



# BOROUGH OF FANWOOD

75 NORTH MARTINE AVENUE, FANWOOD, NJ 07023  
PHONE: (908)322-8236 --- WEBSITE: www.fanwoodnj.org



## APPLICATION FOR ANNUAL PERMIT TO OWN BACKYARD CHICKENS

Steps to obtaining a permit to keep chickens:

- Submit application to Borough Clerk's office in person at Borough Hall or via email [cagnello@fanwoodnj.org](mailto:cagnello@fanwoodnj.org)
- Zoning -- payment of \$50.00 zoning fee, check payable to the Borough of Fanwood (First-time applicants only. Renewals are exempt from this fee.)
- Zoning inspection approval
- Board of Health inspection approval

Resident Name:

Date:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

**By signing below, applicant hereby certifies they have been provided with a copy of Ordinance No. 20-15-R and that they will comply with all requirements. Applicant further certifies that they understand that if any of the provisions of Ordinance No. 20-15-R are violated, their permit will be revoked.**

Signature:

Date:

*(this section for office use only)*

*Date Permit Issued:*

*New:*

*Renewal:*

*Permit #*

*Permit Expires 12/31/*

*Borough of Fanwood, NJ  
Thursday, April 18, 2024*

## Chapter 118. Animals

### Article I. Animals and Wildlife

#### § 118-28. Chickens.

[Added 10-19-2020 by Ord. No. 20-15R]

A. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**CHICKEN**

A domesticated fowl of the subspecies *Gallus gallus domesticus*.

**COOP**

An enclosure, cage or pen, usually with bars or wire, in which chickens are confined.

**DROPPINGS**

The excrement of chickens.

**MATURE CHICKEN**

A chicken which has attained sexual maturity or an age of at least three months.

**PREDATOR**

An animal that poses a threat to chickens, such as hawks, foxes, coyotes, rodents, etc.

**ROOSTS**

A perch upon which chickens rest at night.

**RUN**

An enclosed area in which chickens are allowed to walk or run about.

B. Purpose.

- (1) No person shall raise, keep or harbor any live chickens without first obtaining a permit for that purpose from the Municipal Clerk's office, which will issue a permit only after a site inspection by the designated Borough official, Zoning Official or officer from the Westfield Board of Health.
- (2) The provisions of this section shall not be deemed to authorize the keeping of live chickens or their by-products for sale or preparation of sale. Furthermore, it shall be unlawful to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.
- (3) The provisions of this section are intended to regulate the keeping of live chickens only for private enjoyment purposes. The keeping of any other types of poultry, including roosters, is strictly forbidden within the Borough.

C. Permits.

- (1) Application for raising and keeping live chickens will be made through the Municipal Clerk's office with the approval of the Borough Zoning Officer. Only one permit will be issued for any

separate residence. There will be no fee for the permit. The Borough, however, shall charge a one-time \$50 zoning review fee in connection with the application.

- (2) Permits are issued annually and expire at the end of each calendar year. New permits may be applied for at any time during the year. Permit renewals may be made after December 1 for the following calendar year.
- (3) The Borough will not approve for issuance a permit, and may revoke existing permits, for the keeping of live chickens at any place that shall be deemed a nuisance to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity residing in the vicinity of the place where such live chickens are to be kept.

#### D. Regulations.

- (1) All mature chickens shall be confined to fully enclosed coops and runs located outside of and completely apart from any building used wholly or in part for dwelling purposes. Under no circumstance will live chickens be permitted to be kept at food or eating establishments.
- (2) No live chickens shall be permitted to fly or run at large. Such action is deemed to be a nuisance and dangerous to the public health and safety.
- (3) Each animal subject to this section shall be free from sickness or disease. If, upon investigation by the County Health Department or other regulating authority, there exists reasonable cause to question the health of any animal, the Borough shall have the authority to require, after notice to the owner, an examination by a doctor of veterinary medicine. This examination shall be at the expense of the owner.
- (4) There will be a maximum of three mature hens/chickens for each permit issued. Roosters are strictly prohibited.

#### E. Maintenance.

- (1) The coop shall not exceed 36 square feet in size. The entire accessory run and coop structure combined shall not exceed 100 square feet.
- (2) Any run associated with the coop shall be included within the thirty-six-square-foot limitation, as set forth in Subsection **E(1)**.
- (3) Chicken coops and runs are limited to zones R-75 and R-150 with a minimum lot size of 7,500 total square feet. Where practicable, chicken coops and runs shall be located in the rear yard of the property and 15 feet from the rear and side property lines; in no circumstances shall said coops and runs be permitted in the front yard of any property. Moreover, the entirety of any chicken coop and run shall be placed closer to the dwelling on the lot in question than to the dwelling(s) on any adjoining lot(s).
- (4) No chicken coop and run shall be erected, used or located closer than 15 feet from any side or rear property line.
- (5) The coop shall be dry and well ventilated, with windows so placed, if possible, as to admit sunlight.
- (6) The coop shall have a floor impervious to moisture and be waterproof.
- (7) The coop shall be whitewashed or painted therein.
- (8) The coop, including perches and nests, shall be cleaned regularly for the health and safety of the chickens and as a precaution against offensive odors. All food must be stored in airtight containers.
- (9) Drinking fountains in the area where the coop is located shall be cleaned and supplied at all times with clean water.
- (10) The yard in the area where the coop is located shall be clean and free from odors.

- (11) The coop and run shall be constructed of such materials as to prevent predators (coyotes, foxes, bears, racoons, and/or rodents, etc.) from entering therein.
  - (12) Chicken manure must be bagged and disposed of with household garbage or composted on site. All stored manure must be completely contained in a waterproof container. Any compost using chicken manure is required to be produced in an enclosed backyard composter.
  - (13) All chicken coops and runs are also subject to any and all applicable Board of Health regulations and requirements.
- F. Severability clause. If any provision of this section is prohibited by law or judged by a court to be unlawful, void or unenforceable, that provision shall be severed from this section and rendered ineffective without modifying the remaining provisions, and shall not affect any other circumstances or bear the validity or enforcement of this section.
- G. Enforcement. The provisions of this section shall be enforced by the Police Department, Code Enforcement Official(s), Construction Official, or Health Officer for the Borough of Fanwood.
- H. Violations and penalties. Any person(s) who is found to be in violation of the provisions of this section shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500 for a first offense, for a second offense a fine not to exceed \$1,000, and for a third offense, in addition to a maximum fine of \$1,000, the Borough may revoke any permit granted under this section.