

Keeping of Chickens and Other Fowl

OVERVIEW

The keeping chickens and other fowl are allowed in the City with a permit under certain restriction to maintain a safe and healthy environment for both birds and the public. **Saint Paul allows only hens; roosters are prohibited.**

Before taking the steps required to get a permit to keep chickens in Saint Paul, take the time to consider the realities of chicken-keeping.

- Up-front and ongoing costs and commitments must be considered. For example, the construction materials for a hen house and the cost of food can exceed the value of “free” fresh eggs.
- Consider that chicken litter is abundant, but is currently not-lawfully compostable in the city and needs to be disposed of in your trash receptacle.
- Hens require daily attention and lay eggs for about 5 years on average, but can live up to 14 years.

Click on [Things to Consider](#) for a list of resources and other information regarding the keeping of chickens or other fowl.

If you have questions, contact our Animal Control office at (651) 266-1100, or [email the DSI Message Center](#).

CODE REQUIREMENTS

Search “**Chapter 198**” of the [Saint Paul Legislative Code](#) for applicable ordinance regulating the permitting for keeping of chickens or other types of fowl.

FEES

Description	Fee
Keeping of Animal Permit for (4) four or more	\$72.00
<i>Annual Renewal</i>	<i>\$27.00</i>
Keeping of Animal Permit for (3) or fewer birds	\$25.00
<i>Annual Renewal</i>	<i>\$15.00</i>

STEPS FOR PROPERLY PERMITTING CHICKENS

In spite of the monetary outlay and level of commitment, many people are happily raising chickens in the city. To move forward you will need to take three important and separate steps.

1. Neighbor Notification and Approval
2. Prepare a Site Plan for the Coop/Loft
3. Application and Plan Approval by City

STEP ONE: NEIGHBOR NOTIFICATION AND APPROVAL

You will need to obtain written consent of at least 75% of the neighboring property owners or occupants that are within 150’ from the lot lines of your property and on the same side of the street as the property where the chickens will be raised. In the case of an apartment building with more than four units only the signature of the property manager is required. You are not required to get signatures from the owners of vacant buildings.

IMPORTANT: If you wish to raise chickens on property that you currently are renting, the property owner must give consent either by their signature on the petition or by a separate letter.

Click on this link which is the: [Petition to Harbor Animals form](#). Fill it out and then simply go door-to-door, to get the signatures on this form. You can also request a formal list of property owners within the petition area by either calling a Saint Paul project facilitator at 651-266-8989 or [email the DSI Message Center](#).

STEP TWO: PREPARE A SITE PLAN FOR THE COOP/LOFT

The City must approve a site plan for the proposed location of the coop/loft. If the coop/loft is proposed to be within a building, please submit a floor plan of the interior space with the location of the coop/loft. Click on: [Things to Consider](#) for further information on details to include on the site plan and for the city requirements governing the location of the coop/loft.

STEP THREE: APPLICATION AND PLAN APPROVAL BY CITY

Complete the [Keeping of Animal Permit Application Form](#) and submit it along with your consent petition, the site plan, and permit fee (cash, credit card or check, payable to the City of St Paul) to the Department of Safety and Inspections (DSI), at 375 Jackson Street Suite 220, St. Paul, 55101. You may also fax your application (with credit card information) to 651-266-9124.

Please Do Not Send Credit Card Information Via E-mail. E-mail is not a secure format for transmitting this type of personal account information.

1. The site plan is reviewed for compliance with the City's requirements. The license application along with approved site plan and consent petition materials will be forwarded to the Animal Control Office by staff.
2. The animal control officer assigned to this area will check the sufficiency of the petition.
3. Once the petition has been verified, authorization will be given to start construction of the coop/loft installation.
4. When the work is completed, call and arrange a time for the animal control officer to inspect the facilities. In addition to the construction, the animal control officer will be looking at the facilities for compliance with city standards for operating and maintaining the chicken coop/loft. Click on [Things to Consider](#) for further information about these standards.
5. The Keeping of Animal permit is issued once the animal control officer has approved the installation and verified that any other permits required for the coop/loft have final inspection approvals.

Renewal Invoice is sent out annually for the animal keeping permit. You will not be required to submit a new petition with a renewal.