

Residential Urban Chicken Keeping: An Examination of 25 Cities



Missoula Residents with their backyard chickens.

Source: <http://www.missoula.com/news/node/226>

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**CRP 580 Spring 2008
University of New Mexico
May 7th 2008**

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Abstract

City councils across the United States and Canada are increasingly being faced with the task of deciding whether or not to allow chicken keeping in residential backyards. In many cases this issue has two opposing sides: those citizens who want to keep chickens for egg production and those citizens who are concerned about the effects of chickens on their communities. This paper provides an analysis of pro-chicken ordinances from 25 cities in an effort to define the components of a just and well functioning chicken ordinance. Of the 25 ordinances, no two were identical but a variety of common regulatory themes were found across cities. Based on these findings, some considerations are suggested when forming an urban chicken keeping ordinance.

Introduction

*"I can't say that I would have envisioned chickens as an issue, but I've heard from a lot of people about them, and it seems like it's something maybe we ought to pay a little attention to."*¹

- Stacy Rye, Missoula City Councilwoman

It's happening right now in cities across the United States and Canada. Community members are organizing themselves into groups and approaching their city councils about an important urban planning issue: chicken keeping in the city.

This question of whether or not cities should allow backyard chicken keeping has increased substantially over the past 5 years as citizens become more interested in participating in their own food production. The issue has appeared recently before city councils in Missoula², Halifax³, and Madison⁴, and a case is currently pending in Ann Arbor, Michigan⁵. In many cases this interest in backyard chicken keeping has been met with much opposition and city councils often do not know how to begin approaching the issue.

The recent increase in urban backyard chicken keeping has come about for three main reasons. First, the local food movement itself has become very popular which has sparked a new interest for many in backyard food production. Since chickens are one of the smaller protein producers, they fit well into a backyard food production model. Second, rising energy and transportation costs have caused concern over increases in food costs, and backyard eggs offer a cheaper solution as they do not have to travel far to reach the plate. Lastly, many citizens are becoming increasingly concerned about food safety, and with meat recalls and other animal industry issues in the news, backyard chickens offer many a safer solution. For these reasons, backyard chickens have become

¹ Moore, Michael. Urban Chickens Scratching up a Controversy in Missoula. . Available online at <http://www.missoula.com/news/node/226>

² Medley, Ann and Jonathan Stumph. Video: Missoula Squabbles Over Urban Chickens. Available online at http://www.newwest.net/city/article/missoulas_urban_chicken_squabble/C8/L8/

³ CBC News. Halifax to Study Chickens in Cities. Available online at <http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2008/02/12/chicken-report.html>

⁴ Harrison-Noonan, Dennis. Urban chicken keeper, Madison, Wisconsin. Interviewed on April 8, 2008.

⁵ Kunselman, Steve. City Councilor (ward 3) Ann Arbor, Michigan. Interviewed on April 29, 2008.

increasingly popular, but not everyone likes the idea of chickens living in their neighborhood.

There are generally two sides to the chicken keeping issue: those who are for allowing *Gallus domesticus* in residential backyards, and those who are opposed. There are a variety of reasons why people want to keep chickens, ranging from having a safe source of protein to gaining a closer relationship to the food they consume. Those who are opposed to backyard chickens however, often express concerns about noise, smells, diseases, or the potential for chickens running loose. There is also debate between the two sides as to the appropriateness of chickens in a city environment and if chickens qualify as pets or livestock.

Chicken keeping in urban environments is nothing new, but it is now something that needs to be planned for in all major cities and small towns across the United States. As the interest in the local food movement continues to increase, and as citizens become more interested in growing their own food, municipalities will eventually be faced with the issue of regulating backyard chicken keeping within their city limits. Planning for chickens can either be pro-active on the part of the city council and planning staff, or reactionary as citizens will eventually bring the issue to city hall. Municipalities often do not know how to approach the chicken keeping issue, and this paper serves to provide some insight through an analysis of urban chicken ordinances from across the United States.

Research Methods

The main goal of this paper was to analyze how residential backyard chicken keeping is regulated through the examination of chicken ordinances from a variety of cities. To achieve this, data was gathered through the examination of residential chicken ordinances, as well as through a variety of interviews, newspaper articles, video footage, and other resources.

Residential chicken ordinances from over 30 cities were gathered, however only 25 of the cities allowed the keeping of chickens, so only those were used in the analysis (see

Appendix A). The ordinances were sourced from city web sites, online web ordinance databases, and other online sources (see Appendix B). In a few instances calls were made to city planning departments to verify language in the ordinances.

Interviews were conducted with the following city officials, urban chicken keepers, and urban food/gardening community organizations:

- Steve Kunselman, City Councilor (ward 3) Ann Arbor, Michigan. He proposed pro-chicken ordinances for Ann Arbor, which are being voted on in May of 2008.
- Thomas Kriese: An urban chicken keeper in Redwood, CA and writer about urban chickens at <http://myurbanchickens.blogspot.com/>
- Dennis Harrison-Noonan, urban chicken keeper, Madison, Wisconsin. He was involved in the adoption of pro-chicken ordinances for Madison.
- Debra Lippoldt, Executive Director of Growing Gardens, Portland, OR

These interviews served to provide personal insights into urban chicken keeping, stakeholder positions, and the urban chicken movement. The interviews were also crucial in receiving feedback about chicken ordinances and the process involved in legalizing chicken keeping.

Analysis

Of the 25 cities evaluated, no two were identical in their restrictions and allowances (see chart of detailed findings in Appendix A). There were, however, common regulatory themes that emerged from the set evaluated. These common themes are as follows:

- The number of birds permitted per household
- The regulation of roosters
- Permits and fees required for keeping chickens
- Chicken enclosure/containment restrictions
- Nuisance clauses related to chickens
- Slaughtering restrictions
- Coop distance restrictions in relation to homes or property lines

The findings of the above commonalities, as well as unique regulations that emerged, are discussed in detail below. The ease and accessibility of finding the ordinances is also discussed.

Number of Birds Permitted

Of the 25 cities evaluated, only 6 had unclear (or not specifically stated) regulations on the numbers of birds permitted, while 13 stated a specific number of birds. Of the remaining, 3 cities used lot size to determine the number of chickens permitted, 2 cities used distance from property lines as a determining factor, and 1 city placed no limit on the number of chickens allowed. Over half of the cities evaluated stated a specific number of allowable chickens, which ranged from 2 to 25 birds. The most common number of birds permitted was either 3 or 4 birds, which occurred in 8 cities.

The most common number of birds permitted was 3 or 4, which will supply on average between 1 and 2 dozen eggs per week. Depending on the size of the family in the household, this may be sufficient. In some cases however, 3 to 4 birds may not be enough for larger family sizes or allow for giving away eggs to neighbors. In cities where it is legal to sell your eggs at farmers markets, 3 or 4 birds would not be sufficient. So what is a good number of chickens to allow in residential backyards for home consumption? Thomas Kriese, an urban chicken keeper who writes online about chicken keeping and ordinances, feels that no more than 6 birds should be permitted. “That's approximately 3 dozen eggs a week which is a LOT of eggs to consume, plus that's a lot of food to go through, and excrement to clean up,” he stated in a personal correspondence.⁶

The answer of how many birds to allow is not an easy one, as other factors such as average property sizes and controlling for nuisances should be considered. A good example of how to address the issue surrounding the number of birds is Portland, Oregon's chicken ordinance. Portland allows the keeping of 3 birds per household; however you are allowed to apply for a permit to keep more (See Appendix A). In this case the ordinance is flexible, as a sufficient number of birds are permitted outright, and those wishing to keep more can apply to do so.

⁶ Kriese, Thomans. Urban chicken keeper, Redwood City, CA. Personal correspondence on April 28, 2008. His coverage of urban chicken ordinances is available online at <http://myurbanchickens.blogspot.com/>

Regulation of Roosters

The regulations regarding roosters were unclear in 14 cities and in 7 cities the keeping of roosters was not permitted. Of the remaining 4 in which the keeping of roosters was permitted, 1 city allowed roosters if kept a certain distance from neighbors residences, 1 allowed roosters only under 4 months of age, 1 allowed a single rooster per household, and 1 placed no restrictions.

Many cities choose to not allow the keeping of roosters, as neighbors often complain about the crowing which can occur at any hour of the day. Since one of the main reasons people choose to keep chickens is for the eggs, which roosters do not provide, it is generally accepted to only allow hens. In the case of Albuquerque, New Mexico, 1 rooster is allowed per household but it is still subject to noise ordinances (see Appendix A). So in this case, you can keep your rooster if your neighbors do not mind the crowing. This does allow people to have more choice, however it can also increase the costs associated with enforcing noise complaints.

Permits and Fees

The regulation of chickens through city permits and fees was unclear in 11 of the cities evaluated, while 4 required no permits or associated fees, and 10 required permits, fees, or both. The fees ranged from \$5.00 to \$40.00, and were either 1 time fees or annual fees. Of the 10 that required permits/fees, 3 required permits *only if* the number of birds exceeded a set amount which ranged from 3 to 6 birds. In two instances, it is also required that the birds be registered with the state department of agriculture.

Requiring a permit for chickens is no different than requiring one for dogs and cats, which is the case in most cities. From the perspective of affordable egg production however, attaching a large fee to the permit undermines that purpose. If a fee is too steep in price, it can exclude lower income populations from keeping chickens by increasing the costs of egg production. Fees may be necessary however to cover the associated costs for the municipality to regulate chickens. Another option, which was the approach of 3 cities, was to allow a certain number of birds with no permit/fee required, and anything

above that required a permit/fee. This allows equal participation and lowered costs, while still providing revenue for the regulation of larger bird populations.

Enclosure Requirements

In 9 cities the ordinances were unclear in regards to enclosure requirements or the allowance of free roaming chickens. Of the remaining, 2 had no restrictions and 14 required that chickens be enclosed and were not permitted to “run at large”. In one case, the approval of a coop building plan and use of certain materials was required.

Over half of the cities evaluated required that chickens be enclosed, and this regulation can help to alleviate the concerns of neighbors. Many chicken keepers want to keep their chickens confined in a coop and outdoor run, as this helps to protect them from predators. However, it is very restrictive to require confinement of chickens at all times, as many keepers enjoy watching their chickens free range about the yard. Just as there are regulations for leashing your dog, so too could there be regulation for only allowing chickens to roam in their own yard.

Requiring a building permit with specific material requirements, is also restrictive to lower income populations, and takes away from the sustainability of keeping chickens for eggs. In many cases, chicken coops are built with scrap materials and suit the design needs of the owner. Requiring a specific design or materials takes those choices away from the chicken keeper. Coops should be treated similar to dog houses, which are generally not subject to this type of regulation.

Nuisance Clauses

There were a variety of nuisance regulations stated in 17 of the cities evaluated, while the remaining 8 cities had unclear nuisance regulations. The nuisances that were stated in the 17 ordinances included one or more of the following: noise, smells, public health concerns, attracting flies and rodents, and cleanliness of coops/disposal of manure. Chicken keeping alone does not cause the nuisances listed above, but rather they result from improper care and maintenance which can sometimes occur.

A properly shaped ordinance can prevent potential nuisances by establishing clear guidelines for chicken care and maintenance, such as only allowing smaller sized flocks and not permitting roosters. An active community led education campaign, such as chicken keeping classes and coop tours, is another way in which to educate the public to ensure proper care and reduce the potential for nuisances. In many cities, chicken keeping community organizations have helped to educate the public on how to properly keep chickens within the limits of the law, thereby reducing nuisances and complaints.

Slaughtering Restrictions

Regulations regarding the slaughtering of chickens in residential areas were unclear in 19 of the cities evaluated. Of the remaining, 4 allowed slaughtering of chickens while 2 stated it was illegal to do so. This regulatory theme had the highest level of unknowns, most likely due to the issue not being included in the ordinance, or it being stated in another section of the general animal ordinances, and not referring specifically to chickens.

Although slaughtering chickens within city limits seems gruesome to some, others may wish to slaughter their birds for meat. Rogers, Arkansas for example, only allows the slaughtering to take place inside (Appendix C), which could help prevent neighbor complaints about the process. Allowing for slaughtering however, may also have its benefits, such as being a solution to aging urban chickens that no longer produce eggs.

Distance Restrictions

Distance restrictions between the location of the chicken coop and property lines, or coop and nearby residences, were stated in 16 of the ordinances evaluated. There were no restrictions in 3 of the ordinances and 5 were unclear. Of the 16 with distance restrictions, 12 were distances required from residences, while 3 were distances required from property lines. The distance required from property lines ranged from 10 to 90 feet, while the distances from residences ranged from 20 to 50 feet.

If a city chooses to have distance restrictions, the average lot sizes need to be taken into consideration. For example, Spokane, WA has a property line distance restriction of 90

feet (see Appendix A), which may be impossible to achieve in many residential yards. This large of a requirement would prevent many people from keeping chickens. The lower distance requirements, such as 10 or 20 feet are more feasible to achieve for those with smaller lot sizes. Distance requirements to neighboring homes (vs. property lines) are also easier to achieve as the distance considers part of the neighbors property in addition to the chicken keepers property.

Unique Regulations

All 25 ordinances evaluated had some combination of the above common themes, but there were also some unique regulations that one (or a few) cities had related to residential chicken keeping. These unique regulations are as follows:

- Chicken feed must be stored in rat proof containers
- Pro-chicken regulations are on a 1-year trial basis with only a set number of permits issued until the yearly re-evaluation.
- For every additional 1,000 sq. feet of property above a set minimum, 1 additional chicken may be added to the property.
- The allowance of chickens in multi-family zoned areas (allowance in single family zoning is most common)
- Coops must be mobile to protect turf and prevent the build up of pathogens and waste.
- Chickens must be provided with veterinary care if ill or injured
- Minimum square footage requirements per bird for coop/enclosure

The unique regulations listed offer some innovative solutions to possible issues such as pests and waste, as well as defining minimum space and health care standards for chickens. Some of these regulations also allow for more flexibility, such as extending the right to keep chickens to those living in multi-family dwelling units or allowing more birds on larger property sizes. In the case of Portland, ME, the permitting of chickens is on a trial basis, which may be a good option if a city wants to reevaluate residential chicken keeping after a certain time frame.

Locating and Understanding the Ordinances

Of the 25 pro-chicken ordinances, very few were actually easy to locate. In most cases, pages of code had to be searched in order to find the regulation and even then the chicken ordinances were often vague, incomplete, or regulations were spread throughout multiple sections of the code. This is an issue that should be considered, as unclear or hard to find ordinances can only lead to increased non-compliance.

The most easily accessible chicken ordinances were those specifically stated on city web pages, and those found through websites and literature from urban gardening organizations or community groups. One example of easily accessible ordinances is that of Rogers, Arkansas (Appendix C). Their chicken ordinance is not only easily accessible directly from the city website, but it is also clear and comprehensive. A clearly stated and easily accessible ordinance allows resident to know how they can keep chickens within the limits of the law, which can reduce complaints and other issues related to non-compliance.

Findings and Recommendations

“Issues such as rodent control are a real concern and the ordinance can have a positive influence on keeping an already urban issue from being exacerbated any more than it already is”.

- Debra Lippoldt, Executive Director of Growing Gardens, Portland, OR⁷

The original question for this paper was “What is a good urban chicken ordinance?” This was based on the idea of examining a variety of ordinances and then singling out those that were better than most and could serve as an example. After having conducted the analysis however, the question was changed to “What are the good components and considerations that make up a just and functional urban chicken ordinance?” There is no superior “one size fits all” ordinance to regulate urban chickens, as each city has different physical, environmental, social, and political needs.

Although each ordinance will be different from one city to the next, a pro-chicken ordinance should be built upon the following considerations:

⁷ Lippoldt, Debra. Executive Director of Growing Gardens, Portland, OR. Personal Correspondence on April 8, 2008.

- It satisfies the needs of most stakeholder groups and acknowledges that some stakeholders on both sides of the issue will be unwilling to compromise
- It does not discriminate against certain populations, such as those of lower incomes who can not afford high permitting fees, or those with smaller property sizes
- It allows for flexibility and provides choice, such as giving chicken keepers the right to choose their own coop design and building materials
- It allows for citizen input and participation in the ordinance forming process to assure that the ordinance fits the needs of , and is supported by the community
- It recognizes the role chickens can play in developing a more sustainable urban environment
- It recognizes the importance of the ordinance being clearly stated and easily accessible to the public, which will help ensure compliance and reduce violations.

The general considerations above are a good compliment to the specific allowances that each municipality chooses to fit its needs and that of its citizens. These specifics however can be more difficult to choose and looking to other cities as examples can provide insight into the best possible choices.

The evaluation of 25 different chicken ordinances showed a wide spectrum of choices that municipalities have made in the regulating of chickens. Looking at the number of chickens permitted, for example, cities ranged anywhere from 2 chickens to unlimited chickens. Only allowing for 2 chickens may not be an ideal choice, as they are social creatures and if one were to become ill an die, only one chicken would be left. Two chickens also do not produce enough eggs for a larger sized family. On the other hand, allowing for unlimited chickens may mean increased nuisance enforcement, or allowing for that many chickens may be met with increased public opposition. Often the average allowances found (not the most extremes) are the best choices of an example regulation for other cities to look to when considering the formation of their own chicken ordinance. In the case of the cities evaluated, the most common allowance was 4 to 6 birds, which can provide enough eggs for a family and does not highly increase the potential for nuisances. It also allows for a more sustained population if a bird becomes ill and dies.

Another example of the middle ground being a good option would be permitting and fees for keeping chickens. In some cities there were high fees for permitting, while in others no fee or permit was required. A few cities, which only required permits and fees if you have over a certain number of birds, show a good middle ground for how to permit chickens. That model allows for citizens to keep a certain number of chickens without added costs, while also creating revenue for enforcement and regulation when people choose to exceed that amount. Many cities are concerned over increased costs if chicken keeping is legalized, and this is one way to alleviate those concerns while still allowing citizens to keep chickens.

In some of the regulatory themes, such as in the examples above, the middle ground does provide a choice which can alleviate concerns while still allowing for the keeping of chickens. Other regulatory themes, such as the slaughtering of chickens, may come down to more of a yes or no answer, as was seen in many of the cities. In either case, if a city is going to adopt a pro-chicken ordinance, the most important part is to first allow for the keeping of chickens, with the understanding that the ordinance can be revisited and changed at a future time. Allowing for the keeping of chickens is the best way to see if the concerns surrounding chicken keeping ever come to fruition, and the ordinance can then be adjusted accordingly. In many cases, cities adopt a more restrictive ordinance as that is what will pass public approval and city council. Then as time passes with few complaints or nuisances, those regulations become more relaxed and tailored specifically to the needs of the city and its residents.

Conclusions

"It seems that if we want to be a town that does its part for sustainability, this is something we ought to consider. I think we want to allow folks to use their good judgment and move toward more sustainable food practices."

- Mayor John Engen, Missoula, MT⁸

Many cities and towns are now looking at how they can be more sustainable, and allowing urban chickens is one step towards that goal of increased sustainability. Not

⁸ Moore, Michael. Urban Chickens Scratching up a Controversy in Missoula. Available online at <http://www.missoula.com/news/node/226>

only can backyard chickens provide residents with a fresh and important food source, but they also bring about an increased awareness of our relationship to the food cycle. By forming a just and well thought out pro-chicken ordinance, cities can allow citizens the right to keep chickens while also addressing the concerns of other stakeholder groups. With that said, city councils should approach the issue of urban chicken keeping with a “how” rather than a “yes” or “no”, as a growing list of pro-chicken cities across the nation shows that it can be done successfully.

References

(References for 25 City Ordinances: See Appendix B)

CBC News. Halifax to Study Chickens in Cities. Available online at <http://www.cbc.ca/consumer/story/2008/02/12/chicken-report.html>

Harrison-Noonan, Dennis. Urban chicken keeper, Madison, Wisconsin. Interviewed on April 8, 2008.

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Medley, Ann and Jonathan Stumph. Video: Missoula Squabbles Over Urban Chickens. Available online at http://www.newwest.net/city/article/missoulas_urban_chicken_squabble/C8/L8/

Moore, Michael. Urban Chickens Scratching up a Controversy in Missoula. . Available online at <http://www.missoula.com/news/node/226>

Appendix A

25 Ordinances Analyzed

City/State	# of birds permitted	Roosters allowed	Permit/permit cost	Enclosure required	Nuisance clause	Slaughter permitted	Property line restrictions	Details or unique regulations
Los Angeles, CA	unclear	only if 100 ft from neighbors	unclear	unclear	Yes	unclear	20 ft from owners home, 35 ft from neighbors	
Rogers, AK	4	No	\$5/yr	Yes	Yes	inside only	25 ft from neighbors house	
Keywest, FL	unclear	Yes	None	Yes	Yes	No	No	Can't use droppings as fertilizer, feed must be stored in rat proof containers
Topeka, KS	unclear	unclear	unclear	Yes	Yes	unclear	50 ft from neighbors house	
South Portland, ME	6	No	\$25/yr	Yes, building permit required	Yes	unclear	Yes	On trial basis till November 2008, only 20 permits issued till yearly evaluation
Madison, WI	4	No	\$6/yr	Yes	Yes	No	25 ft from neighbors house	
New York, NY	No limit	No	Yes	No	Yes	unclear	No	
Albuquerque, NM	15	1 per household	None	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Portland, OR	3 without permit	unclear	\$31 one time fee for 4 +	Yes	Yes	unclear	unclear	
Seattle, WA	3	unclear	unclear	unclear	Yes	unclear	10 ft from property line	1 additional chicken per 1,000 sq ft of property above minimum
Spokane, WA	1 per 2,000 sq ft of land	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	90 ft from property line	Chickens allowed in multi-family zoned areas
San Antonio, TX	property line dependent	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	20 ft minimum from another dwelling	5 birds allowed 20 ft from home, 12 birds at 50 ft, 50 birds at 150 ft
Honolulu, HI	2	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	
Oakland, CA	unclear	No	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	20 ft minimum from another dwelling	
St. Louis, MO	4 max. without permit	unclear	\$40 permit for more than 4 birds	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	
San Diego, CA	25	unclear	unclear	unclear	Yes	unclear	50 ft from neighbors house	Feed must be stored in rat proof container
San Jose, CA	dependent on coop to property line	only roosters < 4 months old	permit needed for 6 or more birds	Yes	unclear	unclear	Ranges from 0 to 50 ft, determines # of birds	<15 ft = 0 birds allowed, 15 to 20 ft = 4 birds, etc, up to 50 ft = 25 birds
Austin, TX	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	unclear	Yes	50 ft from neighbors house	
Memphis, TN	unclear	unclear	unclear	Yes	Yes	Yes	unclear	Feed must be stored in rat proof container
Ft. Worth, TX	based on lot size	unclear	No	Yes	Yes	unclear	50 ft from neighbors house	<1/2 acre = 12 birds, >1/2 acre = 25 birds
Baltimore, MD	4	unclear	Must register with animal control and Dept of Ag.	Yes	Yes	unclear	25 ft from neighbors house	Coops must be mobile to prevent waste build up, minimum 2 sq ft/bird,
Charlotte, NC	based on lot size	unclear	\$40/yr	Yes	Yes	unclear	25 ft from property line	minimum 4 sq. ft/bird, no more than 20/acre
Missoula, MT	6	No	\$15 permit	Yes	Yes	unclear	20 ft from neighbors house	Feed must be stored in rat proof container
Boise, ID	3	No	unclear	Yes	unclear	unclear	unclear	
San Francisco, CA	4	Unclear	No	Yes	Yes	unclear	20 feet from door or window of residence	

Appendix B
Sources for 25 Ordinances

City/State	Source for Ordinance
Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles Animal Services. http://www.laanimalservices.org/permitbook.pdf
Rogers, AK	Ordinance No. 06-100 http://www.rogersarkansas.com/clerk/chkordinance.asp
Keywest, FL	Part 2, Title 5 Section 62 www.keywestchickens.com/city
Topeka, KS	Section 18-291 www.municode.com
South Portland, ME	Chapter 3 Article 2 Section 3 http://www.southportland.org/index.asp?Type=B_LIST&SEC={93286E1E-9FF8-40D2-AC30-8840DEB23A29}
Madison, WI	http://www.madcitychickens.com/ and www.municode.com
New York, NY	Just Food's City Chicken Project. City Chicken Guide. Information available online at http://www.justfood.org/cityfarms/chickens/
Albuquerque, NM	City ordinance chapter 9, article 2, part 4, § 9-2-4-3, c-3 http://www.amlegal.com/albuquerque_nm/
Portland, OR	Ordinance 13.05.015 http://www.portlandonline.com/Auditor/index.cfm?c=28228#cid_13497
Seattle, WA	Ordinance 122311 section 23 www.seattleurbanfarmco.com/chickens
Spokane, WA	Title 17 Chapter 17C.310 Section 17C.310.100 http://www.spokanecity.org/services/documents/smc/?Section=17C.310.100
San Antonio, TX	Municipal code 10-112, Keeping of farm animals www.sanantonio.gov/animalcare/healthcode.asp
Honolulu, HI	Chapter 7 Section 7-2.5 www.honolulu.gov/refs/roh
Oakland, CA	Ordinance 6.04.320 www.oaklandanimalservices.org
St. Louis, MO	Ordinance 62853-7 www.slpl.lib.mo.us/cco/code/data/t102001.htm
San Diego, CA	Ordinance 42.0709 http://docs.sandiego.gov/municode/municodechapter04/ch04art02division07.pdf
San Jose, CA	Ordinance 7.04.030, 140, & 150 www.sanjoseanimals.com/ordinances/sjmc7.04.htm
Austin, TX	Title 3 Chapter 3-2 www.amlegal.com/Austin-nxt/gateway.dll/Texas/austin
Memphis, TN	Title 9 Chapter 9-80-2, 9-68-7 http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com
Ft. Worth, TX	Section 11A-22a www.municode.com
Baltimore, MD	Baltimore City Health Code Title 2-106; Title 10, Subtitles 1 and 3 www.baltimorehealth.org/press/2007_02_02_AnimalRegs.pdf
Charlotte, NC	Section 3-102 http://www.charmeck.org/departments/animal+control/local+ordinances/permits/htm and municode.com
Missoula, MT	Ordinance Chapter 6 Section 6-12 ftp://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/Packets/Council/2007/2007-12-17/Chicken_Ordinance.pdf
Boise, ID	Chapter 6 Section 14 http://www.cityofboise.org/city_clerk/citycode/0614.pdf and http://home.centurytel.net/thecitychicken/chickenlaws.html
San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Municipal Health Code Section 37 http://sfgov.org/site/acc_page.asp?id=5476

Appendix C
Example ordinance
Rogers, AK

ORDINANCE NO. 06- 100

AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE CONTAINMENT OF FOWL AND OTHER ANIMALS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF ROGERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROGERS, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: It shall be unlawful for any person to permit or allow any domesticated fowl to run at large within the corporate limits of the city. It shall be lawful to keep poultry flocks of any size in A-I zones of the city, so long as they are confined.

Section 2: It shall be lawful for any person to keep, permit or allow any fowl within the corporate limits of the city in all other zones, except A-I, under the following terms and conditions:

- a. No more than four (4) hens shall be allowed for each single-family dwelling. No birds shall be allowed in multi-family complexes, including duplexes.
- b. No roosters shall be allowed.
- c. There shall be no outside slaughtering of birds.
- d. All fowl must be kept at all times in a secure enclosure constructed at least two feet above the surface of the ground.
- e. Enclosures must be situated at least 25 feet from the nearest neighbor's residence.
- f. Enclosures must be kept in a neat and sanitary condition at all times, and must be cleaned on a regular basis so as to prevent offensive odors.
- g. Persons wishing to keep fowl within the city must obtain a permit from the Office of the City Clerk, after an inspection and approval by the Office of Animal Control, and must pay a \$5.00 annual fee.

Section 3: The above Section 2 is not intended to apply to the 'ducks and geese in Lake Atalanta Park, nor to indoor birds kept as pets, such as, but not limited to, parrots or parakeets, nor to the lawful transportation of fowl through the corporate limits of the city. Neither shall it apply to poultry kept in areas of the City which are zoned A-I.

Section 4: Fowl currently existing in the city shall not be "grandfathered" or permitted to remain after the effective date of this Ordinance; however, owners of the poultry will have 90 days from the effective date to come into compliance with this ordinance.

Source: <http://www.rogersarkansas.com/clerk/chkordinance.asp>