OVERVIEW OF CITY OF ST. LOUIS ORDINANCE 70608

In the 2017-2018 Board of Aldermen session, the St. Louis Food Policy Coalition was instrumental in developing Board Bill 52, which became law in August 2017. The bill was proposed in response to increasing interest and demand for sustainable and urban agriculture. The new law amends, repeals, and enacts several ordinances pertaining to the keeping of fowl in the City of St. Louis to better enable residents to keep fowl and to clarify related regulations and requirements.

The law amends Section 10.20.015 of the Revised Code of the City of St. Louis to permit the keeping of up to 8 chickens on residential parcels, free of permit, so long as the following requirements are met:

Rules and Regulations

1. No roosters are to be kept.

2. One fowl is permitted for every 4 square feet of indoor enclosure and 10 square feet of outdoor enclosure, up to a maximum of 8.

3. A predator-proof coop is to be provided for all fowl, which must be thoroughly ventilated, designed to be easily accessed and cleaned, and of sufficient size as determined by the Health Commissioner to permit free movement of the animals, not to exceed 50 square feet inside the coop.

4. The chickens must have access to an outdoor enclosure, which may or may not be the lot in its entirety. The outdoor enclosure shall be adequately fenced to contain the small animals within the enclosure and to prevent access by dogs and other predators.

5. No coop may be located in a front yard, or closer than 1.5 feet to a property line without a solid fence to separate the lots, or 10 feet from a dwelling on another lot with a solid fence to separate the lots.

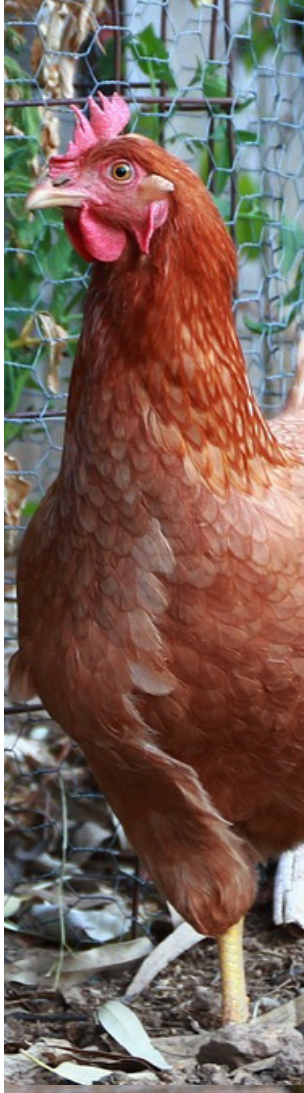
6. No fowl are to be unenclosed or able to enter streets or adjoining properties or otherwise be at large at any time.

7. Other minimum standards and regulations as established by the Health Commissioner governing the manner of keeping, raising, and sheltering of fowl are met, and adequate care given.

Small Farm Animal Permit

If you wish to keep more than 8 chickens, you must own at least 20,000 square feet of contiguous land and apply for a Small Farm Animal Permit annually, requiring the submission of the name of the applicant, the address for which the permit is sought, the address and telephone number at which the applicant can be contacted, the maximum number of animals which the applicant proposes to keep, a $60 inspection fee, any additional information requested by the Health Commissioner, and submission to an inspection by the Health Commissioner.

If approved, the Small Farm Animal Permit allows for an additional chicken per 1000 square feet of property, up to a maximum of 20 chickens.



Know Your Zoning

Ordinance 70608 permits those in residential zones to keep chickens; those in non-residential zones are not authorized to keep chickens by the new law. Before setting up a coop and flock, it is important to ensure you are in a residential zone.

Check this map to find your location's zoning: https://www.stlouismo.gov/government/departments/planning/documents/Citywide-Zoning-District-Map.cfm.

Alternatively, call the City of St. Louis Zoning Section to inquire about your zoning at (314) 622-3666.

Standards of Care

Your chickens will require a minimum standard of care to be kept, or else be deemed a nuisance or your care inadequate and potentially in violation of animal abuse statutes. These standards will be promulgated by the Health Commissioner.

Expected standards include:

1. Keeping the coop and enclosure clean and sanitary, and maintaining it such that it is free of vermin and adequately protects and contains the animals.

2. Preventing inordinate abundance of flies and other pests around the coop.

3. Controlling odor from the coop and animals.

4. Properly containing and disposing of waste, such as by keeping waste in a fly-proof receptacle while waiting for disposal.

5. Proper disposal of sick or deceased animals through burial or incineration in accordance with federal, state, and local law.

MCE Missouri Coalition for the Environment
EFFECTIVE CITIZEN ACTION SINCE 1969

STL FPC

Missouri Coalition for the Environment (MCE) is one of Missouri's leading environmental advocacy organizations and works to support clean water, open spaces, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and local food systems. MCE's mission is to educate, organize, and advocate in defense of Missouri's people and their environment. As the backbone organization of the **St. Louis Food Policy Coalition (STLFPC)**, MCE's Food and Farm Director works to advance local food access, urban agriculture, and infrastructure for small-scale, environmentally responsible farmers. The St. Louis Food Policy Coalition is a stakeholder group of organizations across the St. Louis region working in community development, urban farming, public health, nutrition education, and environmental protection. STLFPC's mission is to promote a thriving local food system that supports the community, health, environment, and economy of the Greater St. Louis area.

Follow MCE & STLFPC!

Facebook:
facebook.com/moenviron
facebook.com/stlfoodpolicy
Twitter:
@moenviron@stlfoodpolicy
Instagram:
@moenviron

Contact us:

Melissa Vatterott
Food & Farm Director
Chair of STLFPC
mvatterott@moenviron.org
314-727-0600 ext. 111