

Historic Districts

Is the property located in a historic district?

Is the proposed pen and coop area visible from a public street in a historic district?

If so, please call the Planning & Inspections office to determine if a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) may be required prior to construction of the pen and coop area. A review of an application for a COA is conducted by the Staunton Historic Preservation Commission. An additional fee is required for a COA, and an inspection is required once the work has been completed. For more information regarding the application process, the fee, or the requirements of a COA, call the Planning and Zoning Division. (540)332-3862.

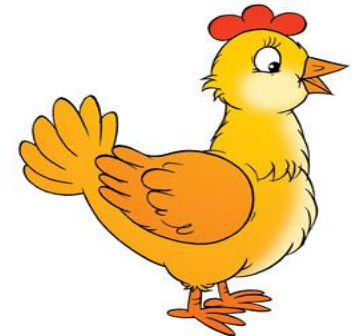
Please Call

Regulations can change, so please call the Planning & Zoning Division before you construct a coop and pen for the keeping of chickens.

**Community
Development
Department
City of Staunton,
Virginia**

116 W Beverley St.
PO Box 58
Staunton, VA 24401
(540) 332-3862

**Thinking of
keeping
backyard
hens in the
City of
Staunton?**



STAUNTON
VIRGINIA

The City of Staunton regulates the keeping of chickens through the City's Zoning Code found in Title 18, Chapter 18.153 of the Staunton City Code. The City Code is available to the public on the City's website, www.ci.staunton.va.us.

Application Process:

- The application fee is \$50.00
- The applicant must be the owner of the property, or have written consent from the owner to keep chickens on the property.
- Included in the application, the applicant must provide a sketch of the property indicating the location of the coop and pen and setbacks from the property lines.
- Zoning Department staff will review the application to approve the location of the coop and pen prior to construction.
- Upon completion of the construction, the applicant will need to call the Zoning Division, (540) 332-3862, to request a final inspection for permit issuance. The chicken permit is required prior to obtaining any chickens.

Coops and Pens:

- The chicken coop is a structure within a pen that houses the chickens and is built and maintained with materials as an impenetrable barrier to keep the chickens confined and secure from other animals, providing not less than three (3) square feet per chicken.
- The pen shall be enclosed at all times and on all sides, including the top, with a strong fence of mesh wire to keep the chickens secure, providing a space not less than eight (8) square feet per chicken.
- All coops and pens shall be located in the rear yard with a required ten (10) feet setback.
- Coops and pens shall be kept in a sanitary condition at all times.
- No building permit is required for the coop or pen.



General Standards:

- The sale of chicken eggs on or from the property is prohibited. Offsite sale shall be by a Home Occupation Permit.



- No more than six (6) chickens shall be allowed per property, regardless of the number of dwellings.
- Roosters are prohibited.
- All feed shall be stored in impenetrable containers.
- There shall be no slaughtering or processing of chickens outdoors.
- Offensive odors from chickens or manure shall not be detectable at any time from the property boundaries.