

## Where are chickens allowed?

Keene Health and Safety Regulations regarding the keeping of chickens depend on the Zoning District in which you reside:

- Rural and Agricultural Districts have no restrictions on raising chickens.
- Low and Medium Density Zoning Districts allow for the Non-Commercial Raising of Animals. No permits are currently required.

## If there is a problem?

Sec. 10-27 of the Keene Code of Ordinances states "The City of Keene's Animal Control Officer has the authority to enforce and to investigate all reports of violations involving animals in this article and of RSA 466:1 et seq." Keene's Animal Control Officer can be reached at (603) 209-1740.



See the online resources below for more details:

**University of New Hampshire**  
<https://extension.unh.edu/Poultry>

**Backyard Chicken Blog**  
<http://www.backyardchickens.com/>

**My Pet Chicken**  
<https://www.mypetchicken.com/>

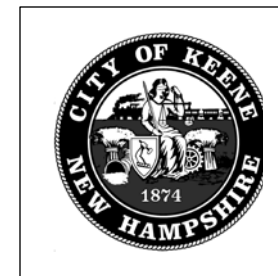
## City of Keene Agriculture Commission

<http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/agricultural-commission>  
3 Washington Street, Keene, NH 03431  
Phone: 603 352 5474

Please visit the City's Agriculture Commission website:  
<https://ci.keene.nh.us/agricultural-commission>  
for a digital version of this brochure

## Be a Good Chicken Neighbor

Ideas and information to consider when raising chickens in the City of Keene, NH.



\*Brochure images graciously shared by Dawn Kopczyński of Keene NH



## Why Keep Chickens?

While they can be amusing, the trend of raising backyard chickens is growing as people become more interested in knowing where their food comes from.

Raising backyard chickens can also be a rewarding experience, a great way to teach children about nature and agriculture as well as the responsibilities involved in caring for animals.



## Being a Good Chicken Neighbor

With a little planning, you can have both happy chickens and happy neighbors:

### Talk to your neighbors ahead of time

Successful chicken rearing includes positive relationships with one's neighbors. It is therefore recommended that an initial ownership step be communicating to all one's neighbors their desire & intent to own chickens.

**Roosters are loud** – Keeping roosters is not recommended if you have neighbors nearby, or if your lot is less than 5 acres. Roosters are the primary cause of chicken related complaints.

**Limit the number of chickens** – 4 to 6 chickens is a reasonable number for small lots (<1 acre). This will minimize noise and/or odor issues.

### Good fences make good neighbors

Chickens should be fenced at all times to prevent them from leaving your property.

**Coop Placement** – Chicken housing should be located at least 10 feet from any property boundary and 25 feet from neighboring houses.

**Chicken Waste** – Plan for regular disposal. Composting is practical and viable. See <https://www.cals.uidaho.edu/edcomm/pdf/CIS/CIS1194.pdf>

## Being a Good Chicken Owner

**Housing** – Mature hens should have at least 3 square feet of floor space per bird. As well, chicken pens need to be secure enough to keep predators out.

### Food and Water:

1. Buying a complete chicken feed is the best way to get started. Make sure to store it in a rodent-free container. Many owners also feed only during the day to reduce rodent problems.
2. Make sure clean water is available Chickens tend to *foul* their water swiftly ☹. Many creative options can prevent water from freezing during the winter. One example is to use a large, black, rubber tire set in the sun. Adding several ping-pong balls can keep a layer of ice from forming.

**Sanitation** – Keep your birds, housing and equipment clean. Wash your own and children's hands with soap and water after contact with the chickens or their litter.

**Fire Hazard** – Chicken coops can be a hazard if precautions are not taken. It is generally recommended that one's coop not be connected to a primary residence. Heaters are not recommended unless they are installed by a professional electrician.