



City of Calistoga
Hen-Keeping Regulations

Effective May 15, 2014

The keeping of domestic chickens is allowed as an accessory use in the following residential zoning districts. No special approval from the City is needed, except that a building permit may be required under certain situations (see below).

Maximum number of hens allowed

Residential Zoning District ¹	Maximum number of hens
Rural Residential – Hillside (RR-H)	Unlimited (for private use)
Rural Residential (RR)	Up to 6
One-Family Residential (R-1/R-1-10)	Up to 4 on a lot of 6,000 sq. ft. or more
Two-Family Residential (R-2)	Up to 4 on a lot of 6,000 sq. ft. or more that is developed with no more than 1 dwelling unit
Multi-Family Residential/Office (R-3)	Up to 4 on a lot of 6,000 sq. ft. or more that is developed with no more than 1 dwelling unit

Rooster Prohibition

Only hens may be kept. The keeping of roosters is prohibited.

Containment

Chickens shall be contained within the rear and/or side yards of the property.

Coops and pens

- A. Location
 - 1. Coops and pens shall be set back a minimum of five feet from side and rear interior property lines.
 - 2. Coops and pens shall be located at least 20 feet from any building on a neighboring property used or capable of being used for human habitation.
- B. Design and maintenance. Coops and pens shall be designed and constructed to securely contain the hens, and prevent rats and other vermin from being harbored underneath or within the enclosure.
- C. Maximum height. A coop may be no taller than eight feet in height.

¹ The Calistoga Zoning Map may be viewed at: <http://www.ci.calistoga.ca.us/Index.aspx?page=618>

- D. Building code compliance. A building permit shall be obtained for coop structures exceeding 120 square feet and/or when electricity or plumbing is installed.
- E. Lighting. Any lighting for a coop or pen shall not create off-site glare.

Ongoing maintenance and care

- A. Coops and pens shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and free of vermin, obnoxious smells, substances and noise.
- B. All feed and other items associated with hen keeping shall be managed to minimize contact with rodents.

*For further information, contact the Calistoga Planning & Building Department
at 707.942.2827 or pdepartment@ci.calistoga.ca.us*