

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHICKENS

A. **Chickens.** Chickens are only allowed if kept and maintained in accordance with the following requirements.

1. Permit Required.
 - a) The keeping of chickens and is subject to inspection and issuance of a permit by the Animal Control Officer or Code Enforcement Officers.
 - b) Access to the property must be allowed for inspection purposes.
2. General Requirements.
 - a) Maximum number of chickens.

<i>Lot Size</i>	<i>Max Number</i>
<i>Less than 1 Acre</i>	Not Permitted
<i>1 – 2 Acres</i>	12
<i>3 or more Acres</i>	18

Discussion point - Potentially allow for some chickens on lots of at least 1/2 acre (6?)

- b) The keeping of roosters shall be prohibited.
 - c) No chickens shall be allowed in multi-family complexes, including duplexes and triplexes.
 - d) Chickens shall be kept for personal use only; no person shall sell chicken meat or engage in breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes. The sale of eggs may be permitted with a temporary stand in accordance with the regulations of § 185-114, Sale of produce in residential districts.
 - e) The slaughtering of chickens on the premises is prohibited.
 - f) Such animals shall be provided with a covered, predator-proof coop or outdoor enclosure that is well ventilated and designed to be easily accessed for cleaning.
 - g) Chickens must be kept in coops from dusk to dawn.
 - h) Chickens shall be kept only in conditions that limit odors and noise and the attraction of insects and rodents so as not to cause a nuisance to occupants of nearby buildings or properties and to comply with applicable provisions of both the New York State and County sanitary codes.
 - i) Owners shall comply with all applicable regulations of NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Law regarding the keeping of chickens. No animal may be kept in a manner that is injurious or unhealthful to itself or any other animals kept on the property.
3. Coops and Outdoor Enclosures.
 - a) Chickens cannot be free range and must always be within a coop or fenced enclosure which contains them on the property and prohibits them from occupying any space within 25 feet of any property line.
 - b) No chickens shall be kept in front yard areas.
 - c) Coops shall be located at least 25 feet from side and rear yard lot lines.

- d) Coops and enclosures must be screened from the neighbor's view, using an opaque fence and/or landscape screen.
 - e) The coop may not be taller than six (6) feet, measured from the natural grade, and must be easily accessible for cleaning and maintenance.
 - f) Fencing for the coop shall be buried at a depth of one (1) foot below the ground as a preventative measure for predators attempting to dig under the fence.
 - g) A building permit is required to be obtained from the Town of Pittsford Building Department for the coop structure.
 - h) Chickens shall have access to an outdoor enclosure that is adequately fenced to contain the birds on the property and to prevent predators from accessing the birds. Outdoor enclosures shall be a minimum of four square feet per animal.
 - i) The enclosure area must be well drained and clean at all times, offer access to living vegetation, be resistant to erosion by activities of the birds, and provide access to water, shelter, and feeding areas.
 - j) The coop and outdoor enclosure must be kept in a sanitary condition and free from offensive odors. The coop and outdoor enclosure must be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent the accumulation of waste. Bedding must be kept in a dry, mold-free, friable condition, and replenished as necessary.
4. Feed. Chicken feed or other food used to feed the chickens shall be stored in a rat-proof, fastened container stored within a structure, which shall only be unfastened for the retrieval of food and immediately refastened thereafter.
 5. Manure Management. Waste must be managed through proper use and disposal of bedding materials and coop design.
 6. Running at Large. Chickens are not permitted to run at large in the Town of Pittsford. Where a chicken(s) is found off the premises of its owner and/or caretaker, the provisions for at large impoundment of Chapter 58 of the Town of Pittsford Code may apply.
 7. Violations. Failure to adhere to the requirements of this section shall be considered a code violation subject to the provisions of [§ 1-17 Penalties for offenses](#) of the Town of Pittsford Code.