

VILLAGE OF WESTERN SPRINGS
Community Development Department
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Permit Guide for Raising Chickens within the Village

In 2012, after studying the topic extensively, the Village Board approved an ordinance allowing pet chickens. The ordinance drew upon a pilot study within the Village as well as best practices from communities across the nation. A building permit is now required to raise chickens. The information provided below will serve as a guide. If at any time you have questions, please feel free to contact the Community Development Department.

The current ordinance regarding pet chickens states the following:

Pet chickens and outdoor chicken shelters are permitted on residential lots. In order to maintain pet chickens and outdoor chicken shelters, the following regulations shall be followed:

- a. No person shall keep or harbor any rooster.
- b. No person shall keep or harbor more than four (4) chickens on any residential lot.
- c. Chickens shall be kept in a covered outside enclosure or inside a residence or a garage when left unattended. The shelter regulations are described below.
- d. Chickens shall not be permitted to run at large in the village.
- e. Chickens may be allowed outside in a fenced rear yard area or other permanently fenced area or temporarily fenced area while in the presence of their owners or keepers.
- f. There shall be no slaughtering of any poultry outdoors on any residential lot.
- g. Chicken shelter regulations:
 - (1) An outdoor shelter shall be located only in the rear yard of a lot and no closer than ten feet (10') of either side yard lot line and no closer than five feet (5') from any rear yard lot line.
 - (2) The interior area of any shelter and the rear yard area shall be maintained in a sanitary condition.
 - (3) Outdoor shelters shall be designed to be architecturally compatible with the principal residence or any existing accessory structure or the principal residence's rear yard landscape theme and shall be constructed of quality, durable building materials. Outdoor shelters shall be constructed and maintained to be weatherproof in order to withstand inclement and extreme weather and to be secure from predators. A professional predator protection system approved by the community development department shall be installed on any outdoor shelter.
 - (4) All shelters shall be designed and constructed with adequate ventilation and in a manner that allows them to be easily cleaned.
 - (5) Maximum roof height shall not exceed eight feet (8'). For a pitched roof, the eight foot (8') measurement shall be to the midpoint of the pitched roof.

The following items are needed in order for a permit:

- Completed building permit application (available at www.wsprings.com)
- Plat of survey marked with proposed location of the shelter/coop with setbacks noted (in feet) from side and rear lot lines. The plat must also depict the current location of the home, garage, driveway, and other structures and improvements.
- Photos or drawings of the shelter/coop. Drawings from a kit are acceptable. The general specifications are highlighted in section “g. 3” above. Be sure to confirm that the overall height does not exceed eight (8’) feet.
- Provide confirmation that you will utilize a predator protection system as depicted below. Provide the details of the system or a catalog description.
- Permit fee: The fee is 1.75% of the cost of construction with a minimum \$50.00 permit fee. Checks can be made payable to the Village of Western Springs.

Two inspections are required after the permit is issued: One prior to when your chickens begin residing in the coop and one after the chickens are outside. It is the property owner/applicant’s responsibility to schedule the inspections. Please call the Community Development Department to schedule inspections.

Community Development Staff Members are available to answer resident questions regarding chickens. Please call us at (708) 246-1800, ext. 177 or 180.

01/2014

Sample Predator Detection System



Sample chicken coop/shelter

