

ARTICLE 4. GENERAL PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

4.3. Performance standards, general and specific.

4.3.32. Chickens.

4.3.32.A. Applicability. The following regulations apply to keeping no more than six (6) female chickens for non-commercial use. Raising of more than six chickens [hens or roosters] is subject to Section 4.3.3 Animal husbandry and boarding kennels and is allowed only in the Rural Residential Zone.

4.3.32.B. Purpose. The purpose of these performance standards is to allow the residents of Waterville the opportunity to own pet chickens and benefit from having fresh eggs available to them, without infringing upon the right of their neighbors to enjoy their properties.

4.3.32.C. Minimum land area. Keeping six or fewer chickens requires a land area of at least 10,000 square feet.

4.3.32.D. Number, gender, species, and use of chickens.

4.3.32.D(1) No more than 6 hens are allowed per lot; no roosters are allowed.

4.3.32.D(2) Chickens are to be kept as pets and for personal use only, not for commercial use. The sale of eggs or fertilizer and the breeding of chickens is not allowed.

4.3.32.D(3) Chicken species are limited to laying hens; the keeping of birds bred for meat is not allowed.

4.3.32.D(4) The slaughtering of chickens is prohibited.

4.3.32.E. Enclosures. Hens must be kept in enclosed areas. During daylight hours, they may be in outdoor wire pens. At night, chickens must be secured within henhouses.

4.3.32.E(1) Setbacks. Henhouses and pens must be located at least fifteen (15) feet from side and rear property lines and at least twenty (20) feet from the nearest residence existing at the time of permit issuance (other than the dwelling on the same lot). Henhouses and pens are not allowed in front yards.

4.3.32.E(2) Placement on lots. All pens, runs, and henhouses

shall be constructed and located on the site in a manner that will minimize the adverse effects upon surrounding properties. Among the factors that shall be considered are the relationship of the use to the topography, natural and planted horticultural screening, the direction and intensity of the prevailing wind, and the relationship and location of residences on nearby properties.

4.3.32.E(3) Living area. Henhouses must provide a minimum of four (4) square feet of floor area per bird and pens must have a minimum of sixty (60) square feet of ground space.

4.3.32.E(4) Security. Measures must be taken to discourage predators and rodents. Henhouses must be raised off the ground, enclosed on all sides, and have a floor, roof, and tight-fitting doors that can be latched securely at night. Pens must be constructed with heavy wire fencing buried at least 12 inches in the ground. Chicken wire is not acceptable for this purpose. Pens must be covered. Adequate sun, shade, and ventilation must be provided.

4.3.32.E(5) Sanitation.

4.3.32.E(5)(a) Every effort shall be made to avoid negatively impacting the property of neighbors. The owners of chickens shall maintain their properties in a clean, orderly, and sanitary condition at all times. Chicken owners shall not allow waste material to accumulate or provide a breeding place for insects or rodents.

4.3.32.E(5)(b) Storage of waste.

4.3.32.E(5)(b)(1) Temporary storage containers for any wastes shall be kept tightly covered at all times and emptied not less frequently than once every four (4) days. Such containers shall be made of steel or plastic to facilitate cleaning, and shall be located in accordance with the setbacks required in Section 4.3.32.E(1) Setbacks above.

4.3.32.E(5)(b)(2) If chickens are kept within 100 feet of a water body, provisions must be made to prevent the runoff of pollution into that water body.

4.3.32.E(5)(b)(3) All waste not used for fertilizer must be removed.

4.3.32.E(6) Lighting. Any exterior lighting must operate with a motion detector.

4.3.32.F. Permits required. An inspection of the henhouse and

pen by the Code Enforcement Officer is required, and a permit fee of \$25 will be charged for the inspection. The Code Enforcement Officer may revoke the permit, if any violation of any performance standard occurs. See Section 6.1.1 Violations and legal action, et seq.

ARTICLE 5. ZONING DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

RESIDENTIAL

5.2. Medium density residential district (R-B).

| 5.2.3. *R-B Special exceptions.*

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5.2.3.B. Raising of chickens in accordance with Section 4.3.32
Chickens.