

Gwinnett County's allowances:

1. In non-agricultural residential zoning districts, the keeping of chickens for personal pleasure or utility on a parcel which contains the dwelling of the owner is permitted, subject to the following requirements:

- a. The minimum lot size for the keeping of chickens shall be ten thousand five hundred (10,500) square feet.
- b. Chickens must be kept securely in an enclosed yard or 6-sided pen at all times.
- c. Minimum pen area for chickens shall be ten (10) square feet per chicken.
- d. Chickens must be housed at least twenty (20) feet from any property line, and fifty (50) feet from any residence on an adjoining parcel.
- e. Any structure housing chickens must be located in the rear yard.
- f. The keeping of roosters shall be a prohibited use, for which a variance is not authorized.
- g. The maximum number of chickens shall be as follows: Lots 10,500 square feet to 12,499 square feet: maximum of 3 chickens; lots 12,500 square feet to 24,999 square feet: maximum of 5 chickens; lots 25,000 square feet to 39,999 square feet: maximum of 8 chickens; lots of 40,000 square feet to 2.99 acres: maximum of 10 chickens; lots 3 acres or larger: no maximum.
- h. Each coop shall have at least four (4) square feet of floor space per chicken over four (4) months old.
- i. Chickens are only permitted as pets or for egg laying production; chickens cannot be kept for slaughter or sale.
- j. Chickens must be kept under sanitary conditions and shall not be a public nuisance as defined by State law.

City of Marietta allowances:

Chickens shall be allowed on property zoned R-2 according to the restrictions listed below:

- a) An accurately scaled sketch of the property must be provided that shall indicate the location of all existing and proposed structures, including coops and fences, as well as their distances from surrounding property lines.
- b) No roosters shall be allowed.
- c) The maximum number of chickens allowed on any property shall not exceed 4.
- d) The minimum lot size for the keeping of chickens is 15,000 square feet.
- e) Chickens may only be kept on properties with an occupied residence.

- f) Chicken coops may be no more than 8 feet in height.
- g) Chicken coops and the enclosed "run area" shall not be more than 100 square feet in area.
- h) Chickens must be kept in a fenced area in the rear yard at least 20 feet from any property line and 10 feet from the principal structure. The minimum fenced area for chickens shall be 25 square feet per chicken.
- i) All coops and surrounding areas are to be properly maintained and kept clean so as not to become a nuisance. Coops and feed are to be secured at all times to prevent any potential nuisance with mice or other rodents and pests.
- j) A property owner or resident may be required to remove any and all chickens if they are not being properly contained in the manner specified in this section.
- k) Chickens shall only be permitted as pets or for egg production; the chickens shall not be kept for slaughter.

Notwithstanding anything contained in this ordinance, this ordinance shall not modify, nullify, change or usurp any protective covenant, restrictive covenant, declarations or conditions currently existing and recorded on the Deed Records of Cobb County, Georgia.

Cobb County allowances:

Sec. 134-290. - Backyard chickens for properties under two acres.

- (a) There shall be a maximum ratio of one backyard chicken per 5,000 square feet of lot area on any lot less than two acres;
- (b) Only hens are kept on the property;
- (c) The backyard chickens shall be kept/maintained within a fenced area to the rear of the house;
- (d) Coops, or other buildings used for the poultry shall be located at least 25 feet off any property line. Coops are considered an accessory structure and all conditions for accessory structures in that zoning district shall also apply for any coop over 144 square feet;
- (e) The owner(s) of the poultry shall keep the property maintained in a fashion that eliminates the potential negative effects resulting from the poultry, including but not limited to, odors, pollution, noise, insects, rodents and other wild animals;
- (f) The backyard chickens shall not cause a nuisance, as defined by state law;
- (g) The slaughter of any hen on site is prohibited; and
- (h) This section does not authorize persons to violate applicable restrictive covenants and/or homeowners' association rules and regulations. Property owners are solely responsible for compliance with all applicable restrictive covenants and homeowners' association rules and regulations.

(i) The community development director or their designee shall develop an application form for review of these requests. A person seeking to keep and raise chickens in accordance with this section shall first submit a complete application to the community development department.

City of Atlanta allowances:

Sec. 18-7. - Enclosures for keeping small animals.

Small animals, such as dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, turkeys and the like, may be kept within the city limits, subject to the following:

(1) Condition, size. All these animals must be provided with adequate housing. The houses, hutches, pens or other enclosures wherein animals are kept shall have a solid floor made of cement or other suitable washable material, except when pens are 75 feet or more from the nearest neighbor's residence or place of business. Floor space in all these houses, hutches, pens or enclosures, wherever located, must have the following minima:

- a. Dogs and miniature pot bellied pigs, 100 square feet per animal over four months of age.
- b. Rabbits or guinea pigs, four square feet per animal over four months of age.
- c. Turkeys, four square feet per bird over four months of age.
- d. Chickens and similar fowl, two square feet per bird over four months of age.
- e. Bantams, one square foot per bird over four months of age.

(2) Location. Pens or yards where such animals and birds are kept shall be placed at the following minimum distances from any residence or business establishment:

- a. Distance from any residence, except that of owner, or any business establishment, 50 feet.
- b. Distance from owner's residence, five feet.

(3) Maximum number. The maximum number of such animals which may be kept on a single premises shall not exceed the following:

- a. Dogs, ten.
- b. Rabbits or guinea pigs, 75.
- c. Turkeys, chickens, bantams or similar fowl, 25.
- d. Miniature pot-bellied pigs, 1.

Social Circle allowances:

Sec. 9-72. - Chickens as domesticated animals.

(a) "Chickens" are included within the definition of domesticated animals within section 9-51. "Chickens" are also included within the definition of household pets in the zoning code of the city. The keeping of chickens, as a part of the category of household pets, is allowed within the following zoning districts: AG, AG-2, R-25, R-15, and RMD in accordance with the following provisions:

- (1) Chickens are only permitted as pets or for egg-laying production; chickens cannot be kept for slaughter.
- (2) Chickens, chicken products, and/or by-products shall not be sold on the property.
- (3) No person shall fail to prevent his or her animals from straying from the property of the owner, or going upon the property of any other person, or upon any public rights-of-way.
- (4) Roosters, any male chickens, and any other crowing chickens are prohibited.
- (5) Guinea hens, peacocks, and geese are prohibited.
- (6) No chickens shall be kept on a lot of less than 8,700 square feet.
- (7) Three pet chickens are allowed on a lot sized 8,700 square feet or more.
- (8) Six pet chickens are allowed on a lot sized 15,000 square feet or more.
- (9) Nine pet chickens are allowed on a lot sized 25,000 square feet or more.
- (10) Twelve pet chickens are allowed on a lot sized one acre or more.

(b) Housing requirements.

- (1) Chickens must be kept securely in an enclosed yard or pen at all times.
- (2) Any structure housing chickens must be located in the rear yard.
- (3) All such houses, pens, or enclosures, shall have a minimum floor space of four square feet per bird over four months old.

(c) Sanitary requirements.

- (1) Chickens must be kept under sanitary conditions and the enclosure they are kept in must not be allowed to become filthy or unsanitary.
- (2) All places where chickens are kept shall have adequate drainage sufficient to prevent standing water in yards or pens.
- (3) All places where chickens are kept shall remove all manure from such containers before the same shall become malodorous or unsanitary.
- (4) All places where chickens are kept shall be kept free from vermin.
- (5) Feed must be stores in a fully, enclosed, vermin-proof container.

Forsyth County allowances:

16-4.4. - Backyard chickens.

In zoning districts where permitted, the following shall apply:

- (a) The minimum lot size for the keeping of backyard chickens shall be one-half acre.
- (b) No more than eight chickens are permitted on a lot.
- (c) Chicken coops, chicken houses and/or roosting structures shall not require a building permit.
- (d) All coops, houses and/or roosting structures shall be required to adhere to the minimum building setback performance standards that are in effect for the zoning district where the structure is to be built. However, in no event shall any such structure encroach within 20 feet from the rear and side property lines, and 50 feet from residential structures on adjacent properties. In the event of a conflict between any building setback performance standard for the zoning district where the structure is to be built, and the minimum setback requirements set forth in this section 16-4.4(d), the more stringent setback requirement shall control.
- (e) The coop structure shall provide a minimum of five square feet of floor space per chicken with at least one nest box per five chickens and perches that are raised a minimum of 12 inches off the floor. Each nest box shall be 12 inches by 12 inches and there shall be a minimum of eight linear inches of perch per chicken.
- (f) The area shall be kept in a neat and sanitary condition and must be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent offensive odors, attraction of flies and/or vermin, the creation of an environment otherwise injurious to the public health and safety, or that would obstruct the free use of property so as to interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life or property by members of the neighborhood or other persons.
- (g) Roosters and any other crowing fowl are prohibited.
- (h) The slaughter of any hen on site is strictly prohibited.
- (i) Feed, feed supplements and medications shall be kept in fully enclosed, rodent-proof containers.
- (j) Chickens shall be contained within the coop, house, and/or roosting structure whenever unattended. When the owner is present in the yard, chickens shall be kept in an enclosure, such as a chicken tractor, to prevent them from causing damage, accidents or injury to any neighboring property or person.
- (k) The provision must be made for the storage and removal of hen droppings and any dead birds. All stored droppings used for composting shall be fully covered or placed in an enclosure. Such enclosures must be setback a minimum of 50 feet from all property lines. All other droppings not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. In addition, the coop, enclosure, and surround area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Dead chickens must be disposed of in a sanitary manner.

(l) No permission or allowance authorized by this section shall supersede applicable private covenants.