



# ***City of Cañon City***

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**Community Development Department**  
*Planning & Zoning Division*

## **BACKYARD CHICKENS**

**Are governed by Section 17.20.029 of the Canon City Municipal Code**

Backyard chickens may be permitted in the R-1 and R-2 zone districts as an accessory use, and on properties used for residential purposes in the C and I zone districts upon the issuance of a conditional use permit according to the policies and procedures set forth in Chapter 17.23, Conditional Uses, and subject to the following conditions:

- A. No more than eight (8) chicken hens shall be allowed on any property, unless the property meets the minimum area requirement for livestock, according to Section 17.20.114 of this Title.
- B. The ownership and keeping of roosters over six (6) months old is prohibited.
- C. Chicken hens must be provided with a covered enclosure that is predator-resistant, properly ventilated, and easily accessed for cleaning and maintenance, and that provides not less than four (4) square feet per chicken.
- D. During daylight hours, chicken hens must be provided access to an outside enclosure that is adequately fenced to prevent the escape of the chickens and to provide protection from predators. The outside enclosure must provide a minimum of ten (10) square feet of permeable space per chicken, and may be either attached to the covered enclosure or portable. A fully fenced backyard may be deemed to meet this requirement.
- E. The chickens must be placed in the covered enclosure between the hours of dusk and dawn to provide protection from predators.
- F. Setbacks:
  - 1. Any enclosure for backyard chickens must be located in the backyard of the property, measured from the rear wall of the residential dwelling. The Zoning Administrator may allow exceptions to this requirement in cases of lots having unusual site dimensions, terrain limitations or other unique characteristics;
  - 2. No covered enclosure may be located less than eight (8) feet from any abutting property line or less than thirty (30) feet from any residential dwelling on any adjoining lot.
- G. The covered enclosure must be cleaned so that odors due to excessive dirt, waste, excrement, or old feed do not become a nuisance, safety hazard or health problem to adjoining property or uses.
- H. The on-site slaughtering of backyard chickens is prohibited.

In the RL-Rural Living Zone District chickens are a permitted "livestock" use.

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*Please contact the Planning Department at 719.269.9011 for more information about applying for a Conditional Use Permit for backyard chickens in the C or I districts.*

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