

# COJ Chickens?

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“Proposed draft; new ordinance”

Additions and changes highlighted in yellow, strike-through marked in red. However, please note that there is an increased interest in raising rabbits and bees as well, and we would like to look into striking rules restricting rabbits and include bee keeping.

**6.12.010 Livestock and poultry--Areas not allowed--Exceptions--Nuisances**

**prohibited--Number limitations.** No horse, mule, donkey, pony, cow, pig, goat, sheep, or animal raised for fur-bearing purposes, and no ~~chicken coop~~, dovecote, rabbit warren or other yard or establishment where small animals or fowl such as ~~chickens~~, ducks, geese, turkeys, pheasants, rabbits, or guinea pigs are kept shall be allowed within the city limits, except in outlying areas where no tenement, apartment house, hotel, restaurant, boardinghouse, retail food store, building used for school, religious, or hospital purposes, or residence other than that occupied by the owner or occupant of the premises upon which such animals or fowl are kept is less than one hundred fifty feet from the outer edge of any barn coop or enclosure in which said creatures are housed or permitted to run, with the exception of chickens, chicken coops, or other appropriate housing for chickens. Said creatures may be kept only when no nuisance is created thereby, and their numbers shall be kept within the limitations set out in Sections 6.12.020 through 6.12.060. (Prior code s. 7.12(1)( part)).

**6.12.020 Poultry houses and yard—Exceptions--Number of birds or fowl permitted.** Where poultry houses and yards are located at least one hundred fifty feet from the structures set out in Section 6.12.010, the keeping of not to exceed twenty five birds or fowl, with the exception of chickens, which must be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or fenced enclosure at all times, on a lot with up to but no more than four dwelling units, provided that no enclosure shall be located closer than 15 feet to any residential dwelling on an adjacent lot, and the keeping of chickens not to exceed four (4) chickens per dwelling unit, unless the applicant has applied for and is approved for a variance permit, as set forth in Sections 6.12.060 through (Section number to be assigned by Council) but no crowing roosters shall be permitted. All



persons that take ownership of, are landlords of, or dwell upon the lot or property where chickens shall be kept, must be notified before chickens are acquired on said property. The owner, operator, or tenant must obtain a license and/or variance permit before or within 30 days of acquiring chickens, as set out in Section (Section number to be assigned by council.) (Prior code s. 7.12(1) (a)).

#### **6.12.060 Poultry houses and yards—Construction and sanitation**

**regulations-- Health inspection.** No person shall slaughter any chickens in town. All persons raising poultry must have properly constructed poultry houses as outlined in this section. All structures, pens, coops, or yards wherein animals or fowl are kept or permitted shall be maintained outdoors, in a clean and sanitary condition, shall be dry and well ventilated, devoid of all rodents and vermin, and as walls, ceilings, floors, partitions and appurtenances of all such structures shall be whitewashed or painted annually or more often as the health officer shall direct. Structures that are of a non-paintable material, such as plastics, shall be sanitized regularly. Persons could apply for a variance permit to provide flexibility for unusual situations, while maintaining control of specified animals in an urban setting. The health officer should grant variances if the proposal meets the intended purpose of the regulation, while not complying with the strict literal requirements, for example, to meet an educational, club or organizational (i.e. 4-H, FFA) or family request. Applicants for the specified permit may request a variance from the requirements set forth in Section 6.12.010 through (Section number to be assigned by Council.) In determining whether to grant a variance request, the health inspector shall consider the following criteria: Impacts resulting from the proposed variance will be mitigated as much as possible. If more than one variance is proposed, the cumulative impact would still be consistent with the overall purpose of the regulations. If in a residential area, the proposed variance will not significantly detract from the public health or safety in the area. The health inspector may impose certain conditions on any variance, as may be appropriate to protect the public health or safety or the health or safety of the animals. The health inspector may, at any time, revoke any variance, or amend the conditions thereof, as may be appropriate to protect the public health or safety or the health or safety of the animals. A licence may be revoked if, in any six-month period, the licensee has accumulated three or more violations of any ordinance regulating the keeping of chickens. The health officer or his representative on his own initiative or upon the complaint of any individual shall



inspect any such structure or premises and issue any such order as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. The health inspector may revoke any permits for keeping of specified animals upon determining that the facility no longer meets the conditions required for the issuance of a permit or that the permit was issued upon fraudulent or untrue representations or that the person holding the permit has violated any of the provisions of this Chapter. (Prior code s. 7.12(1)(e)).

**(Section number to be assigned by Council) Keeping of Chickens—Licenses and Permits.**

Any person who keeps up to four (4) chickens in the City of Janesville shall obtain an annual license prior to January 1 of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring the chickens. The license year commences on January 1 and ends on the following December 31.

Application shall be made to the City of Janesville Clerk-Treasurer and the fee for the license shall be ten dollars (\$10.00).

The Treasurer or other authorized individual shall collect the fee and shall assess and collect a late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) from every owner of chickens, if the owner fails to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or fails to obtain a license within 30 days of acquiring the chickens. All late fees received or collected shall be paid into the local Treasury.

Any person who applies for a variance permit for the keeping of chickens in the City of Janesville shall obtain an annual license prior to January 1 of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring the chickens. The license year commences on January 1 and ends on the following December 31.

Application shall be made to the City of Janesville Clerk-Treasurer and the fee for the license shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) for the keeping of up to 4 (four) chickens. Any variance requests must be applied for and must be approved, subject to property inspection, and an additional one time fee of thirty dollars (\$30.00) may be assessed, to be collected at the time of variance approval.

The Treasurer or other authorized individual shall collect the fee and shall assess and collect a late fee of five dollars (\$5.00) from every owner of chickens, if the owner fails to obtain a license prior to April 1 of each year, or fails to obtain a license within 30 days of acquiring the chickens. All late fees received or collected shall be paid into the local Treasury.



**Chapter 6.12****KEEPING OF ANIMALS****Sections:**

- 6.12.010** Livestock and poultry--Areas not allowed--Exceptions--Nuisances prohibited--Number limitations.
- 6.12.020** Poultry houses and yards--Number of birds or fowl permitted.
- 6.12.030** Rabbit and guinea pig warrens or hutches--Number of animals permitted.
- 6.12.040** Pigeon or dove cotes and yards--Number of birds permitted.
- 6.12.050** Raising fowl or animals for business purposes
- 6.12.060** Poultry houses and yards--Construction and sanitation regulations--Health inspection.
- 6.12.070** Dogs and cats--Limited number allowed--Exceptions.
- 6.12.080** Conforming establishments.
- 6.12.100** Animal waste.
- 6.12.120** Transporting of animals.
- 6.12.200** Violation--Penalty.

**6.12.010 Livestock and poultry--Areas not allowed-- Exceptions--Nuisances prohibited--Number limitations.** No horse, mule, donkey, pony, cow, pig, goat, sheep, or animal raised for fur-bearing purposes, and no chicken coop, dove cote, rabbit warren, or other yard or establishment where small animals or fowl such as chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys, pheasants, rabbits or guinea pigs are kept shall be allowed within the city limits, except in outlying areas where no tenement, apartment house, hotel, restaurant, boardinghouse, retail food store, building used for school, religious or hospital purposes, or residence other than that occupied by the owner or occupant of the premises upon which such animals or fowl are kept is less than one hundred fifty feet from the outer edge of any barn, coop or enclosure in which said creatures are housed or permitted to run. Said creatures may be kept only when no nuisance is created thereby, and their numbers shall be kept within the limitations set out in Sections 6.12.020 through 6.12.060. (Prior code s. 7.12(1)(part)).

**6.12.020 Poultry houses and yards--Number of birds or fowl permitted.** Where poultry houses and yards are located at least one hundred fifty feet from the structures set out in Section 6.12.010, the keeping of not to exceed twenty-five birds or fowl, but no crowing roosters, shall be permitted. (Prior code s. 7.12(1) (a)).

**6.12.030 Rabbit and guinea pig warrens or hutches--Number of animals permitted.** Where rabbit and guinea pig warrens or hutches are located at least one hundred fifty feet from the structures set out in Section 6.12.010, the keeping of not to exceed twenty-five animals shall be permitted. (Prior code s. 7.12(1) (b)).



**6.12.040 Pigeon or dove cotes and yards--Number of birds permitted.** Where pigeons or dove cotes and yards are located at least one hundred fifty feet from the structures set out in Section 6.12.010, the keeping of not to exceed twenty pairs of birds shall be permitted. (Prior code s. 7.12(1)(c)).

**6.12.050 Raising fowl or animals for business purposes.** The raising of fowl and animals not to exceed one hundred in number can be conducted as a business when the area devoted to the business is in the first instance and remains at least five hundred feet from the closest structure or structures as set out in Section 6.12.010. (Prior code s. 7.12(1)(d)).

**6.12.060 Poultry houses and yards--Construction and sanitation regulations--Health inspection.** All persons raising poultry must have properly constructed poultry houses as outlined in this section. All structures, pens, coops, or yards wherein animals or fowl are kept or permitted shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, shall be dry and well ventilated, devoid of all rodents and vermin, and as walls, ceilings, floors, partitions and appurtenances of all such structures shall be whitewashed or painted annually or more often as the health officer shall direct. The health officer or his representative on his own initiative or upon the complaint of any individual shall inspect any such structure or premises and issue any such order as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section. (Prior code s. 7.12(1)(e)).

**6.12.070 Dogs and cats--Limited number allowed--Exceptions.** Not more than a combined total of four dogs and cats may be maintained on any lot or residence. In no event may more than three dogs or three cats be maintained per lot or residence, regardless of the combination. The exceptions are business places such as feed mills, or in outlying districts such as farms where good reason can be shown for the necessity of maintaining such animals to destroy rats, mice or other rodents.

**6.12.080 Conforming establishments.** All establishments conforming to regulations in existence prior to the enactment of the ordinance codified in this chapter shall be allowed to continue subject to zoning regulations as to new conforming uses. This exception shall not permit the maintenance of a nuisance as determined by inspection of the premises by the sanitary inspector, or the expansion of the number of fowl or animals permitted to be kept. (Prior code s. 7.12(3)).



**6.12.100 Animal waste.**

**A.** It is unlawful for any owner, keeper or possessor including the walker of any dog, cat or other animal to permit the animal to discharge animal excreta upon any public or private property, other than the property of its owner, if such owner, keeper, possessor or walker does not immediately thereafter remove and clean up such animal excreta from the public or private property.

**B.** The requirements of subsection A do not apply when the owner or possessor of the private property waives those requirements.

**C.** "Immediately thereafter" means within not more than five minutes. (Ord. 84-386 s. 1, 1984).

**6.12.120 Transporting of animals.**

**A.** Whenever an animal is being transported in the unenclosed back of a pickup or flat bed truck, or similar type of vehicle, the animal shall be in a cage or enclosed device of restraint secured to the vehicle, so as to protect the animal from the weather and transport the animal in a safe manner.

**B.** Whenever an animal is being transported in any other type of vehicle, the owner or operator of the vehicle shall control the animal in such manner as to keep the animal totally within the vehicle, to prevent any interference by the animal of the operation of the vehicle, and to transport the animal in a safe manner. (Ord. 84-385 s. 1, 1984).

**6.12.200 Violation--Penalty.**

**A.** Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall forfeit and pay to the City, as and for a penalty, a forfeiture in the following dollar amounts, together with the costs of prosecution for each offense, and in default of the payment of such penalty shall be imprisoned for not more than sixty days for each violation and unpaid forfeiture in addition to such other penalties, remedies, sanctions and relief as may be, from time to time, provided by law:

1. For a first offense, a forfeiture of not less than thirty dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.
2. For a second offense, a forfeiture of not less than fifty dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.
3. For a third offense, a forfeiture of not less than seventy dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.
4. For a fourth a subsequent offense, a forfeiture of not less than one hundred dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.
5. In addition to the imposition of forfeiture(s), the City may request and the court may grant injunctive relief, abatement, mandamus and such other equitable relief and orders as the court may deem appropriate to terminate the violation(s).

**B.** Each occurrence shall constitute a separate violation.

**C.** Each day's continuance shall constitute a separate violation.



## Chapter 6.16

### RUNNING AT LARGE\*

#### Sections:

**6.16.010** Not permitted when.

**6.16.020** Violation--Penalty.

• **6.16.010 Not permitted when.** No person having the possession or control of any cattle, horses, mules, sheep, goats, swine, chickens, geese or other fowls shall allow any of the same to run at large. Any such animal or fowl found within any public street, alley or other public ground or on the premises of any person other than its owner and not being then under the actual control of any person shall be deemed to be running at large. (Prior code s. 17.06).

#### **6.16.020 Violation--Penalty.**

**A.** Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall forfeit and pay to the City, as and for a penalty, a forfeiture in the following dollar amounts, together with the costs of prosecution for each offense, and in default of the payment of such penalty shall be imprisoned for not more than sixty days for each violation and unpaid forfeiture in addition to such other penalties, remedies, sanctions and relief as may be, from time to time, provided by law:

**1.** For a first offense, a forfeiture of not less than thirty dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.

**2.** For a second offense, a forfeiture of not less than fifty dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.

**3.** For a third offense, a forfeiture of not less than seventy dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.

**4.** For a fourth and subsequent offense, a forfeiture of not less than one hundred dollars but not more than five hundred dollars.

**5.** In addition to the imposition of forfeiture(s), the City may request and the court may grant injunctive relief, abatement, mandamus and such other equitable relief and orders as the court may deem appropriate to terminate the violation(s).

**B.** Each occurrence shall constitute a separate violation.

**C.** Each day's continuance shall constitute a separate violation.

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\* For statutory provisions forbidding the running at large of certain animals, see Wis. Stat. 1973, s. 172.01. For provisions regarding the running at large of dogs, see Ch. 6.04 of this title.



Dear City of Janesville:

Please forward this to interested parties. I have used countless resources and I have spent months gathering information, and quantifying information with professional statements, all of which are accessible through links that are available at my main page: [www.cojchickens.wordpress.com](http://www.cojchickens.wordpress.com).

While I have tried to interject with some humor, you will see that this is *still* a legitimate issue.

Fort Atkinson, WI. Green Bay WI (ordinance to include urban chickens put in over 10 years ago.) Jefferson, WI. Madison, WI. Neenah, WI. Oshkosh, WI. . Stoughton, WI. River Hills, W. Milwaukee, WI, Delevan WI, Darien WI, Concord, NH. New Haven CT. San Francisco CA. Portage, MI. Minneapolis MN. Boston MA. Phoenix AZ. Chicago IL. New York City. Syracuse NY. Anaheim CA. Mobile AL. New Orleans LA. Buffalo NY. Hartford CT. Baltimore MD. Portland OR. Houston TX. Miami FL. San Jose CA. Las Vegas NV. Suisun City, CA- 3 hens, no roosters. Fairfield, CA- 3 hens, no roosters. Vallejo, CA- 25 birds roosters/hens combined. Vacaville- No limit! Subject to noise/bothering neighbors. Topeka KS. Santa Rosa CA. Santa Fe NM. Little Rock AK. Burlington VT. Richmond VA. San Antonio TX. Albuquerque NM. Bakersfield CA. Des Moines IA. Winston-Salem NC. Greensboro NC. Williamston SC. -10 hens, no roosters, kept in coops, 25 feet from a property line, 40 feet from a residence. Lafayette CA. Seattle WA. Oakland CA. Denver CO. Dallas TX. Laredo TX. Salt Lake City UT. St. Louis MO. Berkeley CA. Spokane WA. Indianapolis IN. Lexington KY. Louisville KY. Califon NJ. ETC.

While there could be some changes of detail, or omissions, I am certain you get the idea.

I would also like this document to also serve as an addition to the pros and cons discussion, which never took place during the November 2009 - February 2010 ordinance change attempt.

Much of my information comes from the various 20+ books I have read, documentaries, Internet research, and from "City Chicks" by Patricia Foreman (Good Earth Publications.) Patricia has accolades that fill a few paragraphs, so I will simply say that she has been instrumental in educating people across the world, and then some. With her permission, I have used quotes from "City Chicks." She has graciously offered to interview via the Internet (Skype) with Janesville Council and reporters to help with any other questions or concerns that arise. You may contact her directly at: Phone: (540) 460-6459 / Office phone and fax: (540) 261-8775. [pat@goodearthpublications.com](mailto:pat@goodearthpublications.com)

There is an urban underground chicken movement across America. Ten years or so from now, people will wonder why there was ANY resistance to keeping chickens in Janesville. Of course you should keep chickens in town. Nearly every day, (via Google alerts) I hear of yet another city that is considering or has voted yes to change to a pro-chicken ordinance. Far fewer end up saying no.

Most major cities allow chickens, as well as many smaller communities. Madison, Milwaukee, Green Bay, Fort Atkinson, Jefferson, Beloit township, Delevan - are all examples of "local" cities that allow chickens. When I say "allow chickens," I mean that a large percentage of the population qualifies under the ordinance to keep hens at their homes.

I will cover objections and concerns briefly. Most of them are not actually an issue (as per experts, and communities with chicken experience) -- but you will hear them as concerns from the public, or may have questions yourself.

### **Chickens belong on a farm!**

There are many differences in how a pet city hen is managed and how a farm hen is managed. Chickens make great pets. People name them, train them and love them. The ordinance should be a blanket ordinance that allows ALL animals that are proven to thrive in the close quarters of a small space, and are animals proven to not be a nuisance or threat, in an *urban* setting. (This would prevent the ordinance from having to be visited again in the future, and would include bee keeping, or



rabbits for 4-H & FFA as well.) Hens meet the requirements of urban settings. Dogs often do NOT. It really is that simple.

**Noise:** Not a concern. The sound of a hen scratching in the dirt is generally LOUDER than what casual sounds they have coming out of their beaks. Of course they will make an actual noise every now and again -- like when laying an egg, finding a nice juicy, shiny, green Japanese beetle to eat or when they themselves feel they are about to BE eaten. The odds of neighbors actually even hearing the voices of a few hens are fairly minimal. With a ban on roosters (roosters are not required for a hen to lay her egg), noise will not likely be a concern -- unlike listening to the neighbor's dogs. (Hens cannot see in the dark, so they go to sleep at dusk -- unlike dogs.)

**Smell:** Not a concern. *Chickens* don't smell. Ammonia in the poo smells. A handful of hens are NOT going to cause a large quantity of manure, therefore will not be an odor issue. It's the same as cleaning the cat box, or picking up doggy piles -- but a much SMALLER, more USEFUL and highly LESS toxic quantity of poo comes from chickens; and it isn't on your front walk.

To emphasize these two points, I will tell you that there are chickens currently living incognito, all across this city. Right now. They could be living in a shed or garage next to you, and you may be completely unaware of them being there.

**Running at Large:** Chickens can't see very far. They will generally stay within 150 feet of their enclosure -- unless chased or threatened. They can fly, for about 15 seconds, approximately 30 feet or so. It doesn't take much of a fence to keep them where you want them. A simple, pain-free clipping of wing feathers will train any adventurous hens and keep them out of the neighbor's begonias and prized petunias. We will not have lost hens running all over the city. We could even require that owners have a completely enclosed run for their birds, which is a benefit to the birds' protection as well.

#### **Rats/ Flies:**

Rats are drawn to the food, not the chickens. Same goes for people with bird feeders in the yard, or any place that keeps food for people or food for animals around. It's about storage, and keeping things picked up. Keep your firewood stacked nicely, and up off of the ground to keep from harboring rats. Same with leaving a trash bag beside the garage until garbage day. Secure it in a can. This will keep those Q-tips and pizza crusts from appearing on the deck the next morning. Chickens eat flies. A decently-kept hen house will not be an attraction for flies or vermin. This is already included in the existing ordinances.

#### **Will Bring Predator Animals To the City.**

I live in town. I see owls, hawks, eagles, foxes, coyotes, domesticated cats (although not usually a predator to a grown hen,) dogs, skunks, opossums, and raccoon -- from my backyard. There are probably mink from the river as well. Predators are already here. We would have to cut down all the Green Belts, parks and trees -- dam up the river and build a giant wall around the city.

#### **Avian Flu:**

Bird flu (specifically H5N1) - Experts will tell you that micro-flocks are the answer to potential disease issues. As opposed to hot-housing countless animals in one warehouse, (to the point where the animals lose the ability to WALK) never to see the light of day, blanket-treating them with medications on a daily basis thereby creating resistant bacteria, etc. -- those "factory farms" should be very concerned about the tons of waste they produce every day, the potential of losing the entire flock due to over crowding, lack of fresh air and sunshine, as well as the detrimental results of over-medicating. A backyard flock has all the advantages to have a natural immunity to any such outbreaks. Sunlight alone is VERY instrumental in killing viruses. Health professional statements are available on my link.



### **Landlords will have to change their rules!**

Landlords will continue to trump in their right to have "no pets" policies on their properties.

### **Taking away from local farm sales:**

When I go to the farmer's market, I will just try a different product instead - which is probably a more expensive item than a carton of eggs anyway.

**Property Values:** Not a concern. Values of homes in cities that allow chickens are generally higher than Janesville. It has nothing to do with chickens. Cars are not going to sprout up on blocks in the front yard, due to keeping a handful of hens. When I think of New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Madison, St. Louis, etc. -- all I can think about is what a bunch of backward hillbillies they all are, living in nothing but their chicken filth. What a horrible town to move to because they all allow chickens! Right??? Wrong.

### **Coops Are Ugly:**

Many cities host "Coop Tour" events. A coop doesn't have to be a nasty shack. Martha Stewart's coop holds EIGHTY chickens. [Link here for pic.](#) There are many coop designs available online, and pre-made kits for sale for small flocks -- [Click Here for Pictures.](#) Many people keeping city flocks have a mobile coop to move around their yard and gardens.

### **Have to provide heat and electricity:**

A draft-free, dry, well-ventilated and insulated place for the hens to go is all that is required in terms of shelter. Unfreezing the drinking water is not an impossible task, even without the use of electricity. Electricity is fairly new, chickens are not. Only chicks require warmth.

### **Egg-selling stands popping up on every street corner:**

4 hens produce about 2 dozen eggs a week. This is not for profit.

**Abuse and neglect/ enforcement/ humane society:** There won't be many issues with this, as is represented by other cities' statements. *The biggest issue we will have will be unwarranted calls placed by people who don't know anything about chickens and just want to cause problems for someone who has chickens.* If your neighbor is actually and legitimately not caring for their hens, and you can't knock on their door for some reason, call me. I would be more than happy to go to your neighbor's house and show them what they are accidentally doing incorrectly, or to turn them in to take their chicken permit away. The hens will STILL have a better life than what they get in most commercial operations.

Madison's Animal Control Officer's phone number: 608-255-2345. My conversation with them is summarized on my web links as well. If a hen does end up at the humane society, I feel it should get sent to a "no questions asked" farm when the reclaim waiting period is up -- or find a butcher to donate some time for the local food pantries.

Yes, chickens make great and loving pets, but they are not worth many dollars. Most don't live longer than 5 years, and they make great soup for people in need. Don't tell PETA I said that. Madison says that they have no trouble relocating hens to loving homes.

### **Waste of time/more important issues:**

This is just ONE policy change where Janesville gets to MAKE money. A policy that can directly benefit the tax payers and the very people that don't have jobs or are lacking in food! What's your budget? Could you use the extra food at your house?

"Job Elimination" from Lab Safety Supply on February 11, 2009 affected me. I now practice things around the house to DECREASE spending. Make the home more energy efficient with the least amount of dollars spent. Buy and organize raw ingredients for cooking, instead of cooking processed foods. 2009 was my first vegetable garden -- it was successful. As the garden came to a close, my



thoughts naturally turned to chickens. There are many steps to be taken to maximize sustainable living and learning in town. Please let me have the right to feed my family to the best of my ability in the space that I have.

**Economics:** Involves/requires the transfer of money. There is a transfer of money when it comes to chickens; the upfront costs can be substantial for the people who have the desire to spend it. I will *buy* my materials to build my coop myself. If I have enough funds, I will *pay* someone to build it for me. I will find a local breeder to *purchase* my hens or chicks from, perhaps someone like Dale Wheelock? I will have to *purchase* feeders and "tools" at first, from local farm/feed stores which *employ* people. I will probably be *purchasing* the feed that my hens would need each month at Jack and Dick's feed store. Saves on gas. This helps Jack and Dick's feed store, which helps Cargill (supplier for Jack and Dick's) which keeps my ex-husband employed at Cargill in Milton, and Cargill gets most of its resources from farmers within 3-4 hours away.

People that are involved in 4-H, FFA etc. and shows will have certain expenses assigned to that hobby as well, and when the shows happen at our fair grounds, there will be people from other communities coming here to spend their money as well. The more people that participate -- the larger the stream of money. Right now, kids in Janesville CAN'T participate, legally.

### **I don't want my neighbors keeping chickens by me!**

There are already the ordinances in place to protect you from a badly behaved neighbor. (Manure chapter 8.68, animals, nuisance, chapter 6, accumulation of filth 8.6, etc.) Personally, I don't even know what to say to the people that say that. I try to just give them the benefit of the doubt that they are simply misinformed about things like noise and smell. I also have a hard time understanding how anyone can dislike their neighbors to such a degree that they can't knock on their neighbor's door to express a concern or idea. I have lived on my street for almost 5 years. I have known everyone's name that lives around me, for years. Same with the previous street we lived on. We have nothing really in common, yet it's okay. They will be able to talk to me about any concerns that they have. In fact, I have and I will continue to seek their advice and dialog regarding chickens. And where do you think all of my extra eggs are going to go?

### **Using hens exclusively for food production (in a time when so many people need it.)**

"The greatest fine art of the future will be the making of a comfortable living from a small piece of land." --Abraham Lincoln

4 hens will provide a family with about 2 dozen eggs per week for most of the year.  
Hens cost very little to maintain.

Commercial food prices go up, nutritional quality and safety is questionable (Google: ammonia in fast food and school lunch meats, or Russia banning the import of U.S. processed chicken this month, because of chlorine used in U.S. Processing. Not safe enough for other countries, but safe enough for you?)

Eggs are nature's most perfect form of protein. Eggs from the store are cheap. There's a reason for that. Eggs raised by you have in them, ONLY what you put in the hens. VAST differences between the nutritional content of a "real" egg v.s. your typical grocery store egg, if you are interested:  
1/3 less cholesterol – 1/4 less saturated fat – 2/3 more vitamin A – 2 times more Omega-3 fatty acids  
3 times more vitamin E – 7 times more Beta Carotene

There are local butchers in the area that will process small quantities of chickens at a very reasonable cost. Good, wholesome meat that you raised yourself -- chlorine free!



There are also ties in research to stress. The more stressed an animal is, the higher the stress chemicals in its body are. These chemicals are maintained in the muscle tissue of the animal after death. When we eat the tissue, the chemicals enter our own bodies and trigger the same stress reaction in us. We are literally eating stress. I could do with less, not more.

Assuming you don't give antibiotic-laced feeds to your hens, there is little risk of antibiotic resistant bacteria or infectious salmonella lurking in home-laid eggs -- compared to a factory farm that may continuously blanket-feed medications to a flock just to keep them alive long enough in their crowded, unsanitary conditions -- to finish their "job" before they are gassed or smothered in foam (yes) and sent to the landfill.

By allowing people to raise food themselves, you make a more sustainable city. Each person participating has a more sustainable lifestyle, and the extra food goes into the COMMUNITY. All of my extra veggies from the garden went to people in Janesville. Mostly to the people on my street. The same will happen with protein.

### **A little more info about chickens:**

It is only in more recent history -- the industrialization of our food -- that has excluded the keeping of chickens in Janesville.

Hens are compact, easy to care for (require a few minutes of daily care), not expensive to purchase. There are many resources available for DIY chicken health care. Hens are not expensive to feed. They are much quieter than other city pets, and don't require walks. They have distinct personalities, and can be sociable -- like a dog or cat. They can be trained, and have a more advanced thought process than most people realize. They can comprehend basic counting, find their way through a maze, and have a detailed communication system within the flock. They have a sense of self beyond themselves.

Just ask Martha Stewart.

### **"Green"**

As former committee member and Chair of the Sustainable Janesville Committee, this topic is special to me.

Everything about raising a backyard flock speaks to being "green," but I will throw these things in a separate "green" category:

Wasted petroleum: trucking, storing, cooling, raising and transporting food to people: food that could be raised on site.

Chemical fertilizers are full of petroleum. Plastic packaging on the food. Our current system uses twice as much energy to produce and transport the food to compared to what one gets out of it.

How sustainable is that?

"If every U.S. citizen ate just one meal a week (any meal) composed of locally and organically raised meat and produce, we would reduce our country's oil consumption by over 1.1 million barrels of oil every week." Barbara Kingsolver

During World War II, twenty million Americans produced about 40 percent of the nation's produce from their backyards. Intensive gardening technologies, stacking and the latest hen "technologies" would easily move well beyond the levels of the WWII victory gardens. From the way things are going, victory gardens are needed even more today.

Factory farms are usually quite detrimental to the environment due to the massive concentrations of waste and pollution that must be dealt with. (Not to mention the horrible conditions that the animals generally live in -- it's worth it to raise your own hens just to NOT participate in a battery cage/warehouse/factory farm system.)



Gene Pool preservation: factory farms have little use for the majority of chicken breeds. Participation in breed preservation also provides an income for the heritage breeders.

Chicken manure provides valuable nitrogen which (what isn't turned into eggs or meat) is collected and composted. This act speeds up a regular compost, and raises the value of that compost exponentially. Why pay for it bagged, when you can get it from your own property or get it from your neighbor?

### **Educational:**

There's the science projects... the hobbyists... and because chickens are smaller, cleaner, cheaper and easier to raise than most show animals, urban 4-H & FFA kids can participate in poultry projects to learn animal husbandry. And, by raising chickens, children learn that food does not spontaneously appear in cartons, cans, and jars. With farmland (FOOD-land) disappearing at an alarming rate, perhaps this is a lesson well-learned by ALL of us?) There are county fairs, poultry shows -- all of which bring *people* to town. (Never mind that people enjoy the shows and competitions, or learn valued lessons, or meet new people: for the sake of dollars, we'll call them "consumer tourists.")

There's a whole network of chicken people out there. There are webinars, blogs, radio shows, chats, competitions -- you name it. Blackhawk Tech could have course work, we will have group events, people will come together, neighbors will be more neighborly.

### **Gardening with chickens:**

"A nation that destroys its soil destroys itself." Franklin D. Roosevelt

A person can learn to fertilize their lawn, and garden with the use of chickens. No toxic chemicals involved! What better way to grow our local soils? Hens get assigned day jobs to do the rototiller work, compost-spreading, pest management, herbicide management, etc. All with the added benefit of protein and keeping a great, entertaining pet. I can't break it all down very well here, and I am not an expert. There are entire books written on the subjects involving permaculture stacking. Here are a few points:

Chicken manure compost provides better crop yield than from regular compost alone.

Pest control: hens eat ticks, fleas, grubs, ants, grasshoppers, squash bugs, potato bugs, aphids, white grub worms, mice, small snakes, and yes -- those shiny green Japanese beetles that nothing else in this country will eat. Keepers of hens set up pheromone traps to collect the live bugs and drop them onto a dinner plate for their hens, or collect them in a bucket by hand and feed them to the hens.

Makes organic gardening MUCH more possible and maintainable.

Plowing and rototilling destroys soil structure and nutrient content. Use chickens and chicken compost to do the work without the destruction. For free.

Astringent fertilizers (We all know how bad these fertilizers are.) over-stimulate soil dwellers and rapidly deplete organic matter. Again, use the chickens for free -- without the destruction and toxins.

**More on Composting... Hens do it faster and better with a higher-quality result.** (please see also the previously emailed press release from Patricia Foreman, and duplicated at the end of this email.) When you don't compost, you are throwing away valuable energy with the rest of your trash. Kitchen and yard waste in the land fill decomposes without oxygen, and generates methane gas. Methane not only stinks, it warms the atmosphere 21 times more than the carbon dioxide generated by composting. Briefly, how composting works with chickens: A hen will eat about 7 pounds of kitchen



scraps PLUS yard waste each month, along with her chicken feed. You feed the hens table scraps, your neighbor's table scraps, lawn clippings, etc. and use the fall leaves for nest bedding -- and collect the eggs for yourself. Last night's dinner leftovers becomes your breakfast egg. What the hen can't use in her body to create an egg, she creates manure. A nice, concentrated bit of nitrogen -- from that 7 pounds, plus of materials she ate -- all month. Her manure, on the bedding material goes in with the rest of your compost. This improves your regular compost exponentially, and speeds up the process of composting by a huge degree.

I compost just about everything possible. It is a no-smell/ no-pest system. It will be a great, inexpensive system for chicken manure and bedding as well.

### **DOLLARS. \$\$\$\$\$\$\$**

As a former committee member of the Automated Trash Collection ADHOC, and the Brownfield Advisory/Development committees, I see "waste" in a different light than some.

So. Faster composting process when you use hens. Better compost when you use hens, which gets a higher yield of crops. Plus, the added benefit of a great protein source. Bottom line, right?

Some cities GIVE families chickens to raise. It is a line item in the budget.

"Urban environmental chickens can serve as clucking solid waste management workers and save BIG TIME tax payer dollars...and at the same time keep methane (global warming gas) from forming in landfills. Any city official who talks "green" but who doesn't encourage residents to keep chickens as bio-mass recyclers to help decrease the solid waste going into landfills are simply are NOT walking-their-talk. This brings in the sensitive tax dollar savings that can be had for no-cost simply by changing a few lines of code. It's a BIG BUCKS return for a no-cost investment." Patricia Foreman

The use of chickens in urban waste management is not new. For example, the city of Diest in Flanders, Belgium gave three laying hen to each of 2000 households. The focus of this project was not to generate eggs, meat, or manure for fertilizer. The goal was to reduce garbage.

"It costs Americans, as tax payers, billions of dollars a year to cart away as garbage precious minerals and organic material taken out of the soil in the form of food, while it was costing farmers billions a year to put chemical fertilizers back into the ground." Dr. E.E. Pfeifer

"If all the U.S. garbage were processed each year we would have (tons) of compost, enough to fertilize millions of acres. Garbage dumps would just about disappear." Dr. E.E. Pfeifer circa 1950

"1200 chickens are the equivalent of 4 tons of heavy equipment. They move and mix tons of compost without using any fuel." Pat Foreman

Lets say that 2000 households have 3 or 4 hens each. Each hen is being fed scraps, grass clippings, "residuals" - "biowaste" -- leftovers-- weeds . Whatever. That would be translated to over 252 tons of food waste diverted from landfills each year. How much is, say, a ton of trash worth to the city? I am waiting for that figure from the Sanitation Department, but, it's simple accounting. The more residents divert from the landfill the lower their taxes will be. About 25% of the materials in most landfills could be composted. Suddenly a licensing fee for keeping hens in town becomes obsolete. And while everyone in Janesville is not going to rush out and set up a coop, as the interest and need grows, a proactive plan will already be in place. Those of us that have the need to start now, will have the freedom to do so -- and not be a concern for those that are not interested at this time. The city can collect the permit fees, and we can all benefit from a much needed local food source, and growing tax savings.

With unemployment on the rise, sustainability issues, food safety issues, and specifically with the methane odor issues at our landfill, I expect that the City Staff will have reflected a positive recommendation. For everyone who has access to my reports, you have learned -- as I have -- that



the benefits of keeping hens as pets greatly outweighs the "livestock" mentality.  
There are approximately 23,500 households in Janesville.  
A bare minimum \$1,570,000 is spend for solid waste management for these households.  
Statistically, Food scraps account for about 20% of the municipal solid waste.  
Yard and leaf waste account for about 15% of solid waste.  
For a total of 35%

(\$1,570,000 total budget) X that (35%) = over half a million dollars for household biomass waste management. Money that should NOT be getting dumped into the landfill – or paid for to be hauled away by the city at all.

If only 10% of the households in Janesville kept chickens to bio-recycle yard and food waste for composting, the taxpayer savings would be about \$55,000 in one year! This dollar amount will get larger as gas, labor, transport fees continue to rise. And imagine if we collected food scraps from restaurants and businesses as well! Don't let that 10% scare you – that would equate to a handful households per city block maintaining hens.

Simply by changing a few lines of code, encouraging residents to keep hens— would help bio-recycle up to that 35% of the solid waste that currently goes to to the landfill.

As the number of backyard poultry and composting households increases, the savings will continue to rise. In cities and towns all over the country, neighbors bring over their food scraps for the chickens.. It becomes a neighborhood "in" thing to do.

The number of households initially will be low but will increase because more families are having kitchen gardens due to the high unemployment rate, and the concern over wholesome foods. This reasonable progression should not overwhelm Enforcement. Chickens will bio-recycle, every single "waste" uneaten piece of toast, pizza, vegetables, leaves, and other materials without any cost to anyone! And they give back eggs and compost instead. A win win strategy!

We should be encouraging the residents of Janesville to have hens with their cats or dogs, because as you can see, there is no reason to exclude hens in the city and the benefits are astounding.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter! Please feel free to respond.

--Allison A. Rollette, Janesville

COPY OF PREVIOUS MESSAGE SENT TO COUNCIL AND CITY 01/22/2010

– PRESS RELEASE  
(Contact information below)  
TO BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY  
**Environmental Chickens Save BIG TIME Tax Payer Dollars**

Buena Vista, VA - Green city managers wanting to save money on solid waste management expenditures need only to encourage residents to keep laying hens. Why? Because one chicken eats about seven pounds of food "waste" a month. A few hundred households keeping micro-flocks of laying hens can divert tons of yard and food biomass "waste" from trash collection saving municipalities thousands, even millions of tax payer dollars. Learn how with a revolutionary new book entitled:



CITY CHICKS:  
KEEPING MICRO-FLOCKS OF LAYING HENS  
AS GARDEN HELPERS, COMPOST MAKERS, BIO-RECYCLERS AND LOCAL FOOD SUPPLIERS

As author Patricia Foreman writes in her newly released book, CITY CHICKS, "What if a city had 2,000 households with three hens (or more) each? That could translate to 252 tons of food waste diverted from landfills each year ... Add to that number the tons of yard waste (grass clippings and leaves) that can hens can help convert into compost and the amount is as enormous as the tax-savings of NOT having to handle, transport and store all that biomass (green-house methane gas-producing) waste."

*City Chicks* describes in detail how chicken "skill sets" can be employed in a "Hen-Have-More Plan" for food production systems. Instead of using oil-based chemicals, chickens can help produce fertilizer and compost — they can turn yard waste into garden soil. Hens can also be used as mobile, clucking, (organic and non-toxic), pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides.

*The Declaration of Local Foods Rights*

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all people have certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the right to grow one's food in their backyards — including a family flock of chickens!*

The local foods movement is mushrooming and chickens have become its mascot. *City Chicks* brings revolutionary, fresh, innovative and new information about keeping backyard flocks of urban chickens.

So, if you really want to make a positive impact on the environment, learn how chickens may help you do just that!

*City Chicks* ushers in a new paradigm of how to use laying hens in a variety of roles that help decrease carbon footprints, save tax payer dollars and support local food supply production.

Patricia Foreman is the co-host, along with Andy Schneider, of the Chicken Whisper Backyard Poultry Talk Show. She is also the co-author of the best selling sustainable agriculture books:

- Backyard Market Gardening: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Selling What You Grow,
- Chicken Tractor: The Permaculture Guide to Happy Hens and Healthy Soil and,
- Day Range Poultry: Every Chicken Owner's Guide to Grazing Gardens and Improving Pastures.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Good Earth Publications, Inc.  
20 GreenWay Place, Buena Vista, VA 24416  
Phone and Fax: (540) 261-8775  
Email: [info@GoodEarthPublications.com](mailto:info@GoodEarthPublications.com)  
[www.GoodEarthPublications.com](http://www.GoodEarthPublications.com)

*City Chicks* by Patricia Foreman  
ISBN: 978-0-9624648-5-0  
460 ppb, illustrated  
Suggested Retail: \$22.50  
Publication Date: October 2009



# Obtaining a City of Madison Chicken License

## How to Obtain a City of Madison Chicken License

1. Notify others as required that you will be keeping chickens on the property.
  - If the property is an owner occupied single family home, no notification is required.
  - If the property is a single family home that is not owner occupied, notify the property owner and all residents of your dwelling unit.
  - If the property is a two, three, or four family home, notify the property owner and all residents of the property in all dwelling units.

Note: Notification is not required for annual renewals of a license to keep chickens.

2. Register with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. This registration is free. Fill out the "[Livestock Premises Registration Application](#)." Either complete the form online, or print it and fill it out. Once registered, you will be given a registration number.
3. Complete the application for a chicken license:

- Online
  1. Please note: To apply online you will need a digital version of or be able to scan in your Livestock Premises Registration so that it can be attached to the license application.
  2. If you do not have one already, you must create an account on the City of Madison Licenses & Permits portal to fill out this application.
  3. Once you login to your account go to the Licenses/Registrations section, select Apply for a License/Registration and then choose Treasurer - Chicken Owner Registration.
  4. Continue to [City of Madison Licenses & Permits](#).
- By Mail or In Person
  1. Mail or bring in your completed [application](#), a copy of your Livestock Premises Registration, and \$10 to the [City Treasurer's Office](#). The City Treasurer's Office is located in Room 107 of the City County Building, 210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Note: Chicken licenses must be obtained annually, prior to January 1 of each year, or within 30 days of acquiring chickens. The license year begins January 1 and ends on the following December 31.

Last Updated: 04/15/2013





**Application for Chicken License  
City of Madison, Wisconsin**



**Read and initial each item, then sign and print your name and fill in your address. Use black or dark blue ink.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **If required to do so, I have notified the property owner and all residents of the residential lot on which I will be keeping chickens. (See “How to Obtain a City of Madison Chicken License.”)**

*Note: Notification is not required for annual renewals of a license to keep chickens.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **I have completed the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection “Livestock Premises Registration Application.” My registration number is \_\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I have read, and I understand, the conditions under which I may keep chickens. I agree to abide by these conditions, which are as follows:**

- 1. No more than four chickens shall be kept on a residential lot with up to four dwelling units.**
- 2. No person shall keep any rooster.**
- 3. No person shall slaughter any chickens.**
- 4. The chickens shall be provided with a covered enclosure and must be kept in the covered enclosure or a fenced enclosure at all times.**
- 5. No enclosure shall be located closer than 25 feet to any residential structure on an adjacent lot.**

\_\_\_\_\_ **I understand that the Zoning Administrator may revoke my license to keep chickens if, in any six-month period, I accumulate three or more violations of any ordinance regulating the keeping of chickens.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Printed name of applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Address of applicant**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date submitted to Treasurer**





From McGraw, Paul J - DATCP <Paul.McGraw@wisconsin.gov>  
to "cityofjanesvillechickens@gmail.com" <cityofjanesvillechickens@gmail.com>  
cc "rfourdraine@wiid.org" <rfourdraine@wiid.org>  
date Wed, Nov 18, 2009 at 8:23 AM  
subject RE: Janesville, WI

Allison,

It is required by Wisconsin Stats. 95.51 and ATCP 17 that all keepers of livestock register their premises with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). This would include one single chicken, there is no exemption due to the number of animals or poultry. This registration is free and the information gathered for premises registration is confidential. The premises may be registered online at [www.wiid.org](http://www.wiid.org) or by calling 1-888-808-1910.

The rest of your question is regarding requirements for selling or showing poultry which includes either being on the National Poultry Improvement Plan or the Wisconsin Tested Flock Plan. These requirements include testing for salmonella pullorum and mycoplasma gallisepticum (for turkeys). This is only required if you are selling breeding poultry or exhibiting birds, not just to raise a few "backyard birds". Information on this program may be found on the DATCP website at <http://www.datcp.state.wi.us/> or calling 608-224-4872.

Feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Paul J. McGraw, DVM  
Assistant State Veterinarian

From: "City of Janesville Chickens?" <cityofjanesvillechickens@gmail.com>  
Date: Tue, 17 Nov 2009 22:14:51 -0600  
To: <rfourdraine@wiid.org>  
Subject: Janesville, WI

To Whom It May Concern:

I am contacting you from Janesville, where a group of us are working to lift the restrictions on keeping a few hens in our city limits. There appears to be some general confusion among our citizens in Wisconsin as to what is actually required by law regarding registering chickens. It is MY understanding that a registration of the location of ANY chickens in ANY number is required in the State of Wisconsin, though it is voluntary at a Federal level, and that this registration is free of charge. It is also my understanding that a separate, more rigorous registration and disease testing laws exist for those that would move their chickens from their primary location in terms of sale, showings, etc., and that there is a charge for this proof of testing and animal i.d. system. Can you confirm or deny this, or could you please briefly clarify what a chicken owner needs to do to be in compliance?

Thank you for your time,

--Allison Rollette



## To COJ Chickens from Dane County Humane Society:

Hi Alli. Thanks so much for your interest in our chickens here at DCHS. I will do my best to answer your questions.

1) How do the chickens come to you? (Are they primarily lost, or abandoned?)

Most of the chickens that come to our shelter arrive as strays. They are either picked up by someone in the community or by animal control, or abandoned at our doors. Since January 2008, we have seen about 14 roosters arrive as strays and 23 hens arrive as strays (some of these have come in as groups of 4-10, being abandoned at farms/homes). Of those 37 strays, 26 were successfully adopted into new homes, 10 were redeemed by their owner, and one is still waiting out his stray period (he was found in a box at our front doors on Saturday). While it looks promising that we had 10 redeemed by their owners, I should say that 9 of them were found as a group and redeemed all at one time. So, we have only had an owner claim their lost chicken(s) twice in almost 2 years.

We have had 3 chickens surrendered to the shelter in the last 2 years. One was surrendered at about 2 months of age because she had a deformed leg and was getting picked on by the other chickens on the farm. She was successfully adopted into a new loving home. Two other hens were surrendered together after their owner was moving to an apartment and could not take them with. They were adopted to a new home very quickly,

We had one rooster arrive to the shelter as part of a large seizure of over 300 animals from a puppy mill environment. He spent 5 months here while the case was being settled and he found a home very quickly once he was legally our property.

We also currently have roughly 50 chickens that are being held here from a cock fighting case that is hopefully going to be resolved sometime in December.

2) Do you feel it is problematic for the shelter to receive these birds? While I enjoy chickens very much and love meeting new birds, I know that it is not ideal for our shelter to have chickens, at least not very many. We don't have the best set up when it comes to housing chickens and most of our staff are unfamiliar with them. We try to house the chickens in our barn, but lately this has also housed horses, goats, etc. If the barn is unavailable, we have two dog runs in a quarantine area that are used for chickens. It is a nice quiet place for them, but there aren't as many people going in and out of this area, so they can become lonely. It also lacks appropriate sunlight, which is not the best thing for them. If we have more than 2 chickens here at a time, we sometimes need to be creative in where to put them while they wait for their stray period to end or to be adopted. Some of the chickens we get in also have health issues - the most common being leg mites. With contagious problems like leg mites, the chickens must be kept separate from other chickens, which can make housing them a little more difficult.

3) How long are you keeping the birds? We keep the chickens as long as it takes to find them a new home. Sometimes I have a home lined up for them once their stray period is done, therefore allowing them to be adopted 8 days after they came to the shelter. Others take a couple months to find homes. Thankfully, I have networked with many people and have come up with a great group of fellow chicken lovers, so finding them homes isn't too difficult. The roosters are MUCH harder to place than the hens. One reason is that you are not allowed to have roosters in the city



of Madison. And even if someone lives in an area that allows roosters, many already have too many roosters and don't want another one.

4) Do you consider sending them to a farm that is willing to take them "no questions asked" if they are not picked up within a reasonable amount of time? We will not send them to a farm "no questions asked" if they aren't picked up in a reasonable amount of time. Like mentioned above, usually I have enough people lined up through my networking that are responsible chicken owners who are willing to give them a loving forever home. If I am working with someone new that I did not find through my other networks, I require a home visit and sometimes references. I care very much about each and every chicken and I am not willing to just let them go to anyone. Thankfully, the staff and supervisors here at our shelter support this decision.

I can definitely say that chickens are becoming more and more common here at the shelter. I think this is due to their increase in popularity in the city of Madison. While chickens can be hard on some shelters as far as their care, adaptability, etc., our shelter has done very well at meeting the needs of any poultry we get in. We are lucky to have several animal control officers that own chickens themselves or have in the past. We have a couple staff members who either currently have chickens or have grown up with them. And we also work with Liz Perry from the Urban Chicken Network who has been VERY helpful, giving us advice and assistance with finding the birds new homes. I would recommend contacting her as well. Her email is [nutzymutz@gmail.com](mailto:nutzymutz@gmail.com).

I hope this information helps. Please feel free to contact me with additional questions. I am more than happy to help.

Thanks,

Betsy

Adoption Counselor/Breed Matching Coordinator/2nd Chances Adoption Coordinator for DCHS  
608-838-0413 x160  
[bhalat@giveshelter.org](mailto:bhalat@giveshelter.org)  
[www.giveshelter.org](http://www.giveshelter.org)





### Notes regarding phone conversation with Madison's Animal Control Officer:

I called 608-255-2345 on the afternoon of 10/22/2009. My contact information was taken, and a call back was set up. Animal Control called me after a brief wait.

I asked what issues they have had since the city adopted the "chicken ordinance" in 2004.

I was told that they may get a call where a chicken has gotten out and they will go to pick it up, or that someone has placed their coop in a location not in compliance with the ordinance.

I asked if these were frequent issues and I was told that these calls were "few and far between" and that they have had "very few problems" and that most of their calls come in regarding cats and dog: vicious dogs, noise, stray, cat "pooped" in the neighbor's flowers, etc.

I asked if these issues were handled by an officer on call, but was told they they have a specific Animal Control unit that handles these calls to make sure the Zoning ordinance is being followed, but there are rarely calls regarding chickens.

On Nov 1, 8:24 am, cheri c <cheric...@verizon.net> wrote:

> Hi, Cheri here, I work for animal control in Madison and we can help answer questions anytime. The best number to call is 608-267-1989. Glad we could help!! We get the occasional "chicken at large" call, and the occasional cruelty violation, i.e. no shade, no water or something for chickens. But overall, it is working very well having chickens in Madison. A chicken is fairly benign compared to the ubiquitous barking or vicious loose dogs, dogs in parks where they are prohibited, cats running at large and pooping in child sandboxes or screen fighting with resident cats, not to mention animal bites and rabies quarantines. Never have "chicken bite cases" ; )  
> Cheri Carr

11/02/09      Thanks Cheri -- It was probably you that called me back the other day! ; ) It will be important for Janesville to know how things have been going in Madison when I make the presentation to them! Thanks again!

--Alli



## Letter from Madison's Zoning Administrator, October 28, 2009

Allison-

You had asked for a brief summary in regard to our Zoning Code enforcement experience relative to our ordinance allowing the keeping of chickens in the City.

Our enforcement practice is primarily based upon the submission of a complaint, which results in the creation of an inspections case. Generally, we receive less than 10 complaints in a typical calendar year. The majority of complaints relate to roosters being on site, too many chickens on site, or coops/shelters/enclosures that are placed too close to neighbors homes or property lines. It is not uncommon for us to discover that the person(s) keeping the chickens has not obtained the required city license, which is a simple issue to resolve.

I would say the enforcement burden of managing this ordinance is fairly minimal, as we put the majority of the responsibility for compliance on the party desiring to keep the chickens. Our mission is to educate folks on the regulations first, and save more significant enforcement action where voluntary compliance is not achieved. I cannot specifically recall any cases where a municipal citation was issued or a case was referred to the City Attorney's office for prosecution. Voluntary compliance is usually the result of any orders sent.

Also, please note, the City recently revisited our "keeping of chickens" ordinance. The legislative file with the bulk of pertinent information may be found at this link:

<http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/detailreport/?key=12318> Since adoption of this change to the code, we have noticed that the notification requirement does not work well. Self-reporting and neighbor notification has been proven burdensome and difficult to track. In response (and with aldermanic support), we have prepared a modification to the noticing requirement that would eliminate the neighbor notification requirement, but would require notification of a landlord at a rental property where a tenant wishes to keep chickens, and would also require notification of the other tenants of a 2-4 unit building if one of the tenants wanted to keep chickens. This change has not been adopted to date, but we believe it will satisfy the concerns of those that would be directly impacted by the keeping of chickens.

Feel free to call or reply with any questions.

**Matt Tucker**

**Zoning Administrator**

**Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development**

**Building Inspection Division, City Of Madison**

215 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

PO Box 2984

Madison, WI 53701-2984

608/266-4569 PH

mtucker@cityofmadison.com

<http://www.cityofmadison.com>





10-23-2009

To Whom It May Concern:

In my beginning stages of gathering information to go before Janesville's city council to propose a chicken-friendly ordinance that is similar to the city of Madison's ordinance, it has occurred to me that you, given your expertise, might offer some insight into the common concerns people in Janesville will have regarding the keeping of a few chickens in an urban backyard. Concerns that the Janesville city council and residents have will likely be as it relates to noise, and as it relates to health. My suspicions, as evidenced by Madison's own tolerance of this ordinance and based on the research I have been doing for the last few weeks, indicate to me that a small, well managed urban flock will **not** be a hotbed for diseases, rodents and odors. I have also concluded that hens are generally quiet; a rooster would violate general noise ordinances. It would also appear that when compared to dogs, a small flock of hens might be a much more city and neighbor-friendly pet. If you could please comment on my statements, I would appreciate it! Also, please mention if it is acceptable to quote any of your remarks while making my "case" to the city of Janesville.

Thank you very much for your time,

Allison Rollette  
Janesville, WI

E-mailed to the following:

Extention Poultry Specialist / Poultry Science Department  
260 Animal Sciences  
1675 Observatory Drive  
UW Madison, WI 53706 (608) 262-9764  
cc: [mcook@wisc.edu](mailto:mcook@wisc.edu)  
[rpkean@wisc.edu](mailto:rpkean@wisc.edu)  
[mprichards@ansci.wisc.edu](mailto:mprichards@ansci.wisc.edu)  
[clausjr@ansci.wisc.edu](mailto:clausjr@ansci.wisc.edu)

and

[info@wvdl.wisc.edu](mailto:info@wvdl.wisc.edu)  
(Regional Animal Health Laboratory / Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory)  
1521 East Guy Avenue, Barron WI 54812 (715)-537-3151  
445 Easterday Ln. Madison WI 53706 (608)-262-5432





On Mon, Oct 26, 2009 at 10:44 AM, mark cook <mcook@wisc.edu> wrote:

Dear Allison,

I think Ron Kean is our best expert in this area.

You are correct, backyard birds work well in urban settings and I do not believe that madison has had any major problems. Rooster should be prohibited unless neighbor seek rooster calls. Limits on the number of hens is probably wise. My guess is that the number could be linked to their ability to use the waste in their own yard. Disposal of a dead animal probably fits with existing regulations. Keeping the birds confined to the owner's yard probably fits with existing regulation. Ron can probably inform you if there are any state regulations regarding disease and contacts that might be useful.

Mark Cook

I hope you had a good trip for your time.

7/26/09  
Mark Cook

Best regards to the following:

Dr. Ron Kean, Specialist, University of Wisconsin  
200 Lincoln Drive  
Madison, WI 53706-1608 (608) 262-2701  
ron.kean@wisc.edu  
http://www.wisc.edu/~ronkean

Dr. Allison  
Madison Health Laboratory, Wisconsin Division of  
Health Services, Madison, WI 53706-1608  
(608) 262-2701  
http://www.wisc.edu/~allison



Ron Kean  
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October 23, 2009

Let me start by telling you a little about my training and experience with poultry. I grew up on a small, diversified farm and we kept a backyard flock of poultry, including chickens, ducks, turkeys and guineas. I have a BS in Animal Science, a master's degree in Animal Breeding, working with chickens, and have worked here at the university for more than 16 years. I took numerous classes on poultry husbandry, diseases, and general animal science during my schooling, and have taught several classes here as well.

While there are several diseases that can possibly be transmitted between chickens and humans, most of them are rare and are not usually a problem. As with any animal, some simple precautions (such as washing your hands after handling them and keeping clean facilities) can be taken to avoid most of these.

Following is a list of potential diseases and some comments about each of them.

**Salmonellosis** – This is often what people think of when they think of chickens. There are about 2500 different species of *Salmonella* and a few of them can be carried by chickens and can make people sick. The type that usually makes the news (*Salmonella enteritidis* or SE) can be contracted by consuming undercooked eggs or from contamination from raw chicken meat. It can rarely be contracted from contact with fecal material, but a good hand washing with soap after handling any chicken will take care of this. I'd also point out that salmonellosis can be contracted from pet turtles, iguanas, pygmy hedgehogs, etc. as well.

**Psittacosis** – This is a bacterial disease that can be contracted from poultry, although it is very rare. It's more commonly carried by cage birds (parrots, etc.) than by poultry. It can be treated with antibiotics.

**Tuberculosis** – While rare, there have been records of people contracting tuberculosis from birds. Typically, those who are immunocompromised are most at risk. Tuberculosis is not a common disease in poultry.

**Histoplasmosis** – this is a fungal disease that is actually caused by a soil fungus. It's not carried by birds, but can grow in old poultry or pigeon manure. It's commonly connected with pigeon droppings in church belfries, barns, etc. where these droppings accumulate. As long as a poultry house is cleaned regularly, this should not be an issue at all.

**Parasites** – Because chickens are not closely related to humans (Class *Aves* vs. Class *Mammalia*), parasites are generally adapted to one or the other. Mites, lice, etc. from birds will not live on humans for more than a few hours. Likewise, internal parasites are typically adapted to the poultry gut and won't be a problem for humans. One protozoa, *Giardia*, can occasionally affect birds and humans. This is more



commonly seen in cage birds (parakeets, canaries, etc.). Most hobby flock owners routinely monitor and treat their birds for parasites anyway, in an effort to improve the livelihood of the birds.

**Influenza** – This has been in the news quite a bit recently, and there has been evidence in some other countries that humans can become infected from chickens. The subtypes that affect humans have not occurred in poultry in the United States for many, many years. The USDA conducts an aggressive program to depopulate flocks that may have other subtypes in an effort to prevent this from happening in the future.

There are a few other viruses that have been transmitted to people in lab conditions, but which are not really concerns in a hobby flock situation.

Some other non-disease issues that are often brought up can also be easily controlled:

**Flies** – The best way to prevent flies is to keep the litter dry. The eggs and larvae (maggots) need moisture to develop, so if the litter is dry, they will not be an issue. Also, most small flock owners clean out regularly, so manure buildup is not an issue. With a flock size of a few chickens, excess moisture should not be a problem.

**Odor** – Similar to the issue of flies, odor is seldom a problem if the litter is kept dry. Odor is usually associated with ammonia production, and this will be prevented by keeping the litter dry. Again, with a flock size of a few chickens, I'd be surprised if there is a moisture problem.

**Noise** – Roosters crowing can be an annoyance, especially in the early morning! Hens are typically considerably quieter and shouldn't be an issue. Certainly, they should be no more disruptive than a barking dog.

After listing all of these things, I know it sounds horrible, but the risks are really quite minimal. With any animal, there are possible issues, but a list of possible threats from a dog or cat would be at least as long, and probably longer.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

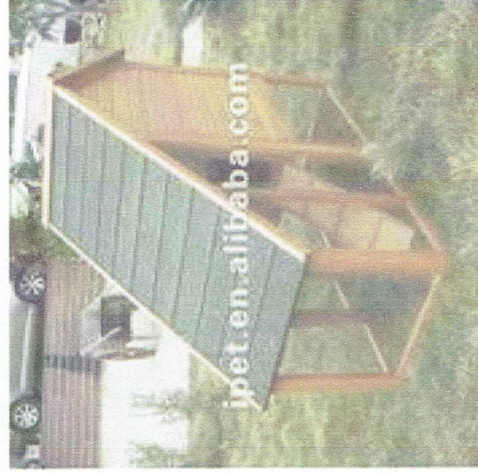
Ron Kean  
UW-Extension Poultry Specialist





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### **Do the Research! Plan Ahead!**

Keeping chickens holds a great attraction for many people for a variety of reasons. A bird is compact, does not eat much, and does not cost much to buy. They can be kept for business, a hobby or as a pet. They provide us with eggs, meat, and excellent fertilizer for in the garden. Show birds are a huge interest for many people as well.

If you have thought about having home-produced eggs, or raising your own show birds etc. therefore buying some chickens for this purpose, please be sure to study up a bit and get your questions answered. Your local library will have many resources for you to educate yourself as well as using the Internet to answer your questions. Particularly with raising a flock in an urban setting, you will need to be sure that you have the time and willingness to give the birds the care that they need while considering the things that need to be done to comply with any ordinances. You will need to consider the various management methods, veterinary aids, and things that are specific to your area of the country to ensure your flock's success. The chickens will be fully dependent upon YOU for their well-being, and there are many things to consider before acquiring them.

Protecting your flock from extreme weather, draft, excessive moisture and heat will all require the right housing. Knowing how much space you will need is important as well. Protection from predators such as hawks, raccoons, opossum, foxes, eagles, mink and the neighbor's dog or cat will be a concern for you. Knowing which breeds of chickens meet your needs is important whether you are raising them for show, eggs, or pets. Some breeds are better at laying eggs or withstanding Wisconsin winters than other breeds; some are more docile and easily tamed than others. One of the chickens may become ill, for which she must see a vet, and although this could be expensive, your birds should not go without because of costs involved. As chickens can live ten or even fifteen years, you will need to be prepared to care for them accordingly. You will need a caretaker for the birds to ensure that the birds' safety and water/ nutrition needs are met if you need to be away or on vacation.

Proper management and hygiene will eliminate any issues regarding health, noise, odor and vermin, and local ordinances are in place to control these situations. Making sure you are on top of any maintenance and cleaning issues will keep you and your birds healthy and keep you in good standing with your neighbors, the city AND your birds!



### **Best Resources for Chicken Keeping**

**Of all of the 20+ books that I read on the subject of chickens, , I feel that these 2 guides, and this health handbook will help you understand everything you need to know. These were the most comprehensive and useful. Were you to read, understand, and have available as a constant resource before and during raising your hens, you will be MOST successful:**

- **A Chicken in Every Yard The Urban Farm Store's Guide to Chicken Keeping by Robert Litt and Hannah Litt**
- **City Chicks: Keeping Micro-Flocks of Chickens as Garden Helpers, Compost Makers, Bio-Recyclers, and Local Food Producers by Patricia L. Foreman**
- **The chicken health handbook by Gail Damerow**
- **I also highly recommend the documentary: Mad City Chickens by Tarazod Films: produced and directed by Tashai Lovington, Robert Lughai.**





**List of Resources I have read between October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

- |                          |  |                                  |            |        |
|--------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Free-range chickens / Simon Rich.</u>   | Rich, Simon.                     | 10-13-2009 | Copy 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>The natural history of the chicken [Videorecording] / Mark Lewis</u><br><u>Radio Pictures ; written and directed by Mark Lewis.</u>   |                                  | 10-13-2009 | Copy 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Keeping poultry / Victoria Roberts.</u>   | Roberts, Victoria.               | 10-13-2009 |        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Raising poultry the modern way / by Leonard S. Mercia.</u>  | Mercia, Leonard S.               | 10-13-2009 | Copy 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Living with chickens : everything you need to know to raise your own backyard flock / Jay Rossier ; photographs by Geoff Hansen ; introduction by the American Poultry Association, Inc.</u>  | Rossier, Jay.                    | 10-13-2009 | Copy 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Barnyard in your backyard : a beginner's guide to raising chickens, ducks, geese, rabbits, goats, sheep, and cattle / edited by Gail Damerow ; contributing authors, Gail Damerow ... [et al.].</u>   |                                  | 10-13-2009 | Copy 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>A guide to raising chickens : care, feeding, facilities / Gail Damerow.</u>   | Damerow, Gail.                   | 10-15-2009 | Copy 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>The complete encyclopedia of chickens : everything you need to know about caring for, housing, breeding, and feeding chickens plus an extensive description of more than one hundred different breeds of chicken / Esther Verhoef [and] Aad Rijs.</u> | Verhoef-Verhallen, Esther, 1968- | 10-15-2009 | Copy 1 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>ABC of poultry raising : a complete guide for the beginner or</u>   | Florea, J. H.                    | 10-15-2009 | Copy 1 |

- expert / by J. H. Florea.
- The complete handbook of poultry-keeping / Stuart Banks. Banks, Stuart. 10-15-2009 Copy 1
- Free-range poultry / Katie Thear. Thear, Katie, 1939- 10-15-2009 Copy 1
- An introduction to square foot gardening [Videorecording] / Mel Bartholomew and Suzy Valentine. 10-15-2009 Copy 1
- Mad City chickens [videorecording] / Tarazod Films ; produced and directed by Tashai Lovington, Robert Lughai. 10-20-2009 Copy 1
- The joy of keeping chickens : the ultimate guide to raising poultry for fun or profit / Jennifer Megyesi ; photography by Geoff Hansen. Megyesi, Jennifer Lynn, 1963- 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- Keeping chickens : the essential guide to enjoying and getting the best from chickens / Jeremy Hobson and Celia Lewis. Hobson, J. C. Jeremy. 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- Raising chickens for dummies / Kimberley Willis. Willis, Kimberley. 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- How to raise chickens : everything you need to know / by Christine Heinrichs. Heinrichs, Christine. 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- Chicken coops : 40 building plans for housing your flock / by Judy Pangman. Pangman, Judy. 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- The domestic poultry keeper / Eric Bailey ; photography by Eric Soothill. Bailey, Eric. 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- The chicken health handbook / Gail Damerow. Damerow, Gail. 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- Hen and the art of chicken maintenance : reflections on keeping chickens / Martin Gurdon. Gurdon, Martin. 10-27-2009 Copy 1
- Keep chickens! : tending small flocks in cities, suburbs, and other small spaces / Barbara Kilariski. Kilariski, Barbara. 11/02/09 Copy 1





Urban Chickens

Source: [www.urbanchickens.net](http://www.urbanchickens.net)



Urban Chickens | Dedicated to promoting backyard chickens in urban residential landscapes.

Source: [www.urbanchickens.org](http://www.urbanchickens.org)

Urban Chickens is an organization that is dedicated to promoting backyard chickens in urban residential landscapes.



**Allison Rollette** [City of Janesville Chickens?: City of Janesville Chickens?](#)  
Document Release link at: <http://COJChickens.wordpress.com/>

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The WLIC is registering  
premises today

Premises registration brings us closer to the  
day when Wisconsin's livestock industry will  
be prepared to respond within 48 hours in  
the event of an animal disease outbreak.

Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium

Source: [www.wiid.org](http://www.wiid.org)

We're glad you've stopped in to learn more information about livestock premises registration and the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC). TheWLIC is registering premises as ...



## City Of Janesville Chickens? on Twitter... "COJchickens" TWEET!

Allison Rollette (COJChickens) on Twitter

Source: [www.twitter.com](http://www.twitter.com)

Twitter is without a doubt the best way to share and discover what is happening right now.



McMurrayHatchery.com Home Page

Source: [www.mcmurrayhatchery.com](http://www.mcmurrayhatchery.com)

McMurray Hatchery - Large selection of day old chicks, poultry and exotic fowl. Homestead supplies and poultry equipment available for sale.



eNASCO Online Catalogs Worldwide Service To Education, Health, Agriculture, Industry

Source: [www.enasco.com](http://www.enasco.com)

eNasco has what you're looking for – school supplies, farm and ranch products, art materials, health care trainers, educational and teacher resources, senior care items, and more! Learn more about Nasco.



Poultry Press <http://www.poultrypress.com>

Source: [www.poultrypress.com](http://www.poultrypress.com)

An international newspaper devoted to breeding, raising, conditioning, and showing purebred exhibition poultry.





BackYardChickens - Raise Chickens, Build a Chicken Coop, Hatch Eggs

Source: [www.backyardchickens.com](http://www.backyardchickens.com)

How To Raise Chickens, Build chicken coops, Incubate eggs and Hatch chicks - Everything you need to know about raising chickens in your own backyard.

City Government

Ordinances

Source: [www.ci.janesville.wi.us](http://www.ci.janesville.wi.us)



[Welcome to Mad City Chickens](http://www.madcitychickens.com)

Source: [www.madcitychickens.com](http://www.madcitychickens.com)

Mad City Chickens gives backyard chicken raising advice to chicken ranchers in Madison, Wisconsin