

## ORDINANCE NO. 2015-25

An ordinance to Amend Section 14-1 of the Chickasaw Code (on Animals); providing for the keeping of backyard chickens.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CHICKASAW,  
ALABAMA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 14-1 of the Chickasaw Code (on Animals), last amended June 23, 1987 by Ordinance No. 1180, is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

### Section 14-1. Keeping in city.

No person shall keep, harbor, lodge, maintain or keep under his control in the city any horses, mare, mule, or other equine animal; any bull, steer, cow, calf, yearling or other horned cattle; any hog, sheep, or goat; or any chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, guineas, peacocks, or other domestic fowl. However, this section shall not apply to any person who keeps any such animals on a tract of 15 acres or larger, or to any person who keeps chickens in accordance with Sections 14-63 and 14-64 of this title.

New Code Sections 14-63, 14-64, 14-65, 14-66, and 14-67 are hereby added to read in their entirety as follows:

## ARTICLE III. CHICKENS

### Section 14-63. Keeping of chickens; permit required; quantity restricted.

(a) In those zone districts where the keeping of farm animals is not otherwise allowed, and those zone districts that have not been designated as historic, the keeping of chickens shall be permitted subject to the following requirements and subject to all other applicable provisions of this Chapter:

- 1) Any person keeping chickens pursuant to these provisions must first have been issued a permit by the Code Inspector and have received such information or training pertaining to the keeping of chickens as said agency deems appropriate;
- 2) The permit application requires a one-time payment of a twenty-five dollar (\$25.00) fee, to be received and processed by the Code Inspector;
- 3) The Code Inspector reserves the right to deny or revoke any permit for keeping chickens on any property where special circumstances render said property unfit for accommodating chickens without creating a public nuisance.
- 4) The keeping of male chickens is prohibited; only hens shall be permitted, and all references herein to chickens shall mean hens only;
- 5) Up to six (6) hens may be kept; and
- 6) If a lot has more than one (1) dwelling unit, all adult residents and the owners of the lot must consent in writing to allowing the chickens on the property.

Section 14-64. Keeping of chickens; housing requirements.

(a) Chickens shall not be allowed to range freely, but must be kept within a dwelling consisting of a coop, nest box, and pen/run conforming to the requirements of this Section.

(b) Coop: A chicken coop is a building/structure where chickens are kept at night. If there is no constructed floor, some type of material (e.g., dirt, sand, hay or pine shavings) must be used to elevate the surface to prevent standing water.

- 1) A minimum of 3 square feet of coop floor space is recommended per chicken.
- 2) The coop must be weather resistant from typical rains, snow, cold and wind.
- 3) The coop must be ventilated to allow adequate fresh air in and out.
- 4) In the winter there should be no drafts (airflow) over/around the chickens.
- 5) Door(s) or access panels must be provided to allow internal cleaning and maintenance.
- 6) The roost pole(s) (where the chickens sleep) must be elevated above the floor level and should provide at least 12-14 inches of continuous horizontal space per chicken.
- 7) If multiple poles are used in a vertical placement, there should be a minimum of 12 inches vertical separation and 8 inches horizontal offset from the next pole.
- 8) The poles should have a rounded top and should be a minimum of 1.5 inches in diameter.
- 9) No type of heating device shall be allowed in the coop.
- 10) Cedar shavings shall not be used because it causes respiratory issues with chickens.
- 11) Coops must be kept clean and free from unpleasant odors.

(c) Nest Box: The nest box (egg box) is a semi-enclosed container where the chickens will lay their eggs. They can be located inside the chicken coop or external to the coop provided they are weather protected

- 1) A minimum base dimension of 12" x 12" (larger breeds may require a larger size).

- 2) Side walls should be a minimum of 6" high.
- 3) The number of required nest boxes depends on the number of chickens (hens). A minimum of 1 nest box is required for up to 3 hens.
- 4) Hay, straw, pine shavings or a soft synthetic or natural material must be used to line the bottom and provide a soft nesting area.
- 5) Cedar shavings shall not be used because it causes respiratory issues with chickens.

(d) Pen/Run: The pen/run is an enclosed area where chickens reside during daylight hours. It must have adequate and protected feed and water systems/containers. The pen/run is attached/connected to the chicken coop to allow easy access for the chickens. The wall and roof area must be enclosed/covered with a wire mesh. The floor/ground can be natural grass, dirt, sand or other natural materials.

- 1) No pen/run should have less than 30 square feet of floor/ground space.
- 2) A minimum of 10 square feet of ground/floor space is required per chicken.
- 3) The minimal height of the pen/run should be 48 inches.
- 4) The ground/floor must drain water quickly to prevent a muddy or wet ground/floor area.
- 5) The side walls must have a wire mesh no larger than 1"x1", up to 48 inches high; the remaining walls and roof wire mesh should be no larger than 3" x 4".
- 6) Door(s) or access panels must be provided to allow internal cleaning and maintenance.
- 7) A shade cloth or covering on the roof should be used to provide a shaded area.
- 8) A portion of the pen/run roof must be covered to provide a covered area for rain protection; this can also be the shaded area as noted above.
- 9) Water and food must be available at all times during daylight hours.
- 10) A "Chicken Tractor" (coop and pen/run built together with two or more wheels to allow portability and ease of movement from one grassy area to another) may be used as long as it meets the requirements of both the chicken coop and the pen/run.



11) Cedar shavings must not be used because it causes respiratory issues with chickens.

12) Pens/Runs must be kept clean and free from unpleasant odors.

(e) Coop/Pen/Run Placement: All coops, pens, and runs ("structures") should be placed/located in accordance with the required property-line setback per city, county, or home owners association rules. Additionally, the following requirements must be met:

1) No structures may be placed within the front yard of a property, or the side(s) abutting a public street or other public means of access.

2) All structures must be placed within the two rear-facing corners of the backyard.

3) The Code Inspector reserves discretion to deny or revoke any permit for keeping chickens on property whose dimensions render it unable to accommodate structures in conformity with the requirements of this section.

(f) Feed and Water: All chickens require a quality food and ample fresh water at all times during daylight hours.

1) Feed must be stored in a protected, dry environment and should be stored in a tightly closed container so as not to attract predators and rodents.

2) Clean, fresh feed must be available, in an appropriate feeder, during all daylight hours.

3) Clean, fresh water must be available, in an appropriate waterer, during all daylight hours.

(g) Predators: All coops and pens/runs should be constructed in such a manner to provide reasonable protection against predators. Spilled or wasted feed must be removed and area around feeders kept clean.

Section 14-65. All city code sections and ordinances or parts of city code sections and ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance, insofar as they conflict, are hereby repealed.


Section 14-66. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon its adoption and publication as provided by law.

Section 14-67. Penalties.

Any person found guilty of violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be fined in an amount not less than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and not more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00), and may also be sentenced to imprisonment for a period of not exceeding six

(6) months, in the discretion of the court trying the case, and violations on separate days shall each constitute a separate offense.

ADOPTED this 08 day of December, 2015.

  
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Mayor

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the City Council of the City of Chickasaw, Alabama, on the 08 day of December, 2015.

ATTEST:

  
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City Clerk

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