

**Adopted: 11/12/2019**

**Published: 11/20/19**

**Effective Date: 12/20/2019**

## **ORD. No. 412 KEEPING OF CHICKENS ORDINANCE**

### **THE VILLAGE OF OXFORD ORDAINS: An Amendment to**

#### **CHAPTER 6-ANIMALS, ARTICLE III**

An ordinance to allow for hen chickens in the single home residential zoning districts. An ordinance to require an annual permit. Chapter 6 – Animals is hereby amended to add a new Article III titled Keeping of Chickens.

#### **Section 6.61-Permitted District**

Subject to the permit requirements herein, any person residing in a detached single-family structure in a single-family residential district in the Village of Oxford may keep hen chickens in compliance with this ordinance:

- a. A maximum of four (4) chickens per residential address are permitted for personal use only and not for any business or commercial use;
- b. Roosters are prohibited;
- c. Slaughtering is prohibited unless conducted in a fully enclosed structure;
- d. Chickens shall be provided, and remain within, at all times, a fully enclosed coop and fenced enclosure, with a maximum area of 300 square feet for both.

#### **Section 6.62- Coop Requirements**

The following coop requirements must be met:

- a. Minimum size of four (4) square feet per chicken;
- b. Must be fully enclosed, except for the opening leading to additional fenced area (if included) and constructed so as to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents or vermin from being harbored underneath or within the walls of the structure or enclosure;
- c. Must be clean, dry, odor-free and kept in a neat and sanitary condition;

- d. The coop may not be located within any side or front yard and may not be closer than 30 feet from any dwelling on a neighboring property or ten feet from any property line.
- e. Any and all feed not in current use in the Coop shall be stored indoors or in a rodent proof container.
- f. Waste materials (feed, manure and litter) should be disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner. The materials can be composted or bagged and disposed of in the trash. It is not acceptable to pile waste materials on the property.

**Section 6.63-Location**

A sketch plan must be submitted which indicates the location of the coop, along with any associated fencing, all dimensions, and the setbacks from the applicable lines.

**Section 6.64-Permits**

After the effective date, only fifteen (15) permits will be issued in the first calendar year. If issued, a permit must be obtained annually from the Village to ensure continued compliance with the above standards. A permit is valid for only one year and creates no vested right to continue the use of the coop. Upon expiration or revocation of a permit, the keeping of chickens allowed by this section is no longer permitted.

- a. The Village of Oxford may revoke a permit if a person's chickens become a nuisance. For purposes herein, a nuisance is defined as two investigated and verified violations as pertaining to the keeping of chickens within a six-month period:
  - i. Complaints about noise, specifically frequent, ongoing, or long-continued noise that disturbs the comfort of any persons in the vicinity;
  - ii. Complaints about odor, specifically foul, noisome, or unpleasant odors that are frequent, ongoing, or long-continued and disturb the comfort of any persons in the vicinity;
  - iii. Complaints about vermin, specifically the frequent, ongoing, or long-continued presence of such vermin as (but not limited to) mice, rats, raccoons, and possum;
  - iv. Failure to comply with the provisions listed under keeping of chickens.

- b. The Village of Oxford may revoke a permit issued to a person convicted of animal cruelty in the State of Michigan.
  
- c. The issuance of a permit under this provision shall be deemed to grant the Village the right to inspect to ensure compliance with the provisions herein. The Village reserves the right to conduct inspections as necessary within the sole discretion of the Village.

**Section 6.65- Restrictions**

Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the Village, private restrictions on the use of property shall remain enforceable and take precedence over a permit. Private restrictions include but are not limited to deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, condominium master deed restrictions, neighborhood association by-laws, and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of chickens is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

**Section 6.66- Effective Date**

This ordinance shall take effect 30 days after publication.

I, Teresa L, Onica the duly elected and acting Clerk of the Village of Oxford, hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by the Village of Oxford Council by a roll call vote at a regular meeting of the Village of Oxford held on the 12th day of November, 2019, at which meeting a quorum was present; and that the ordinance was ordered to take effect 30 days after publication.



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**Village of Oxford Clerk**

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