



Zoning Tidbits

This month's *tidbit*: Can chickens be raised in my backyard?

As raising chickens has become popular for backyards and to provide eggs for the family, this question arises quite often. While most of our township is an agricultural/rural area, it is also dotted with several subdivision areas. Owners need to be aware that animals omit offensive odors, can be destructive and require adequate fencing and space. Here's what your zoning resolution has to say.

200.01 Raising/Maintaining livestock (Farm Animals)

In a platted subdivision approved under the ORC 711.05, 711.09 or 711.10, or in any area consisting of fifteen or more lots approved under the ORC 711.131 that are contiguous to one another, or some of which are contiguous to one another and adjacent to one side of a dedicated public road, and the balance of which are contiguous to one another and adjacent to the opposite side of the same dedicated public road, the following regulations shall apply:

1. On lots of **three (3)** acres or less, the breeding, raising or maintaining of farm animals such as horses, pigs, cows, sheep, goats, fowl, and similar livestock is prohibited. (Rev. 12-20-17, Z28-C143)
2. On lots greater than **three (3)** acres but not greater than five (5) acres, a lot owner may stable or keep livestock provided buildings or stables incident to the housing of livestock shall not be permitted within fifty (50') feet of a dwelling or an adjacent property line;
3. No farm animals shall be pastured within five (5') feet on any lot line;
4. Keeping of chickens - No person shall keep chickens unless the following conditions are met.
 - A. **Lot size** - On lots of one (1) acre or more
 - B. **Enclosure** - Hens shall be provided with a covered, predator-proof coop or cage that is well-ventilated and designed to be

easily accessed for cleaning. The coop shall allow at least one square foot per hen. Hens shall have access to an outdoor enclosure that is adequately fenced to contain the birds on the property.

C. Sanitation - The coop and outdoor enclosure must be kept in a sanitary condition and free from offensive odors. The coop and outdoor enclosure must be cleaned on a regular basis to prevent accumulation of waste.

D. Roosters - It is unlawful for any person to keep roosters.

(Rev. 12-20-17, Z28-C143)

5. There shall be at least one (1) acre per horse or pony on a single property on which the horses or ponies are stabled.

No owner of any lot in a platted subdivision shall permit the use of any lot for the keeping of farm animals or livestock that produces, directly or indirectly, the noxious odor of the animals and livestock, insects, flies or other carriers of waste material, including, but not limited to, the transmission or flow of animal waste through the ground or by air from the lot to any adjoining lot or public right-of-way, or any other result of an animal or an animal husbandry ownership or use, which endangers the public's health, safety and general welfare on the lot or the owners or occupier of any adjoining lot, and the Board of Township Trustees may determine and find any such use to be a nuisance and that such nuisance causes injury to the property of another, endangers life and health, is offensive to the senses, violates laws of decency, or obstructs the reasonable and comfortable use of one's property.

We hope this helps give you a better understanding of zoning in Jerusalem Township. Please feel free to contact the Zoning Dept. with your additional questions or concerns. Feel free to contact us at 419.836.4510 or zoning@twp.jerusalem.oh.us. Regular office hours are Wednesdays from 1-6pm and we encourage you to stop by with your questions/concerns.

For more information check out the township website: <https://twp.jerusalem.oh.us/>