

**TOWN OF CHINA GROVE DOMESTIC FOWL PERMIT APPLICATION**

Please return Permit Application and \$40.00 fee to:  
Town of China Grove  
333 North Main Street  
China Grove, NC 28023



Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Where fowl will be housed)

Number of fowl to be kept at the permit address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Maximum 4 chickens per ¼ acre)

A person who has been issued a domestic fowl permit shall submit it for examination upon demand by any law or code enforcement officer. Notwithstanding the issuance of a permit by the Town of China Grove, properly registered private property restrictions remain enforceable. Private property restrictions include but are not limited to: deed restrictions; apartment master deed restrictions; neighborhood association by-laws; and covenant deeds. A permit issued to a person whose property is subject to private restrictions that prohibit the keeping of fowl is void. The interpretation and enforcement of the private restriction is the sole responsibility of the private parties involved.

**I understand the above restrictions on the permit and am submitting this application in compliance with Chapter 10 (Animals) Section 7 of the Code of Ordinance for the Town of China Grove.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Applicant's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

For office use only

Coop Size: \_\_\_\_\_ Deeded Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_ Max Fowl Permitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All Permits expire one (1) year from date of issuance. Permits are non-transferable and may not be sold or assigned.

## **CHICKEN COOP CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS**

- The coop must be built in a skilled manner, no smaller than 4 square feet per fowl. It may be constructed with durable materials such as: wood, wire, brick, or similar. Cardboard or other easily damaged material will not be approved.
- Fowl coop setbacks are 25 feet from any property line.
- Fowl coop minimum height is 18 inches.

The Town of China Grove only allows the total area of all accessory structures not to exceed one-half (1/2) the total area of the principal structure per one (1) acre lot. If the coop is the only accessory structure on the property there will be no issue. If there are sheds and greenhouses already on the property, you may exceed your accessory structure maximum with a coop. Contact Code Enforcement at (704) 857-2466 for additional information if you already have accessory structures.

## **SUBMIT LICENSE APPLICATION WITH FEE**

Once the coop is on the property, you must complete and submit the Chicken Permit Application. You may mail in your completed application and payment of \$40 to the Town Hall by check at the address following, or drop it off in person. If paid in person, payment by check, cash, or Money Order is accepted.

The Town Hall is located at:  
333 North Main Street  
China Grove, NC 28023  
Phone Number (704) 857-2466  
Fax Number (704) 855-1855

The Chicken Permit is valid for one year from the date of issuance and shall be renewed annually. The one-time fee shall be non-refundable.

## **CHICKEN COOP INSPECTION**

Once your application and fee are received, you will be contacted by a Town Hall employee to schedule your chicken coop inspection. If you have any questions regarding the inspection, please contact Town Hall at 704-857-2466.

## **RECEIVE APPROVED CHICKEN PERMIT**

Once your application, payment, and approved Coop Inspection are complete, we will process and issue the Permit as soon as possible. If you have provided an e-mail address we will notify you and send the Permit electronically. Otherwise, we will use US Mail to deliver the Permit.

## **STOCK COOP WITH CHICKENS**

With this Permit you are allowed to acquire up to four chickens per ¼ acre. **Roosters are NOT permitted.**

Sec. 10-7. - Permission required for keeping of certain animals.

- (a) *[Permit.]* It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, have, or maintain any equine animals, cloven-hoofed animals or other livestock or any chickens, turkeys, ducks, guineas, geese, pheasants, pigeons or other domestic fowl in the city, except by special permission of the town council by receiving a permit to do so or to continue to have any of such animals or fowl after a permit has been denied.

This section shall not apply to, and no permit shall be required for, any agricultural operation within the city limits, which pertains to nuisance liability of agricultural operation, or to any rabbit that is kept exclusively inside its owner's residence. The permit shall be valid for one year from the date of issuance and shall be renewed annually. The one-time fee for such permit shall be \$40.00 per household. The application shall list all such animals and fowl on the premises. Before a permit is issued an employee of the Town of China Grove shall inspect the premises to determine if the keeping of the animals or fowl on the premises will endanger or is likely to endanger the health, safety, peace, quiet, comfort, enjoyment of or otherwise become a public nuisance to nearby residents or occupants or places of business.

- (b) *Denial.* When a permit is denied for any reason, the applicant shall be given a written explanation of the reason for denial.

- (c) *Compliance required prior to issuance.* An owner or possessor of such animals or fowl shall comply with the following applicable subsections before a permit is issued. Compliance with the following applicable subsections will create a rebuttable presumption that a permit shall be issued. That presumption may only be rebutted by specific findings supported by competent evidence that, despite compliance with the following, the presence of such animals or fowl is still likely to endanger the health, safety, peace, quiet, comfort, enjoyment of or otherwise become a public nuisance to nearby residents or occupants or places of business:

- (1) *Fowl and other specifically identified animals.* The keeping of chickens, turkeys, ducks, guineas, geese, pheasants or other domestic fowl or rabbits shall be in compliance with the following:

- a. Such animals must be confined in a coop, fowl house or rabbit hutch not less than 18 inches in height. The fowl must be kept within the coop or fowl house and the rabbits in the hutch at all times.
- b. The coop or fowl house must be used for fowl only and the hutch for rabbits only, and both must be well ventilated.
- c. The coop, fowl house or hutch shall have a minimum of four square feet of floor area for each fowl or rabbit.
- d. The run must be well drained so there is no accumulation of moisture.
- e. The coop, fowl house or hutch shall be kept clean, sanitary and free from accumulation of animal excrement and objectionable odors. It shall be cleaned daily, and all droppings and body excretion shall be placed in a fly proof container and double-bagged in plastic bags.
- f. The coop, fowl house or hutch shall be a minimum of 25 feet from any property line.
- g. No more than four such fowl or rabbits shall be kept or maintained per quarter acre.
- h. The area required for the keeping of fowl shall be at least a quarter acre.
- i. Male chickens (roosters) are not permitted.

- (2) *Pigeons.* Pigeons, while allowed to fly to and from the premises, must be provided with adequate space on the premises, and sanitary conditions must be maintained.

- (d) *Revocation.* The bureau may revoke any permit:

- (1) When the permit has been mistakenly issued without compliance with this section;
- (2) When the applicant has submitted false information;

- (3) For a violation of any of the sections of this chapter;
- (4) When, in the opinion of the town manager, the health, safety or welfare of any person or property is menaced by the keeping of such animals; or
- (5) When the animals become a nuisance. If a permit is revoked, the applicant shall be given a written explanation of the reasons for the revocation. Upon the determination of a violation of this section, and if the violation pertains to a correctable condition on the property, the owner shall have 30 days in which to bring the property or condition into compliance with this chapter.

(Code 1977, § 8-2001; Code 1993, § 6-7; Ord. of 8-7-2012)