
PLEASE REMEMBER THAT A
PERMIT IS REQUIRED

BEFORE

OBTAINING YOUR CHICKS OR
CHICKENS!

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
883-8208

FEED AND WATER

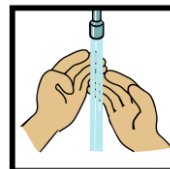
A chicken will only grow and perform to the extent to which it receives proper nutrition. Feed and water must be kept as fresh as possible and should be accessible within the coop or run. Ensure the feed does not become stale or moldy. Vegetable & fruit scraps, bread, & bugs are great treats for your chickens and are an alternative way of disposing your food scraps. If you are relying on your chickens to be egg layers, meat products, or 4-H exhibits you may want to do your own research and/or contact the Lake County MSU Extension office at (406) 676-4271. It is important that you have a safe and effective way to keep the water from freezing in the winter.



CLEANING & MAINTENANCE

Chicken coops, runs, and detached utility buildings must be kept neat and sanitary at all times. This isn't just a good idea, it's a condition of your permit to keep chickens in the city. Coop cleaning should be done regularly and waste should be disposed of properly in the garbage or in an effective composter. Chicken manure is a great fertilizer for flower beds and gardens but needs to be composted with other yard waste, like leaves and lawn clippings. Composting will create an environment that kills harmful bacteria in the manure and reduces the nitrogen content to a more plant friendly level.

Keeping a clean coop is not just important for your chickens, but also for the health of your family. Be aware that anyone handling chickens, eggs, and manure are at risk for being exposed to Salmonella bacteria, which is naturally found in chickens, but can cause disease in humans. Teaching children proper handling and cleaning techniques is very important. A simple strategy of always washing hands and checking clothes and shoes after being in the coop will go a long way in the prevention of illness.



Domestic Chickens

A GUIDE TO KEEPING
CHICKENS WITHIN THE CITY
LIMITS OF POLSON



CITY OF POLSON CODE COMPLIANCE

106 FIRST STREET EAST, POLSON, MT 59860

(406) 883-8208

WHY CHICKENS?

Chickens, once just found on farms and ranches are now in suburban subdivisions and in many neighborhoods inside city limits. There are many reasons people have for raising chickens, such as having fresh eggs, locally resourced meat, for showing at a 4-H exhibition, as well as for just the enjoyment of watching their interesting behavior. Raising chickens has also become a popular and successful way for families to introduce children to many of life's important lessons while they discover the joy and challenges of laboring and caring for animals.

Hens Only Club



Since your chickens will be within city limits and not on a farm or ranch, you are limited to having a maximum of **6** chickens and no roosters

will be permitted. Roosters would quickly become a nuisance for your neighbors and may add to your flock. If any of your chicks turns out to be a rooster, find them a new home or have them for dinner, but don't think about releasing them to run loose anywhere in the city or you could be fined or even charged with a misdemeanor. If you need assistance with a rooster relocation, please call 883-8208.

DETACHED UTILITY BUILDINGS



Providing a covered predator-proof detached utility building or "coop" that is well ventilated and adequately sized, will make any chicken happy. Generally, allow for 2 to 3 square feet per adult hen when building the coop. Be sure to plan on an enclosed area that provides warmth and an area to stay dry, but still will allow in plenty of natural light. Air quality is essential, so make sure that no odors, moisture, or drafts develop. Flooring within the detached utility building ought to be easily cleanable with an addition of cover like straw, hay, or pine shavings. Give your chickens a place to roost. Make sure that roosts are the right thickness so your chickens can comfortably perch, and place roosts approximately 18-inches above the floor. Insulating your utility building or coop is especially important in our cold winters and hot summers. Chickens can be resilient and can adapt to Montana's weather.

NESTING BOXES

Another important feature of the coop, if you hope to get eggs, is the nest. A 12-inch by 12-inch elevated at least 18-inches off the ground with a liner of hay, straw, sawdust, or wood shavings is all you need. Hens will take turns using the nests so you will only need a couple. Laying hens are the most productive when they have 14-16 hours of light per day; this can be natural or artificial. Remember, any lighting must be solar or battery-operated

devices. Placement of the boxes should allow easy access for cleaning and gathering of eggs, but still be secure from predators. Eggs should be collected twice a day and washed.

OUTDOOR AREA

Your chickens will naturally want to explore your yard and scratch at the ground hoping to find bugs and worms. You should plan ahead and build a secure pen area. Sturdy woven wire (chicken wire) and some metal fence posts are as fancy as you need to get. The fence could be any size or shape, but must be covered, unless you're an expert at clipping wings. The outdoor area also offers an area for your chickens to go, while you clean the coop. Also, chickens like to take a "dust bath" and will find an area in your yard that they can do so. You may find purchasing a pre-constructed pen is better suited to your needs or yard.



