



# Accessory Backyard Chicken Keeping Application

This application is for properties that are zoned R-1, Limited Residential Zoning District or R-2, General Residential District. No permit is required for properties that are zoned A-1, R-6, or R-8.

<b><u>STAFF USE ONLY</u></b>		
Date Received: _____	Case No.: _____	Receipt No.: _____
Parcel Id No.: _____	Subdivision: _____	

<p><b><u>Applicant Information</u></b> (please print)</p>
_____
Name
_____
Street Address
_____
City/State/Zip
_____
Daytime Phone Number
_____
Email Address
_____
Applicant Status (check the appropriate box below)
___ Property Owner
___ Rent*

<p><b><u>Property Owner Information</u></b></p>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if property owner is same as the applicant
_____
Name
_____
Street Address
_____
City/State/Zip
_____
Daytime Phone Number
_____
Email Address
_____
*Property owner, if different from the applicant, must also sign the application on the next page.

<p><b><u>Property Description</u></b></p> <p>Property address where the chickens will be kept:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Square footage or acreage of property, must be <b>15,000 square feet or larger</b>: _____</p> <p>Total number of proposed chickens: _____ Zoning District: _____</p> <p>The maximum number of chickens permitted on a residential lot shall be two hens per the first 5,000 square feet of lot area, and one additional bird for each additional 5,000 of total lot area thereof. The total number of birds is not to exceed a maximum of 12 hens. No roosters shall be permitted.</p>
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<p><b><u>Attachments and Fee</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please attach a sketch showing the area where the chickens will be housed and the types and sizes of enclosures in which the chickens shall be housed. The sketch must also show all dimensions and setbacks.</li> <li>• Please submit an application fee of \$20. Please make checks payable to <b>Treasurer, James City County</b>.</li> </ul>
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(See Next Page)

**James City County Zoning Ordinance**  
**Sec. 24-47. Keeping of Chickens in Residentially Zoned Areas**

Keeping and housing domestic chickens on residentially-zoned and occupied property shall be solely for purposes of household consumption and shall comply with the following requirements:

- (a) Chickens allowed pursuant to this section shall be kept and raised only for domestic purposes and no commercial activity such as selling eggs or selling chickens for meat shall be allowed. No harvesting of chickens is permitted.
- (b) The maximum number of chickens permitted on a residential lot shall be two hens per the first 5,000 square feet of lot area, and one additional bird for each additional 5,000 square feet of total lot area thereof. The total number of birds is not to exceed a maximum of 12 hens.
- (c) Chickens shall only be allowed on properties consisting of single-family homes and which are on lots of at least 15,000 square feet in size.
- (d) No roosters shall be allowed.
- (e) Coops or cages and runs shall only be located in the rear yard area. The Zoning Administrator may grant an exception to this requirement in cases where due to unusual lot configuration, topography, or proximity of neighbors, another area of the yard is more suitable for such an activity.
- (f) Coops or cages and runs shall be situated at least five feet from adjoining property lines and 25 feet from any dwelling located on a property not owned by the applicant. On corner lots, all pens coops or cages shall be situated no closer than 35 feet from the side street.
- (g) Coops or cages and runs shall be located outside of Resource Protection Areas and any conservation easements dedicated to the County.
- (h) Coops or cages and runs shall be required, a portion of which shall be covered. Such coops, cages, and runs shall be enclosed with a minimum four feet high chicken wire fence. All coops, cages, or runs shall provide at least three square feet of area per bird.
- (i) Each property owner seeking to keep chickens shall file an application with the James City County Zoning Office. Such application shall be accompanied by a \$20 processing fee. The application shall include a sketch showing the area where the chickens will be housed and the types and size of enclosures in which the chickens shall be housed. The sketch must show all dimensions and setbacks. Upon review and determination that the proposed chicken-keeping complies with the standards set forth in this section, the zoning office shall issue a permit. Any permit that is found in violation or not in compliance with this section may be revoked.
- (j) Any more restrictive covenants dealing with the keeping of chickens shall supersede and control over the provisions of this section.

BY SIGNING THIS APPLICATION, I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE LIMITS OF KEEPING AND HOUSING DOMESTIC CHICKENS ON RESIDENTIALLY ZONED AND OCCUPIED PROPERTY AND I AGREE TO ADHERE TO THE JAMES CITY COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE. I ALSO AFFIRM THIS APPLICATION REQUEST IS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH ANY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION APPROVALS OR COVENANTS AND/OR RESTRICTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROPERTY, IF APPLICABLE.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Owner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STAFF USE ONLY**

Approved  Denied

Zoning Administrator's or Designee's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_