

Summary of Salem's Chicken Ordinance

- 1 – On September 27, 2010 the Salem City Council voted (7 to 2) to adopt a chicken keeping ordinance. It went into effect January 1, 2011.
- 2 – Any residence within the city of Salem (excluding county islands within the urban growth boundary) will be permitted to keep three hens (**no roosters**) in rear yards only.
- 3 – Chickens owners must pay \$50/year for a chicken-keeping permit and renew it annually. You can download permit applications at: <http://cityofsalem.net/Departments/CommunityDevelopment/BAS/Documents/Chicken%20License%20Application.pdf>. You can apply by mail, or in person.
- 4 – After submitting your application and payment to the city, you will be contacted by phone to arrange for an inspection by a member of the city's code compliance office (at no additional cost). Every three years you will have to have to pass a follow-up inspection.
- 5 - The chicken facility (coop and run combined) is limited to a total of 120 *square* feet (10' x 12'), *not* cubic feet. This refers to the footprint on the ground only.
- 6 - Chickens can free-range *within your fenced backyard* when under direct supervision of an adult.
- 7 – The chicken facility (coop and run combined) must be at least 20' from residential dwellings on adjacent properties (your neighbors) and 10' from the chicken owner's own house. There is no minimum lot size requirement. There is no distance from property line requirement.
- 8 – If a neighbor lodges a complaint, the city will come out to investigate without any notice. Violators will be given a reasonable time to come into compliance before any fines are assessed. This will be up to the discretion of the code enforcement officer and dependent upon the seriousness of the offence.
- 9– Three hens kept as pets and not for commercial purposes will no longer be considered "livestock."
- 10 – People keeping chickens under this program are not permitted to sell chickens or their eggs.
- 11 – People keeping chickens under this program are not permitted to slaughter chickens on their property.
- 12 – Chicken feed/treats must be stored in a manner that will not attract rodents (i.e.; metal containers) and coops should be well maintained so as not to create a nuisance.
- 13 – The ordinance will remain complaint-driven. This means if your neighbors are fine with you having chickens (or if they never notice), you will not be held to these restrictions. But if a neighbor lodges a complaint with the city, you will have to come into compliance or be fined – and the fines are steep! I recommend following the rules to minimize problems right from the start. If we do a good job and keep complaints to a minimum, *we will have a better chance of modifying the ordinance to make it less expensive and more user-friendly . . . which we fully intend to do!*

SO PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO AVOID COMPLAINTS, THANK YOU!

Any questions? Email: SalemChickens@yahoo.com

www.salemchickens.com