

## CHAPTER 57

# URBAN CHICKENS

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**57.01 PURPOSE.** The purpose of this chapter is to allow and regulate the keeping of urban chickens.

**57.02 DEFINITION.** For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. “Chicken” means a member of the subspecies *Gallus, gallus domesticus*, a domesticated fowl.
2. “Coop” means a cage, enclosure or building used for housing and protecting chickens from weather and predators.
3. “Pen” or “run” means an enclosure for chickens which allows freedom of movement but also prevents escape.
4. “Rooster” means a male chicken.
5. “Right of way” means the land area, which is secured or reserved by the contacting authority, that is to be used for road, rail, or other transportation purposes.

**57.03 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.**

1. Residents will be allowed to raise, harbor, or keep chickens on single-family dwelling properties after obtaining a permit. Permits may be obtained at City Hall for a \$10 fee.
2. Applicant shall complete items on the checklist prior to inspection and the permit being approved.
3. Each permit will be in effect for one year from the date of its issuance and must be renewed and certified annually in the month prior to the expiration date.

**57.04 SITE REQUIREMENTS.** Unless specified elsewhere in this chapter, the following requirements shall apply:

1. The property must be a single-family residence.
2. A tenant must obtain the landlord’s written permission to install a coop.
3. Coops and pens shall be located only in the rear yard and not within a dwelling.
4. Coops and runs cannot be within 25 feet from neighbors’ structures or City right of way without written permission from neighbor.

**57.05 CHICKEN REQUIREMENTS.** Unless specified elsewhere in this chapter, the following requirements shall apply:

1. Maximum number of chickens allowed will be determined by site and coop sizes permissible at each residence.
2. Roosters are prohibited.
3. All chickens must be housed in the coop from dusk to dawn.
4. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected in a manner to prevent rodents from gaining access to or coming in contact with them.
5. Adequate food, water and shelter shall be provided at all times.
6. A chicken that is outside the pen is “at large” and is a violation of the City Code.

**57.06 COOP REQUIREMENTS.**

1. Coops shall be constructed, repaired, and maintained in a manor to prevent rodents from being harbored underneath or within the wall of the enclosures.
2. Coops shall be built of solid materials such as wood, metal, or plastic. The materials used shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and windows or openings are constructed using the same material.
3. Coops shall have at least one solid door and window that can provide adequate ventilation.
4. A minimum of 1 square feet of space shall be provided per bird inside a coop. Maximum coop size of 24 square feet.
5. Coops shall be maintained to ensure proper sanitation for maintaining the health of the chickens and the owners. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites may be removed by a person designated by the City Administrator with the assistance of the City of Leon Police if necessary.
6. Waste must be removed and disposed of in a sealed, enclosed container at a minimum of twice a month to avoid odor.
7. Coop shall be built in a well-drained area to prevent standing water.

**57.07 PEN REQUIREMENTS.**

1. There shall be a minimum of 2 square feet of space per chicken.
2. Shall be at least 4 feet high, predator proof and constructed of wood, chicken wire, or heavy gauge mesh wire with a top.
3. Waste must be removed and disposed of in a sealed, enclosed container at a minimum of twice a month to prevent odor.

*(Chapter 57 – Ord. 2020-07 – Dec. 23 Supp.)*

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