



What about rabbits?

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
forsythlocalfood.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

Brochure on keeping backyard chickens available from the North Carolina Cooperative Extension at: www.ces.ncsu.edu/depats/poulsci/tech_manuals/Backyard_Chickens.pdf

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

KEEPING BACKYARD LIVESTOCK

in Winston-Salem



Bryce Stuart Municipal Building
100 E. First Street, Suite 328
Winston-Salem, NC 27101



Are chickens, other fowl and pigeons allowed on my property?

The City of Winston Salem allows chickens, other fowl and pigeons to be kept as long as a zoning permit is obtained and enclosure (coop and run) and sanitation requirements are met. Each residential property is allowed five hens. No roosters are allowed.

Sanitation

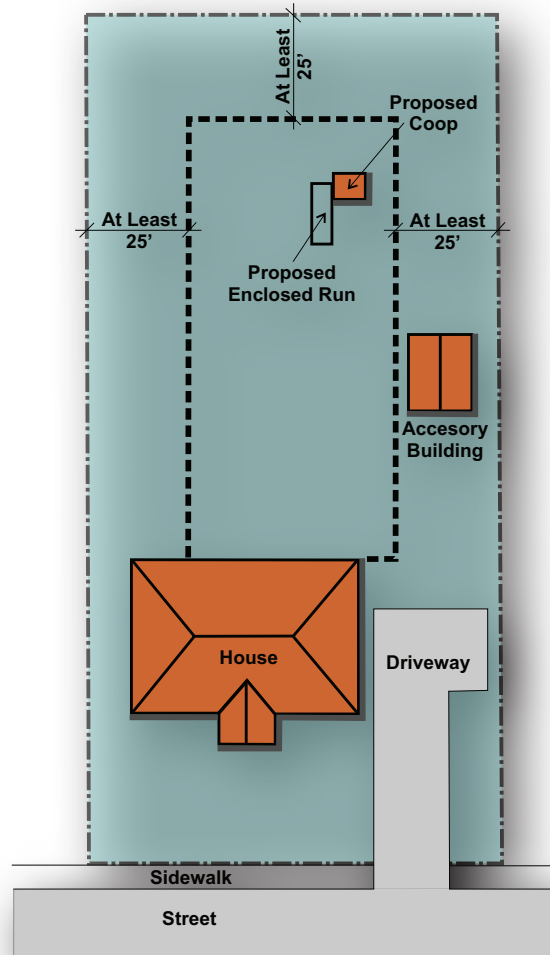
Food and waste must be kept in covered, waterproof containers to guard against insects and vermin. Waste must be removed regularly from the property.



Where can my coop and run be located?

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.

How do I get my permit?

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> by clicking on the "Application for Keeping Chickens or Other Fowl and Pigeons" link.

Other livestock?

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.