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Charter Township of Comstock



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KEEPING OF CHICKENS IN THE RESIDENTIAL AREAS By Permit Only

Comstock Township allows the keeping of chickens as an accessory use, on a non-commercial basis, in the residential districts. The requirements established by the Township Board are intended to mitigate any potential adverse effects of this activity on neighboring residents. The following information is a brief summary of the minimum requirements to keep chickens, the application fee, and the review/approval process.

Requirements to keep chickens A Township resident occupying a single family home may obtain a permit to keep chickens subject to the following conditions:

1. Up to six hen chickens are permitted. **Roosters are prohibited.**
2. Chickens are for personal use only. Commercial sales are prohibited.
3. If you are a lessee or renter, written permission from the property owner is required.
4. Chickens must be kept in a completely enclosed coop and attached pen in the back (rear) yard.
5. The coop/pen must be setback at least 10 feet from all property lines and 30 feet from any adjacent home.
6. Collectively, the coop/pen cannot exceed 90 square feet in area and 7 feet in height.
7. The coop/pen cannot be made from corrugated metal/fiberglass, sheet metal, plastic tarps, scrap lumber or similar materials unless in keeping with the appearance of other accessory buildings in the immediate area as determined by the Planning and Zoning Administrator.
8. The coop/pen must be designed and maintained to provide safe and healthy living conditions.
9. During daylight hours, chickens may roam within the rear yard of the property when supervised and enclosed by a least a 4-foot high fence.
10. Feed and other items must be secured from access by rats, mice and other rodents.
11. Any outdoor slaughter of chickens must be screened from view from off-site.
12. Township ordinances pertaining to noise, odors, dust, fumes, sanitation, health and similar nuisances must be met.

Fee to apply for a permit for the keeping of chickens: There is a \$50 fee that must accompany the completed application form. A site plan and building sketch must be provided, refer to the application for the required information.

Once granted, the permit is personal to you at the approved property address and is not transferable.

Review and approval process: The Planning and Zoning Administrator and the Ordinance Enforcement Officer are responsible for the review and approval of the permit. After the completed application, site plan, building sketch and other materials you wish to include are submitted, the review and approval process will take approximately five (5) business days and include at least one on-site inspection.

Permits will not be issued for applicants with outstanding Township ordinance violations regardless of the nature of the violation or for any property with current or past Township ordinance violations in the last six months.

You are required to call the Planning & Zoning Administrator for an inspection of the coop/pen within 10 days of the permit being issued by the Township.

Revocation of Permit: If a violation of the ordinance regarding keeping of chickens is found at the property, all chickens will have to be removed from the property within 72 hours of notice of violation being provided by the Township. Failure to remove the chickens will result in the permit holder being issued a citation and fine for a municipal civil infraction.

For more information: Please contact the Township Planning and Zoning Administrator for further assistance. For your convenience, a copy of the Zoning Ordinance language (Section 4.11.2) for keeping chickens in residential areas and a permit application can be obtained from the Township website at www.comstockmi.gov or by visiting the Township Hall.