

SMALL ANIMALS - HENS

[Section 17.4.3.1.D](#) of the Lakewood Zoning Ordinance

Backyard chickens can be a great pet and source of fresh eggs and fertilizer. Before you get started check to see if hens are allowed in your zone district. Use the following requirements and resources to learn more about keeping chickens in Lakewood. Be aware that chickens need regular care to maintain health, including daily fresh food and water and regular coop cleanup. Consider whether you have the time and appropriate space to care for them before you adopt!



Residential Zone District	Permit Requirements	Standards
R-1-43 R-1-18 R-1-12 R-1-9	No permit required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coop must be 15 feet from all property lines, and located behind primary structure. ▪ Maximum of 1 bird per 4 square feet in coop area.
R-1-6 R-2	Permit required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maximum 6 hens per property. ▪ Must provide a predator-resistant coop. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minimum of 6 square feet living space per bird. ○ Must be secure, roofed, and well ventilated. ○ Maximum 40 square feet and 10 feet in height. ○ Locate in side or rear yard, and meet the minimum setbacks of 5 feet for accessory structures. ▪ No roosters permitted. ▪ Be sure to purchase females, not “straight run”- a mix of males/females. ▪ Hens must be kept in the coop or fenced area at all times (Min. 4 feet tall fence).
Other Zone Districts	Not permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unless a single family home or duplex exists as a non-conforming use in the mixed use district. ▪ For single family home or duplex in mixed use district, see R-1-6 and R-2 standards above.

Resources for Keeping Healthy Chickens

<http://www.backyardchickens.com/> - extensive info on keeping chickens

<http://www.denverurbanhomesteading.com/> - urban agriculture center

<http://www.meetup.com/DenverBackyardPoultry> - local poultry meet-up group

<http://urbanchickens.org/> - includes info on coop design, examples, etc.

