



City of Shell Rock  
802 N. Public Road, PO Box 522, Shell Rock, Iowa  
Phone 319-885-6555 | [www.shellrockiowa.org](http://www.shellrockiowa.org)  
Email: [clerk@shellrockiowa.org](mailto:clerk@shellrockiowa.org)

### **Urban Chicken Permit**

*Under the Code of Ordinances of Shell Rock, Iowa Chapter 72 the following resident is granted permission to keep chickens on their property from January 1, \_\_\_\_\_ through December 31, \_\_\_\_\_, at which time resident must reapply for continued permission:*

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

Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*The applicant has been found to have provided acceptable documentation to meet the following standards set by the City Council:*

- Landlord sign-off in writing with application (if applicant is a tenant)
- Coop/Pen meets ordinance requirements
- No outstanding nuisance abatements or fines
- A copy of Ordinance Chapter 72 has been reviewed and complied with
- No more than 4 hens allowed (no roosters)
  
- Completed application with signature and paid permit fee of \$25.00

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## ORDINANCE 401

### AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SHELL ROCK, IOWA, BY ADDING A NEW CHAPTER PERTAINING TO URBAN CHICKENS

#### CHAPTER 72 URBAN CHICKENS

Sections:

72.1 Purpose.

72.2 Definitions.

72.3 Where Permitted.

72.4 Enclosure Requirements.

72.5 Number of Chickens Permitted.

72.6 Permit Requirements.

**Sec. 72.1 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens within the City by allowing a process by which a property owner may keep a limited number of domesticated chickens on their property while observing minimum property standards.

**Sec. 72.2 Definitions.** Definitions used in this chapter.

Chicken shall mean a member of the subspecies *Gallus gallus domesticus*, a domesticated fowl.

Urban chicken shall mean a chicken kept on a permitted tract of land pursuant to a permit issued under this Chapter.

Coop shall mean a cage, enclosure or building used for housing and protecting chickens from weather and predators.

Pen shall mean an enclosure for chickens which allows freedom of movement but also prevents escape.

Permittee shall mean an applicant who has been granted a permit to raise, harbor or keep chickens pursuant to this Chapter.

**Sec. 72.3 Where Permitted.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the keeping of domestic chickens (sub species gallus gallus domesticus), except roosters, shall be permitted in single family residential properties lying within residential zoning districts as shown on the City of Shell Rock official Zoning Map so long as such keeping follows this subsection and all other applicable City ordinances.

**Sec. 72.4 Enclosure Requirements.** The following criteria shall be considered a minimum form of compliance for the City to consider issuing a permit allowing for the presence of any particular chickens unless allowing such chickens would 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. Chickens must be confined in a coop, fowl house, or mobile coop, known as a chicken tractor, not less than 18 inches in height. In addition to being confined within a coop, a fenced pen area at a size outlined below shall be maintained. Chickens must be kept within the coop, the fowl house, or the fenced pen area at all times unless removed for a temporary time for the safety of the chicken.
2. The coop, the fowl house, or the fenced pen area must be of such a design to be reasonably expected to prevent entry by dogs, cats, or other animals and shall be completely enclosed.
3. The coop or fowl house must be used for chickens only and must be well ventilated.
4. The coop, the fowl house, or the fenced pen area shall have a minimum of four (4) square feet of floor area for each chicken but shall not be any larger than twelve (12) square feet of area for each chicken. The coop, fowl house, or fenced pen area shall be a minimum of twenty-five (25) feet from any neighboring dwelling property line.
5. Any coop, fowl house, or fenced pen area must be well drained so there is no accumulation of moisture.
6. Any coop, fowl house, or fenced pen area shall be kept clean, sanitary and free from accumulation of chicken excrement and objectionable odors. All droppings and body excretions shall be either placed in fly-proof containers and double-bagged in plastic bags or, in the alternative, used as fertilizer on the same property or, with the owner's permission, on other property within the City, so long as the droppings and body excretions are spread and incorporated into the soil within twenty-four (24) hours.

7. In addition to the coop, fowl house, or fenced pen area, the permittee shall be responsible for sufficiently confining chickens to the permitted property and prevent chickens from entering upon any adjacent property.

8. All chicken feed shall be stored in rodent-proof containers.

9. All such chickens must be hens; no roosters are permitted.

10. The City shall not be liable for injury or death of chickens caused by dogs, cats, or other animals, domestic or wild, whether such animals are licensed by the City or not. Further, injury or death of a chicken caused by an animal is not, in and of itself, sufficient grounds for the City to determine that the animal is a vicious animal pursuant to this Code of Ordinances. Any dead chicken shall be disposed of immediately upon discovering said dead chicken in a manner so as to not cause a nuisance pursuant to this Code of Ordinances.

11. Slaughtering of chickens and egg sales are forbidden

12. An owner or possessor of animals on property that is newly annexed or rezoned to a residential classification has ninety (90) days from the date of annexation or rezoning to bring the property into compliance required by this section.

13. A violation of this subsection is a municipal infraction as provided in this Code of Ordinances.

14. The materials used in making an enclosure shall be uniform for each element of the structure such that the walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Enclosures shall be well maintained.

15. Henhouses, chicken tractors and chicken pens shall only be in the rear of the yard.

16. Any enclosed chicken pen shall consist of sturdy wire fencing. The pen must be covered with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing. Enclosures shall meet the City of Shell Rock building code and permit obtained prior to start of construction.

17. Non-commercial use only. A permit shall not allow the permittee to engage in chicken breeding or fertilizer production for commercial purposes.

**Sec. 72.5 Number of Chickens Permitted.** 1. No more than four (4) chickens shall be kept or maintained per property at any time

**Sec. 72.6 Permit Requirements.** No person shall keep any chickens unless they possess a City of Shell Rock permit issued by the City Clerk or their designee.

1. The fee for such a permit shall be twenty-five \$25 dollars.
2. Permits will be granted for one (1) year, valid from January 1 until December 31 and shall not be pro-rated for partial year. Permits may be purchased at any time during the year but will be valid only through December 31. There will be no refund of the permit fee.
3. Property owners shall notify the City upon discontinuation of housing chickens. As part of discontinuing of housing chickens on the property, the pen and coop areas shall be cleaned in a timely manner so as to not provide a nuisance to neighboring property owners. Fees shall not be refunded if the property owner removes the chickens from the premises. The permit may be suspended or revoked by the City Clerk or their designee upon hearing and finding evidence that the permittee has violated the conditions of the permit and listed in this Section of the Code. All chickens must be removed from the premises and disposed of in accordance with public health practices upon revocation of the permit. All associated costs of removal of the chickens shall be assessed back to the property owner.
4. By the granting of the permit to raise chickens and the application thereof, the permittee authorizes that the City or its agents have the right to go onto the permittee's property any time for the limited purpose of inspection of the premises to ensure that all applicable conditions have been met.