

Keeping Chickens (Poultry) in Peters Township - FAQs

How Does The Township Define "Poultry"?

Answer: "Domesticated birds that serve as a source of eggs or meat, including chickens, turkeys, geese, peafowl, pigeons and pheasants."

Where/How Can I Keep Chickens?

Answer: Chickens, and other poultry, can be kept on any property in the Township provided that the following is maintained:

- Any that are not kept in the dwelling or principal structure cannot be housed within 25' of the dwelling, structure, or property line.
- No more than 6 adult chickens may be housed on a standard property. If there are more than 6 chickens, or a single rooster, kept on the property it can only be a property greater than 10 acres in size in the Rural Residential (RR) or Low-Density Residential (LD) districts.
- All accessory structures, including those used to house chickens, must conform with the dimensional requirements of the zoning district that the property is located within.
- Buildings on a "farm" used to house 2 or more chickens cannot be within 200 feet of any property line.
- Enclosures shall be of an appropriate size to prevent the chickens from running at large while also being large enough to ensure good sanitation practices.
- All litter or droppings should be collected daily in ratproof and fly-tight container and should be disposed of at least twice a week.
- Storage of manure or odor or dust-producing substances shall not be permitted within 200 feet of any property line.
- All feed must be stored and kept in a ratproof and fly-tight building box, container, or receptacle.

Can I have a rooster?

Answer: Roosters are only permitted on properties greater than 10 acres in size in the Rural Residential (RR) or Low-Density Residential (LD) districts.

Keeping Chickens (Poultry) in Peters Township – Code Sections

§119-20 Definitions – Poultry:

“Domesticated birds that serve as a source of eggs or meat, including chickens, turkeys, geese, peafowl, pigeons and pheasants.”

§119-22 B, C, D, E, & F Domestic Animals:

“It shall be unlawful for any person to keep any domestic animals, except household pets as defined in §119-20 herein, except as provided in this section.”

§440-301 Definitions – Farm:

“A plot of land containing not fewer than 10 acres upon which are maintained, grown or produced for sale or use, domestic livestock, dairy products, poultry, eggs, fruit and vegetables or such other crops as are usually or customarily grown or produced in this locality, including indoor or outdoor grown nursery stock.”

§440-514.E Farms:

“Farms and general agricultural regulations. Unless otherwise controlled within this chapter, operations involving the use of buildings and land for farming, gardening, nurseries, major and/or minor greenhouses, seasonal living, riding academies, animal kennels, livery or boarding stables, stock raising, dairying and poultry shall be permitted only on a farm in a R-1A (RR) District, subject to the following regulations:

- E. Buildings or kennels in which animals or poultry are kept shall not hereafter be erected within 200 feet of any lot line, provided that this shall apply to buildings housing more than two dogs or other household pets.”