

## Hen Permit Requirements

- Signed copy of the Rules and Regulations (p2)
- Completed and notarized application (p4-6)
- Signed authorization note from property owner with all contact information
- Photo of the chicken coop
- Copy of photo ID
- \$25 fee – paid online or in person pay (cash or check only)



**Metro Animal Care and Control**

5125 Harding Place | Nashville, Tennessee 37211 | (615) 862-7928 phone | (615) 880-2221 fax

**DOMESTICATED HEN PERMIT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**PERMIT RESTRICTIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

- 1) No roosters. No breeding or slaughtering of domesticated hens. No sale of eggs or domesticated hens. No domesticated hens may be trained for the purpose of fighting for amusement, sport or financial gain.
- 2) Permits are required annually. They expire December 31st each year.
- 3) Permits may *not* be reassigned to another person or another address, and the permit holder must live on the property where the domesticated hens are kept. If the permit holder does not own the property, he or she must have the permission of the property owner.
- 4) If the permit holder is absent from the property for 60 consecutive days, the permit is null and void.

**COOPS, SETBACKS AND MATERIALS**

- 5) All domesticated hens are to be kept outside of a habitable structure in a predator-proof enclosure, a portion of which must be a covered domesticated hen house and a portion of which must be a fenced area. The fenced area must comply with Title 16.24.330 of the Metropolitan Code of Ordinances. Domesticated hen houses must be enclosed on all sides and have a roof and doors. Access doors must be lockable. Openings in windows and vents must be covered with predator-proof wire with openings smaller than a square inch.
- 6) The enclosed domesticated hen house must provide a minimum of two square feet per domesticated hen. The fenced enclosure must provide six square feet per bird.
- 7) The number of allowable domesticated hens depends upon lot size.
  - For lots of up to 5,009 square feet (up to .11 acre), *TWO* domesticated hens are allowed.
  - For lots between 5,010 square feet and 10,236 square feet (.12 to .23 acre), up to *FOUR* domesticated hens are allowed.
  - For lots of 10,237 square feet or more (.24 acre or larger), up to *SIX* domesticated hens are allowed.
- 8) All domesticated hens must be kept in the side or rear yards. None may be kept in the front yard. If in the side yard, neither the domesticated hens nor the domesticated hen house can

be visible from any public right-of-way. The domesticated hens and domesticated hen house must be screened from view with fencing or landscaping.

9) *All enclosures must be at least 25 feet from any residential structure, other than the permit holder's residence, and at least 10 feet from any property line.*

### **HEALTH AND SANITATION**

10) All food must be kept either indoors or in a weather-resistant container with a metal lid designed to prevent access by animals. Uneaten food is to be removed daily.

11) Fenced enclosures and domesticated hen houses must be properly ventilated, clean, dry and odor-free, kept in a neat 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. The domesticated hen house and fenced enclosure must provide adequate ventilation, sun and shade, and be built to resist rodents, wild birds and other predators, including dogs and cats.

12) Provision must be made for the storage and removal of domesticated hen manure. All manure for composting or fertilizing shall be contained in a well-aerated garden compost pile. All other manure requires removal. In addition, the domesticated hen house and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings.

13) *No perceptible odor from the domesticated hens or the enclosure shall be present at any property line.*

By affixing my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read and understood these rules and regulations.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



**DOMESTICATED HEN PERMIT APPLICATION**

(PERMIT # \_\_\_\_\_ Receipt # \_\_\_\_\_)

A permit is required to own and keep domesticated hens in certain areas of Davidson County. Please read Section 8.12.020 of the Metropolitan Code. If you have questions about whether you can maintain domesticated hens on your property, contact Finance and Administration at (615) 340-8907. Permits are annual and expire on December 31<sup>st</sup> each calendar year. They are not transferable to another property or to another person. The annual fee is \$25.

**Name of Permit Holder:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant address: (must be location where domesticated hens will reside):**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone: H \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Do you own this property?**

Yes  No If "No," you must have the permission of the property owner.

**Do you have permission of the property owner?**

Yes  No

**Have you attached a picture or drawing of your chicken coop including building materials?**

Yes  No

**Property Owner contact information for verification (include name, address, phone number and email):**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Phones: H \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_**

**(To be entered by MPHD staff) Council District\* \_\_\_\_\_ Maximum No. of hens allowed \_\_\_\_\_**

**Many Home Owners Association (HOA) bylaws do not allow poultry of any kind, including domesticated hens. Applicants should check their HOA bylaws to confirm that domesticated hens are permissible. This permit does not override existing Home Owners Association bylaws.**

**Applicant Certification**

I hereby certify that the information submitted is true and correct. In submitting this signed application, I acknowledge and agree that the permit is subject to all the terms and conditions set forth in Section 8.12.020 of the Metropolitan Code and any additional rules and regulations developed by the Metro Public Health Department in furtherance of this Section. I certify that I have read the rules and regulations and intend to abide by them. I understand that any false statements or omissions may result in denial or revocation of this permit. Failure to comply with the regulations is subject to a fine of \$50 *per day* for each violation.

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**METRO ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL**  
5125 Harding Place  
Nashville, TN 37211  
Phone: 615-862-7928  
Fax: 615-880-2221

- a. The hens are kept on property located within the general services district (GSD); and**
- b. The hens are kept on a lot within the AG or AR2a zoning districts, or on a lot of five (5) acres or more in size within the RS80, RS40, RS30, RS20 and R80, R40, R30 and R20 residential zone districts.**

**AFFIDAVIT OF DOMESTICATED HEN PERMIT APPLICANT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ am a citizen of Davidson County and the State of Tennessee, and having been duly sworn, does hereby affirm in good faith the following:

1. I am over the age of 18 years and have direct knowledge of the matters stated herein;
2. The property I will keep domesticated hens on is my primary residence;
3. I either am the owner of this property or have permission from the property owner to maintain domesticated hens on the premises;

4. I have been provided copies of Metro Code Section 8.12.020 and MPHD's Domesticated Hen Permit Rules and Regulations and intend to abide by them;
5. I understand I can be charged up to \$50 *per day* for violations;
6. I understand this permit does not override the bylaws of my Home Owners Association and that it is my duty to make sure domesticated hens are allowed prior to bringing domesticated hens on my property;
7. I live in an area that allows domesticated hens;
8. I understand the annual permit cost is twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) and expires on December 31<sup>st</sup> each year;
9. I understand that my permit is not transferable to another property or to another person;
10. I certify that the information submitted in my application and this affidavit is true and correct and that I understand that any false statements or omissions may result in denial or revocation of my permit; and
11. I will maintain a valid permit issued by the Metro Public Health Department at all times while I have domesticated hens on my property.

FURTHER, AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed before me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

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