

**TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE**  
**33 LONSDALE STREET \* PITTSBURGH \* PA \* 15212**

**BACKYARD CHICKEN LICENSE APPLICATION**

Permit for Keeping Chickens on Less Than Two Acres of Land

PERMIT: _____ FEE: _____
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Property Owners(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

If applicant is a tenant, please provide the property owner information and must include written consent of property owner to permit:

Property Owners(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
P: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Application Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Inspected by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-inspected by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This checklist is provided as a convenience to the permit application and is not intended to convey the full intent and requirements in the code of ordinances regarding the keeping and maintenance of chickens (see Ordinance No. 681). Permit holders are responsible for complying in full with the codes as it relates to the keeping and maintenance of chickens and in complying with the zoning and other sections of the code that may apply including, but not limited to, compliance with all items including in Ordinance No 681:

- No roosters permitted or commercial fertilizer production.
- Acceptable enclosures.
- Odor or noise impacts.
- Predators, rodents, insects, and parasites.
- Feed and water.
- Waste storage and removal.
- Chickens at large.
- Nuisances.
- Coop posted with safe handling.

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PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY AND INITIAL EACH TO SHOW YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE CHICKEN ORDINANCE:

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read Ordinance 681 and understand the requirements for keeping chickens. I will follow all township ordinances and State laws relating to the care and keeping of animals.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware that I am responsible for always keeping chickens within the confines of my property by way of fence and/or barrier. (Fence installation may require Zoning Permit).

\*Chicken coop must be at least 3 sq. ft. per chicken\*

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware that I may not make any dimensional changes affecting required property, 20 ft set back from any dwelling or property line, boundaries, or minimum required space to my chicken coop.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware that a maximum of four (6) female chickens shall be allowed under permit for parcels under 22,000 sq. ft. Twelve (12) female chickens can be kept on parcels smaller than two (2) acres and larger than 22,000 sq. ft

\_\_\_\_\_ I grant the right for township staff to inspect my property at any time to ensure compliance and to investigate complaints.

\_\_\_\_\_ I acknowledge that I live in a single-family dwelling as per zoning code and if I rent I have approval from my landlord. *\*\*If I live in a more-than-one dwelling unit parcel, written consent is included in this permit\*\**

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the permit is not transferrable from one individual or location to another.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that the keeping and handling of chickens may cause health hazards and that adequate health precautions are the responsibility of the applicant.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am aware it is my responsibility to protect my chickens from predators, including, but not limited to, dogs, foxes, raccoons, and hawks, etc.

I, hereby certify that the above information is true and correct. I understand and agree to abide by the terms and conditions for a Chicken License. I understand that the application/license fee is nonrefundable. I understand that failure to comply with regulations may result in revocation of the permit and/or subject to criminal penalties prescribed by law. I have also read and initialed the terms of this application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**ORDINANCE NO. 681-20**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PROHIBITING  
FARM ANIMALS ON PROPERTIES OF LESS THAN TWO  
ACRES AND PROVIDING REGULATIONS FOR THE  
KEEPING OF CHICKENS WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP.**

**WHEREAS**, the Pennsylvania First Class Township Code 53 P.S. § 56544 authorizes the Township of Reserve (“Township”) to make such regulations as may be deemed necessary for the health, safety, morals, general welfare, cleanliness, beauty, convenience and comfort of the township and the inhabitants thereof; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Reserve finds it necessary for the promotion of the health, safety, morals, general welfare, cleanliness, beauty, convenience and comfort of the township and the inhabitants thereof to provide regulations for the keeping of farm animals within the Township.

**NOW THEREFORE**, it is hereby Ordained and Enacted by the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Reserve, as follows:

**REGULATION OF FARM ANIMALS AND CHICKENS**

1. The following terms, as used in this ordinance, shall have the meaning prescribed below:
  - a. *Farm Animals* shall mean all livestock or poultry generally found on farms and/or considered to be agricultural commodities, including but not limited to horses, donkeys, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, alpacas, chickens, turkeys, and other fowl.
  - b. *Chickens* shall mean only female chickens.
  - c. *Chicken Coop* shall mean a structure to house chickens that is properly ventilated and designed to be protected from the weather, vermin, and predators.
  - d. *Rooster* shall mean a male chicken.
1. No farm animals shall be kept on less than two (2) acres of land, except the keeping of chickens shall be allowed upon approval by the Township subject to the standards set forth by this ordinance.

2. All farm animals kept within the Township shall be confined to the private property of the respective owner by use of fencing and/or barriers sufficient to prevent the running at large or trespass of farm animals on public or private property. Failure to confine farm animals or prevent their escape from enclosures shall constitute a violation of this ordinance.
3. All farm animals and the premises they are kept on shall be maintained under orderly and sanitary conditions so that the keeping of farm animals shall not become either a public or private nuisance due to conditions including, but not limited to, damage to the property of others, posing an attractive nuisance, an accumulation of feces, the threat of disease, or a discernible increase in the presence of vermin, odors, or noise.
4. Any person wishing to engage in the keeping of chickens on less than two (2) acres of land pursuant to this ordinance shall submit an application to the Township on a form to be provided, along with the application fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00), or as otherwise established by resolution of the Board of Commissioners. Approval of the application shall be subject to the following standards:
  - a. Chickens shall only be kept on a residential parcel on which there is an occupied dwelling. No chickens shall be kept in townhouse communities, apartment complexes, or mobile home parks.
  - b. No person shall keep or maintain a rooster.
  - c. Chickens may be kept in the following numbers:
    - i. No chickens may be kept on any parcel smaller than two thousand (2,000) square feet.
    - ii. A maximum of six (6) chickens may be kept on parcels smaller than twenty-two thousand (22,000) square feet and larger than two thousand (2,000) square feet.
    - iii. A maximum of twelve (12) chickens may be kept on parcels smaller than two (2) acres and larger than twenty-two thousand (22,000) square feet.
  - d. If a parcel has more than one (1) dwelling unit, all adult residents and the owners of the parcel must consent in writing to allow chickens on the property.
  - e. The chickens must be provided with a chicken coop that is properly designed to be easily accessed, cleaned, and maintained. The chicken coop must be at least three (3) square feet per chicken.

- f. All animal feed shall be stored in a secured, rodent-proof container and housed within an enclosed structure.
- g. The chicken coop must be located at least twenty (20) feet from any property line. Multiple contiguous parcels under the same ownership shall be treated as one.
- h. During daylight hours, chickens must have access to the chicken coop as well as an outdoor area that is adequately fenced to protect the chickens from predators and to prevent the chickens from roaming onto neighboring properties. Chickens must be closed in a chicken coop from dusk to dawn.

### **RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.**

The Township hereby reserves the right to make such determinations as may be necessary for the enforcement of this ordinance including, but not limited to, interpretation of acceptable standards, finding of violations, issuance of warnings, and the granting of exceptions where sufficient evidence is presented to ensure that the intent of this ordinance to promote the health, safety, morals, general welfare, cleanliness, beauty, convenience and comfort of the Township and the inhabitants thereof is not diminished.

### **PENALTY FOR VIOLATION.**

The Township has the right to revoke any prior approval upon written notice of violation of this ordinance. Any owner of any farm animals kept within the limits of the Township found to be violating any of the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction thereof before the District Magistrate, be sentenced to pay a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$600.00 plus the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such fine and costs, shall be subject to imprisonment. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

### **SEVERABILITY.**

If any sentence, clause, section, or part of this ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions, sentences, clauses, sections or parts of this ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of the Township that this ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid sentence, clause, section or part thereof not been included herein.

### **REPEALER.**

Any ordinance containing provisions that are inconsistent with the terms and provisions of this ordinance is hereby repealed and superseded to the extent that it conflicts herewith.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon enactment as provided by law. All existing owners of farm animals within the Township shall come into compliance with the terms of this ordinance within thirty (30) days of enactment, or within five (5) days of receipt of a written notice of noncompliance, as may be issued at the discretion of the Township.

**ORDAINED AND ENACTED** into law this 11th day of August, 2020.

**ATTEST:**

**TOWNSHIP OF RESERVE**

/s/Donna M. Kaib  
Township Secretary

/s/Ronald G. Neurohr  
President, Board of Commissioners