE Center with Dinner Bell Farm

Great Websites:

www.backyardchickens.com
www.mypetchicken.com

Local Suppliers of chicks, feed and/or materials:

Ridge Feed & Supply
Simply Country: The Farm Store
A to Z Supply
Peaceful Valley Farm and Garden

Email Listserves:

Local Food Coalition (register at localfoodcoalition.org)