

TOWNSHIP OF MEDFORD

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-12

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 86
“STANDARDS FOR KEEPING CHICKENS”**

WHEREAS, Medford Township has a long-standing history of supporting the “Right To Farm”, through its adoption of Section 307 of the Land Development Ordinance, which permits agricultural activities as a permitted use in all zoning districts that qualify for such protection by State Statute; and

WHEREAS, the Medford Township Council has determined that the keeping of chickens promotes healthy food choices, including fresh eggs and the creation of local sustainable food systems; and

WHEREAS, the Medford Township Council has determined that the keeping of chickens, when properly managed and cared for, provides an excellent source of fertilizer for gardening; and

WHEREAS, the Medford Township Council has determined that keeping of chickens, provides for a family-friendly experience; and

WHEREAS, the Medford Township Council has determined that keeping of chickens, requires the imposition of certain safeguards and standards to ensure that the activity is properly regulated to prevent against nuisance related activities and to ensure to proper health and safety; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Medford Township Council that not withstanding the provisions of this ordinance to benefit from its provisions will review their respective property deeds for any deed restriction against such use, and the rules and regulations of their respective homeowner association, to determine whether or not the “Keeping of Chickens” would be contractually prohibited on their real property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Medford, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 86, “Standards For Keeping Chickens” is hereby established and supplements the Medford Township Code as follows:

86-1 STANDARDS FOR KEEPING CHICKENS

- A. Minimum Residential Lot Size. A minimum lot size of one-quarter acre is required to keep chickens pursuant to this Section. Keeping of

chickens shall only be permitted in zoning districts for residential or agricultural use.

B. Number of Allowable Chickens. No more than nine (9) female chickens may be kept on any residential lot.

C. Roosters,Cockerel. Roosters and Cockerels are prohibited.

D. Slaughtering. Slaughtering chickens in public view is prohibited.

E. Required Shelters.

(1) Chickens shall be provided a fully enclosed shelter with a fenced enclosure Shelters and enclosures shall be located in the rear yard.

(2) Shelters and enclosures shall be located at least fifteen (15) feet from any property line and at least thirty (30) feet from any residential structure on an adjoining property.

(3) Shelters shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet in size or eight (8) feet in height.

(4) Fences shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.

(5) Enclosures shall be kept clean

F. Waste Storage. Storage of manure, excreta, other waste odor or dust producing substances associated therewith shall be located at least fifteen (15) feet from any lot line or at least thirty (30) feet from any residential structure on an adjoining property, and shall be properly composted per health code and USDA guidelines or kept in a watertight container until it can be disposed of in a proper fashion off site.

G. Feed Storage. Animal feed stored outdoors shall be kept in metal containers with tight fitting lids.

H. No Running At Large. No person owning, keeping, maintaining, harboring a chicken shall permit, suffer or allow a chicken to run at large upon any public streets or upon any private property.

I. No Disturbing Of Peace. No person owning, keeping, maintaining or harboring a chicken shall permit, suffer or allow a chicken to disturb the peace or quiet of the neighborhood by creating a noise across a residential property line continually for ten (10) minutes or intermittently for thirty (30) minutes, unless provoked.

J. Penalty. Any person owning, keeping, maintaining or harboring a chicken, who violates or fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this Section 86-1, shall be liable for a penalty as prescribed in 1-16 of the Township Code.

K. The restrictions of this ordinance shall not apply to agricultural properties qualifying under the Right to Farm Act.

M. If a flock of chickens perish due to disease or suspected disease the homeowner shall immediately notify the Burlington County Health Department.

SECTION TWO. Severability. If any part of this Ordinance shall be invalid, such parts shall be deemed severable and the invalidity thereof shall not affect the remaining part of this Ordinance.

SECTION THREE. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective in accordance with State Law.

Township of Medford

Notice of Final Adoption

Ordinance 2015-12

“An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 86 “Standards for Keeping Chickens”

Notice is hereby given that the Ordinance as entitled above was adopted following second reading and public hearing at a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of Medford, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, held at the Public Safety Building, 91 Union Street, Medford, New Jersey on August 4, 2015.



Katherine E. Burger
Township Clerk