Rabbits can be kept within city limits as long as the following requirements are met:

• No more than 10 rabbits of breeding age per lot.
• Rabbit hutches must be located at least 20 feet from the adjacent lot lines, and at least 50 feet from any structure on any adjacent lot.
• Sanitation requirements are the same as for chickens.
• No permit is required for keeping rabbits.

Resources

Inspections Division  
Permit Office Supervisor  
336-727-2624

Planning Division  
Tiffany White  
tiffanyw@cityofws.org  
336-747-7060

Forsyth Community Food Consortium  
forfishtlocalfood.org  
Marcus Hill  
marcus@forsythlocalfood.org  
336-406-8765

North Carolina Cooperative Extension  
Forsyth County  
https://www.forsyth.cc/CES/  
Mary Jac Brennan  
336-703-2869


City-County  
Planning and Development Services  
Inspections Division  
Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building  
100 E. First Street, Suite 328  
Winston-Salem, NC 27101  
Phone: 336-727-2624  
Website: www.cityofws.org/Departments/Planning-and-Development-Services
Correct placement of the coop and run is important for you, your neighbors, and your animals. Shelter structures must be located to the rear of the main structure (house), and adhere to setback requirements that ensure space between your coop and your neighbor’s lot.

Coops and runs may not be located closer than 25 feet from any property line. If the coop and/or run is closer than 100 feet from an adjacent lot, a notarized statement must be obtained from those neighbors.

Coops and runs must be of sturdy construction to protect the animals.
- Coops must be built of solid material and only provide ingress and egress into an enclosed run.
- Coops must be a minimum of two feet in height per level, and provide at least three square feet of floor area per animal.
- Any access gates or other openings in the enclosed run must be self-closing, self-latching and lockable.
- Runs must be at least four feet high, enclosed on all sides with a wire mesh top, and provide at least 10 square feet of area per animal.

To keep fowl in the City of Winston-Salem, a zoning permit is required from the City-County Inspections Division. This can be obtained by visiting the Inspections Division on the 3rd floor of the Bryce A. Stuart Municipal Building. You can also find the form online at [http://www.cityofws.org/Department/Inspections/Forms-Fees](http://www.cityofws.org/Department/Inspections/Forms-Fees) by clicking on the “Application for Keeping Chickens or Other Fowl and Pigeons” link.

Currently, there are limitations on keeping other types of livestock in Winston-Salem. Pigs are not allowed within city limits. Livestock such as horses, mules, donkeys, goats, sheep and cattle are permitted, but with strict setback, sanitation, shelter and grazing requirements, which require larger lots. For more information about rules for larger livestock, or for requirements outside the City of Winston-Salem, please contact Inspections Division staff at 336-727-2624.