

HADDONFIELD BACKYARD CHICKEN PROGRAM

Information sheet and application

The Borough Commissioners are excited to approve the ordinance permitting residential chickens. Haddonfield joins a growing list of neighboring towns to allow residents to keep hens in their backyards.

The Commissioners created a Backyard Chicken Advisory Committee (BCAC), a volunteer group of your neighbors to help the Borough oversee the program.

Attached is the application form with the ordinance, as well as Site Inspection and Complaint Procedures. Please, carefully read through all the documents. We wanted to highlight some critical requirements:

- It is suggested that you consult with the Backyard Chicken Advisory Committee prior to submitting an application to review the requirements
- Proof of education is required for licensing and prior to purchase of any hens
- Only 4 hens are allowed the first year, with a max of 8 in the second year
- The coop and run must be purchased before the Hens arrive
- There is a required annual inspection of your coop and run
- The yearly fee is \$50.00
- No roosters are allowed

Please email the BCAC at haddonfieldhens@haddonfield-nj.gov to discuss your interest in this program.

After completing the application, you can drop it off at the Clerk's Office in Room 101 at Borough Hall or mail it. Checks made payable to Borough of Haddonfield. You will receive approval of your application by mail.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Chicken Husbandry Classes are available through the following sites:

- <https://www.camdencountychickens.org/> - they provide these classes at a modest cost. Since the advent of the Corona Virus, we now have the ability to teach the classes ON-LINE. Classes are limited and are only held a few times a year. Contact them for information: Gwenne Baile at gbaile@verizon.net or via phone at 856-816-8508.
- <https://www.wildflowerfarmnj.com/farm-tours-and-classes/p/style-01-tw8be> - Wildflowers Farm, 315 Cranbury Road, Princeton, NJ 08550; From purchasing your chicks and brooders to basic care and coop and chicken tractor styles find out everything you need to know to successfully raise chickens. This is a 90-minute outdoor in-person workshop. Contact this organization at the above link for schedule and fees.



Borough of Haddonfield

242 Kings Highway East
Haddonfield, NJ 08033

Tele: (856) 429-4700

Fax: (856) 795-1445

Web: www.haddonfieldnj.gov

BACKYARD CHICKEN APPLICATION FORM

(Submit Applications to Room 101 in Borough Hall)

_____ **NEW**

_____ **RENEWAL**

Applicant Information:

Participant's Name:

Street

Address:

Street

Phone:

Email

Address: _____

- By checking this box you acknowledge that only four (4) hens are allowed for the first year, with a maximum of eight (8) hens starting in the second year
- By checking this box you state that you have fully completed a backyard chicken class and provided proof of completion.
- By checking this box you agree to allow the BCAC to inspect your coop on an annual basis, or upon receipt of a complaint.

By signing below, the Applicant acknowledges that they have read the attached Ordinance and that their property meets the requirements. They acknowledge that they have attended the required class. Should they at any time desire to withdraw from this Program, or if a rooster is unintentionally purchased, they will inform a member of the Backyard Chicken Advisory Committee so that their chickens can be humanly re-homed.

COST: \$50.00 Application Fee due at sign-up and yearly thereafter
(checks made payable to the "Borough of Haddonfield")

Signature of Applicant: _____

**For information on this program please contact the
Backyard Chicken Advisory Board (BCAC) at
haddonfieldhens@haddonfield-nj.gov**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Site Approved: Yes No

Approval to participate in program: Yes No

Signature of Member of
Backyard Chicken Advisory
Committee: _____

Date Application Fee Received: _____

Borough Signature: _____

BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 69-30, ANIMALS – KEEPING OF LIVESTOCK, CHICKENS

§ 69-30 Chickens

A. Chickens permitted.

The keeping of "backyard chickens" shall be permitted in the Borough of Haddonfield subject to the rules and regulations as specified in this article.

B. Location; number allowed.

- (1) Chicken coops and enclosed chicken runs must be set back at least 20 feet from any structure owned by another and used for human habitation, occupation or assembly.
- (2) The coop must be set back no less than 5 feet from any property line.
- (3) No chickens shall be permitted to run or stray within 20 feet of such structure.
- (4) Chickens may roam outside of the coop area in a back yard suitably fenced to keep them contained provided that a resident age 18 or older is present the entire time.
- (5) Chicken coops and enclosed chicken runs are permitted in the rear yard only.
- (6) No roosters are permitted.
- (7) In no case shall any person or persons be permitted to keep more than four chickens on a single property in the first year of a license and no more than 8 chickens thereafter.

C. Creation of Backyard Chicken Advisory Committee

A volunteer Backyard Chicken Advisory Committee (BCAC), consisting of five (5) member residents of the Borough shall be formed. The Chair will be appointed to a one (1) year term by the Commissioners. The Chair will select the other four (4) members, with approval of the Governing Body, who will also serve for one (1) year terms. Besides the Chair, one member will be appointed Vice-Chair, one member will be appointed Secretary of the Board and the remaining members will be at-large. The Board shall meet on a regular basis and keep minutes which shall be submitted along with Quarterly reports to the Governing Body. These reports will include any activities of the Board, as well as any complaints from residents concerning backyard chickens and the resolution, if any, of those complaints.

D. License required; fee; expiration.

- (1) No person shall keep chickens on their property without having first obtained a license from the Backyard Chicken Advisory Committee (BCAC) and approved by the Borough Board of Commissioners.
 - (a) Approvals shall be given in writing from both the BCAC and Board of Commissioners.
 - (b) To be approved for a license, applicant will be required to show proof of completion of formal training from the BCAC or another entity approved by the BCAC regarding proper care and maintenance of the backyard chickens.
- (2) The annual fee shall be in the amount of \$50 and shall expire on December 31 of each year.
- (3) Thirty-five (35) licenses may be issued by the BCAC and Board of Commissioners combined in each calendar year.
 - (a) Licenses shall be renewed annually. To be approved for a license, resident will be required to show proof of completion of a class on the basics of raising backyard chickens.

E. Backyard chicken maintenance requirements

The following regulations and conditions for the keeping and housing of chickens shall be complied with:

- (1) The coop shall be dry and well ventilated, with windows so placed, if possible, to admit sunlight.
- (2) The coop shall be whitewashed or painted therein.
- (3) The coop shall be cleaned at least once a week between November 1 and May 1, twice a week between May 1 and November 1 and, if necessary, be cleaned more often and be disinfected.
- (4) Perches shall be removable and kept clean.
- (5) The coop shall be the appropriate size for the number of chickens.
- (6) The coop and enclosed run must be made predator proof.
- (7) The maximum permitted area of any chicken coop is 100 square feet, regardless of zoning requirements pertaining to impervious and building coverage.
- (8) The maximum permitted height of any chicken coop, whether stacked or not, is 7 feet from natural grade.
- (9) Chicken feed must be kept tightly closed in a metal container away from the coop and run.
- (10) Drinking fountains in the area where the coop is located shall be cleaned and free from odors.
- (11) Coops shall be inspected annually by the issuing authority or upon receipt of a complaint. Property owner shall grant access for the coops to be inspected.
- (12) The selling of eggs is prohibited.
- (13) Slaughtering chickens is not permitted.

F. Enforcement

The BCAC shall enforce all provisions of this Section and may request the assistance of other Borough Departments or outside agencies as necessary to ensure compliance by all permit holders.

- (1) Upon complaint or discovery that a permit holder is not adhering to the standards of chicken raising per the BCAC training, the BCAC will investigate the issue.
- (2) Upon notice of need for correction or action, permit holders will have thirty (30) days to remedy the issues.
 - (a) If such concern is not addressed within thirty (30) days the issue is to be turned over to the Borough Code Enforcement for enforcement action under the Code.

G. Revocation due to environmental changes.

Whenever, in the opinion of the BCAC, the environment in an area has changed since granting the license to keep and maintain chickens therein to such an extent that the maintenance thereof may constitute a nuisance, such license may be revoked by the BCAC.

H. Procedure for revocation or suspension hearing.

The BCAC is hereby empowered to suspend or revoke the license held by any person who violates any of the provisions of this article.

- (1) No license shall be suspended or revoked until after a hearing.
- (2) A notice of five days, in writing, stating the time and place of such hearing shall be served upon the licensee.

SITE INSPECTION PROCEDURE

(To be performed by a member of the BCAC)

1. Ensure that the coop is located in the backyard
2. Ensure that the coop is sturdy and predator proof
3. Ensure that the coop does not exceed maximum square footage allowed (100 sq ft)
4. Ensure that the coop does not exceed 7 feet in height
5. Ensure that the coop has a window/ventilation
6. Ensure that the coop and run are at least 20 feet from any neighbors' doors or windows and no less than 5 feet from any property line
7. Discuss hens, feeding, cleaning, and any other potential questions if needed

BACKYARD CHICKEN COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

1. Complaint is received either at the Borough or BCAC directly
2. Chair of BCAC is contacted immediately
3. A complaint form is filled out
4. BCAC member does a site visit ASAP to assess the situation and discuss with hen owner ways to remedy the situation
5. The hen owner has 30 days to remedy the situation
6. BCAC member does a second site visit after 30 days, if the situation is not resolved, the problem is transferred to the Borough's Code Enforcement Officer