Chapter 6.08 - Chickens

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6.08.010 Keeping of Livestock Prohibited Except for Domestic Chickens

Keeping of livestock in the City of Dillon is prohibited except for domestic chickens as described in this chapter or as provided in Title 17 - Zoning.

Enc Ord 454 October 4, 2017

6.08.020 Limitations on Fowl for Domestic Uses

Fowl shall not be permitted in the City of Dillon other than chickens which shall be permitted only under the limitations set forth within this chapter or as provided in Title 17 - Zoning.

Enc Ord 454 October 4, 2017

6.08.030 Roosters Not Allowed

Roosters shall not be kept or maintained within the City of Dillon or as provided in Title 17 - Zoning.

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6.08.040 Chickens Allowed Only In Specific Locations

Chickens may be kept in the following locations, subject to all other standards set within this chapter.

1. On a single-household parcel;
2. On a parcel under unitary ownership with more than one dwelling on-site;
3. On residential parcels under common ownership; and
4. In an Agricultural zone as defined in Title 17.

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6.08.050 Number of Chickens Authorized Only By Permit

Keeping of chickens is authorized only by permit obtained from the City of Dillon. The number of chickens authorized per permit shall comply with the following requirements, subject to all other standards set within this chapter.

1. For the first two-thousand, eight-hundred, seventy-five (2,875) square feet of any residential parcel, up to four (4) chickens are allowed;
2. For each additional one-thousand (1000) square feet of any residential parcel, one additional hen up to a maximum of ten (10); and
3. For parcels with multiple households, the physical area used for determining the maximum number of allowed hens is exclusive to each permit and may not overlap. This may restrict the number of permits issued on a given parcel.

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6.08.060 General Regulations for the Keeping of Chickens

1. Chickens shall not range at large within the corporate limits of the City of Dillon. Chickens shall be contained within the permittee’s property boundary at all times.
2. Permittee shall provide chickens with a covered, predator-proof chicken house and enclosure that is thoroughly ventilated and of sufficient size to admit free movement of the chickens. A minimum of two (2) square feet of chicken house per chicken or chick is required. The chicken house shall be adjacent to and provide free access to the chicken enclosure. Electrical fixtures installed in a chicken house shall comply with adopted building, fire, and electrical codes of the City and State. Chicken enclosures may be movable.
3. Chicken enclosures and houses shall be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, and shall be cleaned on a regular basis so as to prevent offensive odors.
4. Chickens shall be secured within the enclosure from sunset to sunrise.
5. Chickens shall have continuous access to adequate food and water and stored food shall be kept in a rodent- and predator-proof container(s).
6. Chickens shall be maintained in a healthy condition. Ill chickens shall either receive appropriate medical care or be culled.
7. Chicken houses shall not be located closer than twenty (20) feet to any structure inhabited by someone other than the chicken owner, custodian, or keeper, and shall not be closer than five (5) feet to any property line. Chicken houses may be movable but shall comply with all standards of this chapter.
8. Chickens shall not be kept in a manner so as to create noxious odors or noise of a loud, persistent and habitual nature.
9. Chickens shall not be slaughtered within public view.

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6.08.070 Annual Inspections Are Required for Permits and Fees

1. Prior to the keeping chickens, parties seeking to keep chickens shall obtain a permit from the City of Dillon. A permit fee shall be established by resolution of the City Council and may be revised. Only one permit shall be issued per household. This fee shall be due by January 31 of each year.
2. Owners of chickens shall retain a copy of all signed City approval documents for inspection upon request by the Enforcement Officer or designated City representative.
3. A permit for chickens under this chapter does not relieve parties from requirements to obtain other permits or other necessary approvals for structures, fences, lighting, heat sources, zoning, etc, as required by this Code.
4. Parties who wish to keep chickens shall submit an application to keep chickens to the City of Dillon – Animal Control department. The application shall contain the following:
   1. An accurate sketch identifying the property boundaries, the location of all structures on the property and distances between said structures and between the property boundaries. The sketch shall also indicate the location of the chicken enclosure and chicken house.
   2. The name, address, and signed statement of the property owner, if different from the applicant, consenting to the keeping of the applied for number of chickens on the property.
   3. The number of chickens kept, between one (1) and four (4) or between five (5) and ten (10).
   4. A description of the enclosure and chicken house, including materials used and the square footage.
   5. A sworn statement that all statements contained in the application are true and the permit holder shall keep the chickens in compliance with the terms of the permit, application, and this chapter.

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6.08.080 Property Shall Be Inspected Annually For Permits Keeping Five or More Chickens

Prior to keeping five (5) or more chickens, up to and including the maximum number allowed by this chapter, parties wishing to do so shall have the location inspected by the City of Dillon Enforcement Officer or designated City representative. The Enforcement Officer or designated City representative shall review the enclosure, chicken house, and all matters related keeping chickens.

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6.08.090 Animal Control Officer Order Shall be Complied With – Appeal Process

During inspection(s), if the Animal Control officer determines changes are to be made to enclosures, chicken houses, or the number of chickens to be kept, or mitigation such as fencing or other screening is required for impact to adjacent properties, the applicant/permit holder shall comply with the order of the Enforcement Officer or designated City representative. A person aggrieved by a decision of the Enforcement Officer or designated City representative may appeal to the Director of Operations who shall review all applicable information and issue a decision on the appeal. Appeals from the Director of Operation’s decision for applications, permits, or orders of Enforcement Officer or designated City representative decision may be made to the City Council. At the time of final approval by Animal Control, the officer shall indicate final approval on the permit and keep a record of final approval.

Enc Ord 454 October 4, 2017

6.08.100 Permit Specific To Holder and Location – Non-Transferable

A permit to keep chickens is specific to the permit holder and the location of the permit. Chicken owners who wish to move chickens to a different location within the City of Dillon shall obtain a new permit. New residents of a property who intend to keep chickens shall obtain a new permit regardless of whether chickens were kept on the property or continue to be kept on the property.

Enc Ord 454 October 4, 2017

6.08.110 Permit Specific to Number Kept – New Permit Required On Significant Changes

Approval of a permit to keep chickens authorizes the permit holder to keep the number of chickens in the manner described on the application and permit. Any increase to the number of chickens to five (5) or more up and including to the maximum number allowed, or a significant change to the manner of keeping said chickens shall require a new permit.

Enc Ord 454 October 4, 2017

6.08.120 Any Changes To Standards Requires Compliance

Changes to the standards contained in this chapter shall require permit holders to comply with new standards, regulations, or conditions. Notice to permit holders is not required prior to enforcement of new standards beyond that required for adoption of new or revised ordinances.

Enc Ord 454 October 4, 2017

6.08.130 Protest and Hearing For Keeping of Five or More Chickens

Owners or residents of two (2) or more adjacent properties may request the City Council to conduct a hearing on applications for the keeping five (5) or more chickens on adjacent properties. Adjacent properties shall include those properties adjacent by a public right-of-way and include those connected by property corners. If a hearing is held the Council may issue a permit if the Council finds:

1. The site for proposed use is adequate in size to accommodate keeping chickens, and yards, spaces, fences, and enclosures are adequate to properly relate such use with the land and uses in the vicinity;
2. The proposed use will have minimal adverse impact on adjacent properties or residents; and
3. Conditions stated in the approval are in addition to those required in this Chapter and are deemed necessary, and shall apply and be followed by applicants and property owners as a condition of approval.

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6.08.140 Enforcement

Upon receiving a complaint of a possible violation, the Enforcement Officer or designated City representative shall investigate and determine if a violation of this chapter exists. If the Enforcement Officer or designated City representative determines a violation exists, the officer may serve upon the owner or occupier of the property a warning and directive to take corrective action or may the officer may immediately issue a violation notice and citation into Dillon City Court.

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6.08.150 Chickens Shall Be Properly Kept

Chickens shall be kept in a manner that does not cause adverse impact to neighboring property owners. Potential negative impacts on adjacent properties include offensive odors and the unusual presence of insects, rodents, or feathers. Evidence of these negative impacts are sufficient if they are perceptible outside of the boundaries of the subject property. Failure to maintain the property in accordance with these requirements shall be considered a violation of this chapter.

Enc Ord 454 October 4, 2017

6.08.160 Revocation of Permits

Should a permit be revoked, all birds shall be removed from the property for a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months before a new permit may be applied for chickens at that location. Application may be made by new property occupants after the new occupants begin living in the home prior to the time restriction.

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