



Backyard Chickens

Rules for maintaining chickens in residential zoned areas

Volusia County passed ordinance 2018-13 on July 24th, 2018, that allows for the keeping of chickens in certain single-family residentially zoned areas. The zoning classifications where chickens may be allowed, subject to obtaining a Conditional Use Permit, are R-1 through R-6 and MH-6.

The following rules apply to the keeping of backyard chickens in Volusia County:

1. The number of chickens shall be limited to no more than five (5), and no ducks, geese, pigeons, turkeys, peafowl, roosters, or any other poultry or fowl are allowed. For the purpose of this section, the term "chicken" refers to hens only.
2. Chickens shall be kept for personal use only. Selling chickens, eggs, or chicken manure, or the breeding of chickens for commercial purposes is prohibited.
3. Chickens may not be slaughtered on premises
4. A Conditional Use Permit must be obtained prior to keeping chickens on your property.

Conditional Use Permit: An application for a conditional use permit must be submitted to the Planning and Development Services Division, along with supplemental information for review by the Zoning Enforcement Official. Approval of the permit shall be based on meeting the following conditions:

1. An application is \$134.00 dollars shall be required upon submission. (Fees are adjusted annually, on October 1st, based on the percentage change in the consumer Price Index. Please check the Application Fee Schedule found here: <https://www.volusia.org/services/growth-and-resource-management/planning-and-development/fee-schedules.stml>.) Please note that the application fee is nonrefundable whether your application is approved or denied.
2. You must complete a class on the care and raising of chickens provided by the University of Florida Agricultural Extension Service (UF IFAS). Proof of completion shall be required. The phone number to call to schedule a class is (386) 822-5778.

3. Prior to issuance of a Conditional Use Permit for the keeping of chickens, you must notify all adjacent property owners of your intent to keep chickens. You will be provided a letter to send to your neighbors by certified mail. The certified mail receipts must be submitted to the Zoning Enforcement Official prior to issuance of your permit.
4. The property must be one-third acre or greater (14,520 square feet) in size.
5. The chickens must be contained in a coop.
 - a) The coop must meet accessory structure setbacks. It must be located in the rear yard and be no closer than five (5) feet to any side or rear property line, but not in any platted easements.
 - b) The maximum height of the coop shall be eight (8) feet.
 - c) The maximum size of the coop shall be 150 square feet.
 - d) If the coop is greater than 120 square feet a building permit must also be obtained. Contact the Volusia County Permit Center at (386) 943-7059 or permitctr@volusia.org for further information.
 - e) The coop must be screened from view of adjacent property owners.
 - f) You will be required to submit a scaled survey or site plan of your property showing where the coop will be located, with the dimensions of the coop and the distances to the property lines clearly drawn. The site plan must also depict the method of screening the coop from adjacent property owners.
6. Manure must be kept in a fly-tight bin and not be located closer than 20 feet to any property line.

Permit Renewal: Once issued, the permit shall expire after two years from the date of issuance. You must renew your permit if you intend to continue keeping chickens on your property. You will be required to submit an application, fee, and supplementary information again, and you will be required to notify your neighbors of your intent to continue keeping chickens again. You will not be required to take a class on the keeping of chickens for renewal of your permit.

For further information please call (386) 736-5959, extension 12777, or email planning@volusia.org, if you have questions regarding these regulations for the keeping of Backyard Chickens or the Conditional Use Permit requirements.

Attachments:

- Conditional Use Permit Application
- Example Letter to Adjacent Properties



CONDITIONAL USE APPLICATION
for
BACKYARD CHICKENS

GROWTH AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIVISION

Initial Application
Renewal Application

Complete the following information, and attach additional information and/or plans as needed.
This information will be used by staff to review your application.

APPLICANT/OWNER:
Applicant: Phone:
Address: Email:
City/State/Zip:
Owner: Phone:
Address: Email:
City/State/Zip:
If applicant is not the owner of the property, an Owner's Authorization must be submitted with the application.

PROPERTY INFORMATION:
Tax Parcel Number(s):
Total Acres/Sq. Ft.: (The lot/parcel must be a minimum of 1/3 acre or 14,520 sq. ft.)
Zoning:

Required Information:
Site Plan depicting the size and location of the chicken coop.
Provide a detailed dimensioned drawing of the chicken coop/enclosure.
Describe the method of screening the coop/enclosure from the adjacent properties.
Describe the method of manure management.
Proof of completion of the University of Florida Agricultural Extension Service (UF IFAS) class on the care and raising of chickens.
Note: Prior to permit issuance, certified receipts that notice been sent to all adjacent residentially-zoned adjacent properties shall be required.

NOTES:

- 1. The number of chickens shall be limited to no more than five (5), and no ducks, geese, pigeons, turkeys, peafowl, roosters, or any other poultry or fowl are allowed.
2. Chickens shall be kept for personal use only. Selling chickens, eggs, or chicken manure, or the breeding of chickens for commercial purposes is prohibited.

*****STAFF USE ONLY*****

STAFF REVIEW CHECKLIST:

Application Date: _____

Permit Issued: _____

Reviewing Staff: _____

Renewal Date: _____

REVIEW CHECKLIST

Coop/Enclosure:

- Size of the structure? _____ sq. ft.
- Is permit required? _____ Yes _____ No
- Does it meet accessory structure setbacks? _____ Yes _____ No
- Is it 8 feet in height or less? _____ Yes _____ No
- Is it screened from adjacent properties? _____ Yes _____ No

Manure Management:

- Has a management plan been submitted? _____ Yes _____ No
- Is a fly-tight bin being utilized? _____ Yes _____ No
- Is the location of the bin at least 20 feet from property lines? _____ Yes _____ No

UF IFAS Class:

- Has proof of class been submitted? _____ Yes _____ No

Adjacent Property Notification:

- Date the property owner was provided letter to send to neighbors: _____
- Date that all certified receipts have been received/submitted: _____

Other:

- Are there other unresolved code violations related to this property? _____ Yes _____ No
- Is a Nonconforming Lot Letter Required? _____ Yes _____ No
- Is EMD review required? _____ Yes _____ No

NOTES:

[Insert Neighbor's Name]
[Insert Neighbor's Address]

[Insert Date]

RE: Notice of Application for a Conditional Use Permit for the Keeping of Backyard Chickens

Dear Neighbor,

I am applying to the Volusia County Growth and Resource Management Department for approval of a Conditional Use Permit that will allow me to maintain up to five (5) chickens for personal use. A requirement of the permit is that I must notify, by certified mail, all adjacent residential properties of my intent to keep chickens on my property.

The general regulations I must follow in order to keep chickens on my property are as follows:

- The property must be a minimum size of one-third acre.
- The number of chickens is limited to five, and no ducks, geese, pigeons, turkeys, peafowl, roosters, or any other poultry or fowl are allowed. For the purpose of this section, the term "chicken" refers to hens only.
- The chickens must be contained in a coop enclosure that may be no larger than 150 square feet and no taller than 8 feet. The coop must meet standard accessory structure setbacks and must be screened from view of adjacent properties.
- I must maintain the chicken manure in a fly-tight bin and the bin shall be kept no closer than 20 feet to any property line.
- I am required to take a class on the proper care of chickens through the University of Florida Agricultural Extension Service.

The Conditional Use Permit is valid for a period of two years, after which I may apply to renew it. You will be sent a notice of the permit renewal at that time.

Please contact the Planning and Development Services Division if you have any questions regarding Volusia County's Backyard Chicken regulations, and to express any concerns you may have regarding my application for a conditional use permit. The phone number is (386) 736-5959, ext. 12777, or the email address is planning@volusia.org.

Respectfully,

Applicant's Signature

[Insert Applicant's Name]
[Insert Applicant's Address]