



CHICKEN ORDINANCE DISCUSSION

Ordinance Change Considerations

If Lee's summit increased the number of allowed chickens, what other city regulations should we adopt?

Minimum lot size (such as 3 acres), greater separation from neighboring property or structures (such as 100 feet), permit requirements (SUP or "Special Animal Permit")

BACKGROUND

COLS Timeline to Current Ordinance



November 28, 2012

CEDC directed city staff to develop a draft of Urban Chicken Ordinance.



July 11, 2013

An ordinance was passed with a 5-3 vote.

The mayor did not vote at that time.

The same ordinance is in effect today.

BACKGROUND CONTINUED

The 2012 ordinances did not allow the keeping of chickens within 400 feet of the nearest residence.

There were citizens of Lee's Summit who wanted to keep small flocks of chickens for egg production.



KEY ASPECTS FROM 2012-2013

- Allows up to six chickens
- Only hens, no roosters
- Must be restrained at all times and secure inside a henhouse during non-daylight hours
- Backyard only; Henhouses must be located 10 feet from the property line and 40 feet from adjacent buildings



KEY ASPECTS FROM 2012-2013 CONTINUED

- Must maintain chickens in a clean environment with no perceptible odor or excessive noise at the property boundary
- Chicken manure must be removed or stored securely, with no more than three cubic feet of manure stored
- Non-Commercial use only
- Allows for the slaughter of chickens only within an enclosed area out of public view



KEY ASPECTS FROM 2012-2013 CONTINUED

- Guidelines for enclosures are very specific within the ordinance
- Clear intention of animal welfare with regard to size and construction.
- Setbacks from property lines and dwellings were intentional to minimize complaints.
- Development Services Department

RESEARCH

Six hens is the industry standard In Missouri.

When an ordinance allows for more than six chickens, larger plots of land are required. Research found this to be very consistent across the state.

CITY COMPARATORS

City	Are chickens allowed?	District	Amount?	Permit?	Additional Processes or Restrictions?
Lee's Summit, MO	Yes	AG, Residential	6	No	N/A
Blue Springs, MO	Yes	Residential	6	Yes	10-ft from property lines and 40-ft from neighboring homes
Independence, MO	Yes	AG	6-20	No	3-acre min.; Quantity dependent on setbacks and enclosures
Kansas City, MO	Yes	Residential	15	No	100-ft. setback from adjacent residences
Wentzville, MO	Yes	Residential	4-10	No	N/A
Chesterfield, MO	Yes	Not Specified	No limit	No	2-acre min.
Lenexa, KS	Yes	AG, Residential	4-15	No	Quantity varies based on acreage
Shawnee, KS	Yes	AG, Residential	10	Yes	Special Animal Permit
Overland Park, KS	Yes	AG, Residential	3-12	Yes	Permit required for properties less than 3-acres
Olathe, KS	Yes	AG, Residential	10	Yes	Special Animal Permit required for properties less than 3-acres
Franklin, TN	Yes	Not Specified	No limit	Yes	N/A
Carmel, IN	Yes	AG, Residential	6	No	N/A

RESEARCH

Missouri has no statutes governing the minimum sales or quantity of chickens.

You can purchase fewer than four online; however, three to four is the minimum industry standard hatcheries sell to the public.

RESEARCH

The minimums are based on logistics and profit.

Chicks need each other to regulate their body temperature during travel and as they grow. This likely contributes to the three to four standard quantities.

RESEARCH CONTINUED

Missouri House Bill 2062, codified in 2024, put restrictions on HOAs restricting chicken ownership. In this bill, the State said that homeowners can keep up to six chickens on properties of 2/10th of an acre (approx. 875 sq ft).

According to David Hoffman, Livestock Specialist with the University of Missouri Extension, Cass County, the state guideline in Missouri is six chickens per 2/10th of an acre.

This is based on animal welfare guidelines for most municipalities' standard chicken coop size. It also mitigates concerns with noise, waste/odor, etc. This is the reason for the majority of municipalities in Missouri for residential chickens set at six hens.

RESEARCH CONTINUED

On average, Animal Control responds to 25 calls for service regarding chickens.

The two primary reasons are noise and smell.



SUMMARY

With the passage of House Bill 2062, mirroring State law, staff would recommend no change to the ordinance, thereby only allowing six chickens.

The recommendation is based on leading practice for animal welfare and to help with noise, disease, and odor concerns.