

Columbia's Urban Chicken Ordinance

Frequently Asked Questions

*In February 2010, the Columbia City Council voted to amend Chapter 5 of the city code as it relates to chickens. The Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services drafted the ordinance based upon successful ordinances in other parts of the country. **For more information on the proper care of chickens, please contact the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture at www.ColumbiaUrbanAg.org***

How many chickens can I have?

Six hens per tract of land are allowed. Roosters are not allowed.

May I have ducks or turkeys instead of chickens?

No. Only female/hen chickens are allowed.

Where can I keep the chickens?

Chickens must be kept in a clean and sanitary enclosure at all times. The enclosure must be **at least 10 feet** from any property line and **25 feet** from any adjacent residence. The structure must be enclosed on all sides, with a roof and door(s). The structure must be of uniform construction and well maintained. Any chicken pen must be sturdily built, enclosed on all sides and include overhead protection to keep the chickens in and other animals out.

May I allow the chickens to range free?

No. Chickens must be kept in a clean and sanitary enclosure at all times. Please see previous question.

How do I build a chicken coop?

The Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture offers

guidance on building the appropriate chicken coop. Contact them at www.columbiaurbanag.org.

What should I do with my chicken manure?

Chicken manure must be kept in an enclosure with a tight-fitting lid. Chicken owners must provide proper storage and removal of chicken manure in a timely manner.

What happens if my chickens get loose and are attacked by dogs?

Dogs or cats that kill chickens will not (for that reason alone) be considered dangerous or aggressive animals.

What happens if I fail to comply with the ordinance?

If a chicken owner violates provisions of the ordinance, he or she could be prosecuted or the nuisance abated per Chapter 11 of the city code.

Are there other educational resources available to me?

In addition to the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, you can find more information at www.backyardchickens.com.

