

## BACKYARD CHICKENS/DUCKS

The City of Federal Way recognizes the importance of residents providing self-sufficient, sustainable, and organic food options for their families. In order to increase these options, the city now allows residents to keep a limited number of chickens and ducks in residential zones. This document provides information regarding the zoning regulations that apply to keeping chickens and ducks. Please refer to *Federal Way Revised Code* Chapter 19.260 for code requirements in their entirety.

### HOW MANY CHICKENS AND/OR DUCKS MAY I KEEP?

Residential lots less than 35,000 square feet (0.8 acre) may keep any combination of four chickens and/or ducks. For those lots 35,000 square feet and larger, up to 20 chickens and/or ducks may be kept. To find out the size of your lot, visit the King County Assessor website: [www.kingcounty.gov/assessor](http://www.kingcounty.gov/assessor).

### ARE ROOSTERS ALLOWED?

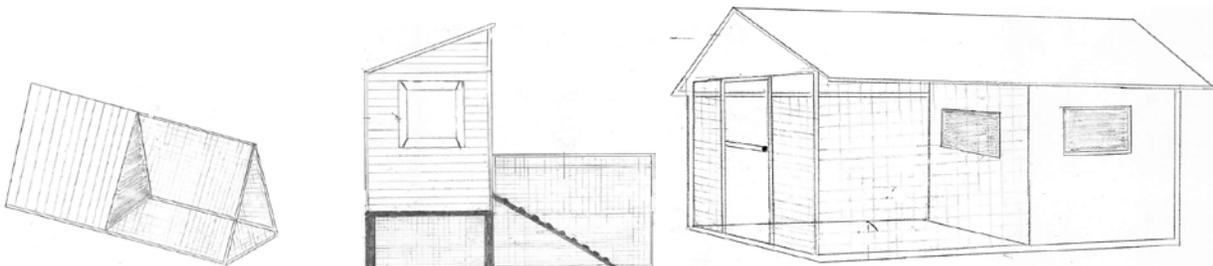
Roosters are not permitted within the city except for typical farming uses in Suburban Estate (SE) zones. Those roosters that were legally kept in zones other than SE prior the adoption of city ordinance #11-681 must be removed no later than June 30, 2011.

### DO I NEED A PERMIT OR LICENSE?

No permits or licenses from the city are required to own chickens or ducks. Coops exceeding 200 square feet require a building permit.

### WHAT ARE THE COOP REQUIREMENTS?

Coops must be setback at least 10 feet from side and rear property lines. Coops are not allowed in areas extending from the primary dwelling unit to the front property line. Three general coop designs are acceptable for housing chickens and ducks. New or reclaimed materials may be used to meet the following general exterior guidelines.



### **CAN I USE A DIFFERENT COOP DESIGN?**

Yes. The city's chicken/duck keeping regulations allow residents to use a different coop design if one of the following two criteria can be met: (1) the alternative design is equal or superior to the adopted standards; or (2) the alternative design is needed to accommodate particular breeds. Modification requests should be addressed to the Permit Center (253-835-2607 or [permitcenter@cityoffederalway.com](mailto:permitcenter@cityoffederalway.com)) with photos/drawings and written narrative detailing how the above-referenced criteria are met.

### **WHAT ARE SOME BEST PRACTICES I SHOULD KEEP IN MIND?**

- Coops should be large enough to provide between 3-6 square feet of indoor shelter and 3-6 square feet of outdoor shelter per chicken/duck. *Example:* a coop providing the maximum amount of space for four chickens/ducks would measure 48 square feet.
- Indoor shelter should be kept draft free and dim. The floor of the indoor shelters should be covered with a layer of wood shavings, hay, or straw.
- Outdoor shelter should be completely enclosed using posts and fencing material such as ½-inch square mesh hardware cloth. Traditional chicken wire does not protect from outside pests and vermin. A dry, partially shaded, and wind-blocked outdoor shelter space is ideal.
- It's important to be a good neighbor and regularly clean out the coop. Routine cleaning and maintenance will reduce odors affecting adjacent property owners.
- Prior to purchasing your chicks, verify they are hens and not roosters. Pre-sexed chicks typically have a 95 percent accuracy rate.

### **WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE IF I HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

Seattle Tilth is a non-profit educational organization that provides classes, workshops, and books ranging from beginner to advanced for raising chickens and ducks. More information can be found at [www.seattletilth.org](http://www.seattletilth.org).