

February 5, 2014

To: Lynn Goldberg, AICP
lgoldberg@ci.calistoga.ca.us

Re: Input to Admendment of the City Ordinance to Allow raising Chickens within the City limits.

Please add my comments and concerns to the public record as the council and planning commission develop a new ordinance to allow chickens (or any edible animal -i.e. rabbits, pigeons or ducks) within the city limits.

My comments are directed to R3 zoning only. Overall I do not agree that edible or food producing animals other than pets should be allowed in a residential R3 zone.

When studying and considering an ordinance to allow small edible -food producing animals, I offer the following :

1. The ordinance must include other small edible food producing animals when studying the issue such as chickens, pigeons, quab, ducks, geese, pheasant, and peacocks? -**I recommend that all or none be allowed.**

2. R3 zone lot size must be conducive to raising a set number of animals ?
Would the chickens or other animals be in a contained pen or allowed to be free range?

3. **I recommend that a single family dwelling in an R3 zone, require the lot size must be a minimum 80' frontage and 10,000 square feet.**

4. I recommend that a cage, pen or structure to house the animals must have a **minimum setback of 50' from any residential dwelling** to not disturb surrounding neighbors, visitors in commercial lodging or multi family dwellings with animal sounds and night heating lights used in cold weather.

1. **The feed required for the animals attract rodents and encourage and increase the population of rats, opossums skunks and raccoons.**

Overall, I would prefer that **the ordinance remain in the current state as a code violation within the city limits of Calistoga.** If the amendment is approved for edible food producing animals within the city limit-I request that the above comments be considered.

A Concerned Citizen of Calistoga

*Robert Sherwood
480 Denmark St.
Sonoma, CA 95476
(707) 481-1206
sherwoodrs@comcast.net*


February 19, 2014

Richard Spitler
City Manager
1232 Washington St.
Calistoga, CA 94515

Dear Richard Spitler:

My name is Robert Sherwood, my sister and I Laura Sherwood have owned and operated the Cedars Care Home for the past 15 years. Approximately eight months ago my son begged me for chickens. I live in the town of Sonoma and called the city and found out it was not a problem to have chickens at my home as long as there were no roosters. I thought that Calistoga being even more rural, the rules would be the same. I built two chicken coops one for my home and the one for the Cedars Care Home. The chickens make little to no noise. Have entertained our residents and bring happiness and excitement to the children when they leave school and view the chickens through the fence. On January 1st, Irais Lopez-Ortega took over our business at the Cedars Care Home. The chickens had been on site and a part of our facility for six months prior to her buying our business. The chickens now have started laying eggs and provide a viable, wholesome, organic and sustainable food source for the residents. Unfortunately Iris has had to remove the chickens from the facility. It is my hope that the city will pass a new ordinance which will allow them to return home so that they can continue to bring enjoyment to the residents of the Cedars Care Home.

Thank You,


Robert Sherwood

Cc: Councilmembers;
Chris Canning
Michael Dunsford
Gary Kraus
Irais Lopez-Ortega
James Barnes

To the Planning Department Planning Commission and City Council

I regret I will not be able to attend the Planning Commission Wednesday the 12th.

I am writing to you in regard the Domestic Chicken Keeping. I think it would be great to have your chickens and get fresh eggs from the coop, However, I have lived next to chickens' in the past; it does not work in the city.

I realize you will not be allowing roosters, but chickens are very noisy as well. They cluck starting on or before daybreak, waking all the neighbors. There will be an influx of rodents, opossum and raccoons. In addition, there is always noise from the coop doors and early egg collection.

Our homes are too close together for this in the city. Many of us have 100+ year old houses, they are built very close to each other and with the old windows, can hear every thing.

Chickens should be allowed in the country and on the outskirts of town where they have more land and the homes are not as near to each other.

Thank you

Susan Baxter
141 Second Street
Caistoga, CA 94515

Susan

Susan Baxter
smvb@comcast.net
707 341-3048

March 12, 2014

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CITY OF CALISTOGA


Dear Members of the Calistoga Planning Commission,

I would like to voice my support for the Domestic Chicken Keeping ammendment that would permit the raising of chickens within the residential areas in Calistoga.

I grew up in a rural area where the sound of chickens (and roosters) was a way of life. They signify a connection to the farm, big or small, that supports gives us our food and represents our rural inheritance. Raising chickens is fun and educational. Having them lay eggs and consuming those eggs is as rewarding as harvesting the small garden and having the freshest food on the dinner table.

My hope is that the commission will amend the city regulations and, as most cities and towns in the San Francisco area have done for a long time, allow the raising of chickens, subject to limits and regulations deemed appropriate.

Sincerely,



John Gleazer
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Calistoga, CA 94515
(707) 341-3047