

# Frequently asked questions

## **My neighbor has a rooster, what can I do?**

Call Code Enforcement at **(503) 988-3464** or email **vector.nuisance@multco.us** if you have a complaint about a rooster in your neighborhood.

## **How long do chickens live?**

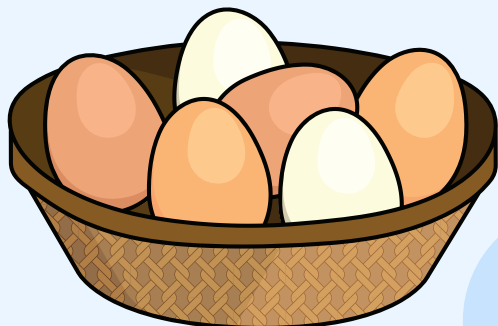
Chickens can live eight years or more and may stop laying eggs as they age. You should plan accordingly for their retirement.

## **I want to put my chicken coop on my property line but it would be less than 15 feet away from my neighbor's house. Can I do that?**

No. If your chicken coop is near your property line, it must still be at least 15 feet from your neighbor's house and set back 3' from your property line.

## **Are chickens allowed to roam the neighborhood?**

No. They must stay in their coop and are only allowed to roam under direct supervision in your fenced yard.



# Contact information

If you live outside of Portland and want to keep chickens, contact your local city government. Local rules and regulations concerning keeping chickens may apply.

## **City of Fairview**

Main Office  
(503) 665-7929

## **City of Gresham**

Main Office  
(503) 618-3000

## **City of Wood Village**

City Hall & Civic Center  
(503) 667-6211

## **City of Troutdale**

Main Office  
(503) 665-5175

## **City of Maywood Park**

Main Office  
(503) 255-9805

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Please call **(503) 988-3464**, scan the code, or visit our website **multco.us/health/animal-codes** for more information.

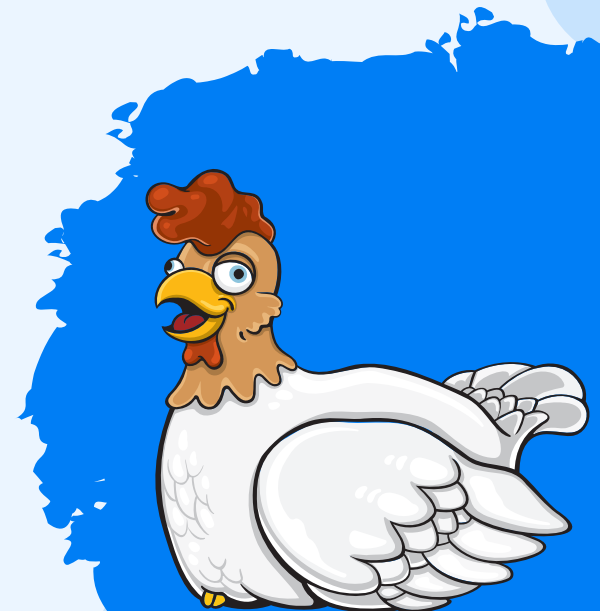


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**Multnomah County Vector Control & Code Enforcement**  
5235 N Columbia Blvd • Portland, OR 97203

Multnomah County Vector Control  
& Code Enforcement

# Urban Chickens in the City of Portland



# Keeping chickens

To keep chickens in the City of Portland you need to follow City of Portland Code Title 13: [portland.gov/code/13](http://portland.gov/code/13).

- » **Roosters are NOT allowed in the City limits.** Have a plan in case one of your chicks turns out to be a rooster.
- » Four chickens or fewer are allowed on any lot, 10,000 square feet or less. For properties with 10,000 square feet or more, 6 chickens are allowed.
- » Permits are no longer required. If you have a permit under the prior system, you can keep the maximum number listed on the permit for the animals you had at that time. Any new or replacement chickens fall under current limits.



## Your enclosure should NOT have:

- Too much odor
- Unclean conditions
- Visible rodent activity
- Heavy fly activity

# Chicken enclosure requirements

- Provide a safe, clean, secure enclosure that will not bother neighbors.
- Enclosure should have clean water, good airflow, lighting and proper ground covering (like sawdust, wood chips or straw that is regularly replaced).
- Enclosure should be a **minimum of 15 feet away from neighbors.**
- Structures and enclosure must be **at least 3' from property lines** and **10' from the front property line.**
- Any structure exceeding 200 square feet in area or exceeding 10 feet in height may require a building permit from the City of Portland.

- Enclosure should have enough room for your chickens (2 square feet per chicken in the coop and 10 square feet per chicken in the run).
- Have no open feeding. Only put out enough food for the chickens to eat in a 15-20 minute period. **Excess food can attract rats** or other predators. Contact Multnomah County for more rat prevention tips.
- Monitor enclosure, coop and proximity to insure no evidence of rat activity is observed.
- Coops and run areas should be cleaned regularly and manure accumulations removed. This will help prevent odor and the breeding of rats and other disease vectors.

