

BACK YARD CHICKEN PERMIT APPLICATION
TOWN OF EMMITSBURG
300A South Seton Avenue, Emmitsburg, MD 21727
www.emmitsburgmd.gov · (301) 600-6300



Permit Instructions:

- All applications must be completed in full along with the owner's signature. Incomplete applications will result in denial or delayed processing. The current permit fee is \$50.00. Payment may be made by cash, check, or credit card. Add \$5.00 fee for credit card processing.
- All applications must include a schematic drawing (site plan) of the premises showing: 1) The location or potential location of the coop; 2) The size of the coop; 3) Distances between the coop and the side and rear lot lines; 4) The location, style, and height of a chicken run, if applicable; and 5) The location, style, and height of any other fencing located on the premises.
- After Town approval, the property owner must register the chickens with the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Domestic Poultry, and Exotic Bird Registration Division. A copy of the registration card and certificate must be supplied to the Town once approved by the state.

The following requirements shall apply to the keeping of back yard chickens as defined in Town Code Chapter 6.16:

- A person may own chickens in the back yard of a single-family detached dwelling or a duplex lot. The lot must be at least 2,500 square feet. A person may own no more than one chicken per every 500 square feet of back yard and a maximum # of 6 chickens on one lot. The permit holder must maintain a personal primary residence on the premises on which the chickens are kept. The permit holder may not be absent from the premises for a period of longer than 30 consecutive days. Chickens must be confined to the back yard of the premises at all times that is enclosed by a 4' fence. If the back yard is not enclosed by a fence at least 4' in height, the chickens must be confined to a chicken run at all times. Chickens must be provided a covered and predator resistant coop. The coop must be at least 10' from any lot line, and it must be at least 4 square feet but no more than 10 square feet per chicken and no more than 6' tall. It must be properly ventilated and provided adequate shade from the sun and the elements. Chickens must be secured within the coop during non-daylight hours. A chicken coop and run must be kept in a neat, clean, odor-free, and sanitary condition at all times in a manner that will not disturb the use or enjoyment of neighboring lots due to noise, odor, or other adverse impact. Property shall be kept free from excessive accumulated droppings and shall provide for the storage and removal of chicken manure. Chickens must be kept in a humane manner at all times. All chickens must be wing-clipped periodically to prevent escape. Chickens shall have access to adequate amounts of clean food and water at all times. All food stored for the use of chickens shall be kept in a rodent-proof container. If a chicken dies, it must be buried or otherwise disposed of promptly and in a sanitary manner.
- **Prohibited Acts:** 1) Chickens living inside a dwelling unit or other structure; 2) Chickens running at large outside of the back yard; 3) Selling eggs or engaging in breeding, meat production, or fertilizer production for commercial purposes; 4) slaughtering on premises; 5) Training chickens for the purpose of fighting for amusement or sport; and 5) Chicken or rooster fighting.

Please Note:

- A permit issued by the Town is valid until revoked or until the permit holder requests, in writing, that the permit be terminated. Permits are not transferrable to a new chicken owner or to a new property address.
- This permit does not exclude the applicant / owner from acquiring other necessary local, state, or federal permits prior to obtaining the permit.
- The property owner and authorized agent (applicant) hereby agrees to comply with all applicable Town codes, laws, ordinances, and regulations, and in accordance with all State and Federal regulations. The property owner alone bears the responsibility of ensuring their lot, structures, and uses thereon do not violate other laws, regulations, or the rights of neighbors and other parts. I hereby certify the information with this application to be true and correct, and I further agree to pay all costs as stated in the Town's fee schedule.
- The property owner and authorized agent (applicant) hereby agrees that they will own the chickens in accordance with Town Code Chapter 6.16 and any permit conditions prescribed by the Town of Emmitsburg.

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Owner: _____ Date: _____

Property Address: _____

Applicant: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Owner is the same as the Applicant

Owner: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

I have attached a schematic drawing of the premises as described on the first page of this application.

Yes.

No. **The application cannot be approved.**

Type of Property:

Single-family detached dwelling.

Duplex (single-family attached dwelling).

Townhouse. **The application cannot be approved.**

Multi-family. **The application cannot be approved.**

Size of lot: _____ square feet. **The lot must be at least 2,500 square feet.**

Size of back yard: _____ square feet.

Proposed number of chickens: _____. **Permitted 1 chicken per every 500 sq. ft. of back yard. Max of 6.**

Proposed breed(s) of chickens: _____.

Size of the coop: _____ square feet. **At least 4 sq. ft. but no more than 10 sq. ft. per chicken.**

Height of the coop: _____ feet. **No more than 6' in height.**

Height of back yard fence: _____ feet. **Minimum height of 4'. A run must be built if no fence is present.**

Town Use Only

Date: _____

Conditions of approval: _____

Approved

Denied _____

Fee: \$50.00

Cash Check # _____ Credit Card