

Municipal Chicken and Beekeeping Regulations

As part of the review process, Arapahoe County identified chicken and beekeeping regulations in adjacent and surrounding jurisdictions. This list should not be considered inclusive; residents within these areas should contact their respective jurisdiction for the latest information.

CITY OF ENGLEWOOD

Chickens

Chickens are allowed in all zone categories. No limit on number of chickens or roosters.

Bee Keeping

Bee keeping requires a permit with a limit of (3) hives per premises. Applicant must have:

1. Prior experience, experienced mentor, active membership in a beekeeping organization or classes in apiculture.
2. A backyard fenced with a six foot privacy fence or hedges high enough to encourage bees to overfly neighboring properties. Or signed affidavits from contiguous neighbors indicating they approve of the hives w/o fencing or hedges.
3. A water source in the backyard
4. At least (2) contact names and numbers in the event of swarms or other issues.

CITY OF LITTLETON

Chickens

(4) Chickens allowed. No Roosters. Allowed in most residential zones. Chickens may not “run at large” in the City and upon the property of others or upon the streets, alleys or other public places within the City.

Chickens: As accessory to a single-family residential use in the R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-E zone districts, a maximum of not more than four (4) chicken hens are permitted, subject to the following standards:

The chicken hens must be provided with a covered predator resistant chicken house that is properly ventilated and designed to be easily accessed, cleaned and maintained. The chicken house must have a minimum of two (2) square feet of floor space per bird with an attached outdoor enclosure. The outdoor enclosure must have a minimum of ten (10) square feet per bird.

Neither the chicken house nor the outdoor enclosure may be located less than fifteen feet (15') from any abutting property line.

Roosters are prohibited. No person may own or keep a rooster in R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-E zone districts.

The chicken hens may not be killed by or at the direction of the owner or keeper thereof, except pursuant to lawful order of an appropriate state, county, or city official, or for the purpose of euthanasia when surrendered to a licensed veterinarian or the Humane Society for such purpose, or as otherwise expressly permitted by law.

Odor, dust, waste, and drainage must be controlled so as not to constitute a nuisance, safety hazard or health problem to adjoining property or uses. (Ord. 4, Series of 2010)

Bee Keeping

Definitions: The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this section, shall have meanings APIARY: A place where one or more beehives are kept.

BEE: The adult stage of the common domestic honeybee, *Apis mellifera* species. BEEKEEPER: Any person who owns or maintains a bee colony.

COLONY: A hive and its equipment and appurtenances, including bees, comb, honey, pollen, and brood. HIVE: A structure intended for the housing of one bee colony. A hive, including the attached honey supers, shall not exceed twelve (12) cubic feet in size. ROBBING: The pilfering of honey from a weak colony by other honeybees or insects. TRACT: A contiguous parcel of land under common ownership.

(B) Hives: All bee colonies shall be kept in hives with removable combs, which shall be kept in sound and usable condition.**(C) Setback:** All hives shall be located at least five feet (5') from any adjoining property with the back of the hive facing the nearest adjoining property.

(D) Fencing Of Flyways: In each instance in which any colony is situated within twenty five feet (25') of a developed public or private property line of the tract upon which the apiary is situated, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six feet (6') in height consisting of a solid wall or fence parallel to the property line and extending ten feet (10') beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet (6') above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.

(E) Water: Each property owner or beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, bibcocks, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

(F) Maintenance: Each property owner or beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the grounds of the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee proof enclosure.

(G) Queens: In any instance in which a colony exhibits usually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to requeen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and nonswarming characteristics

(H) Colony Densities: 1. it shall be unlawful to keep any colony on a multiple-family lot or to keep more than the following number of colonies on any tract within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the tract on which the apiary is situated:

(a) Less than one-half (1/2) acre lot size: Four (4) colonies;

(b) One-half (1/2) acre or more but less than one acre lot size: Six (6) colonies;

(c) One acre or larger lot size: Eight (8) colonies;

(d) Regardless of lot size, where all hives are situated at least two hundred feet (200') in any direction from all property lines of the lot on which the apiary is situated, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.

2. For each two (2) colonies authorized under colony densities, subsection (H)1 of this section, there may be maintained upon the same tract one nucleus colony in a hive structure not exceeding one standard nine and five-eighths inch (95/8") depth ten (10) frame hive body with no supers attached as required from time to time for management of swarms. Each such nucleus colony shall be disposed of or combined with an authorized colony within thirty (30) days after the date it is acquired.

CITY OF CENTENNIAL

Chickens

A total of (6) chickens, provided that chickens must be contained in a covered enclosure between dusk and dawn. Any Rooster over the age of 6 months is prohibited in all zones.

Requirements for Accessory Buildings or Structures for the Keeping of Chickens

Height. Height shall not exceed 10 feet to the peak of the roof.

Setbacks

Front: Behind the principal building.

Street Side: Equal to the street side setback required for the principal building.

Interior Side: 10 feet.

Rear: 10 feet.

Bee Keeping

Requirements for Accessory Buildings or Structures for Beekeeping.

Permitted Lots. Hive boxes are only permitted on residentially and agriculturally zoned lots with single- family detached dwelling units.

Hive Box Height and Area. Hive boxes and any ground-mounted appurtenances are permitted to be a combined height of up to six (6) feet above ground level and up to ten (10) cubic feet in area.

Setbacks.

Front: Behind the principal building.

Street Side: Equal to the street side setback required for the principal building.

Interior Side: Ten (10) feet.

Rear: Ten (10) feet.

Hive Boxes. All bee colonies shall be kept in hive boxes with movable combs or frames.

Hive Box Maximums. Maximum hive boxes permitted per residential and agricultural zone lot: Lots less than one-quarter acre in size: Two (2) hive boxes.

Lots between one-quarter acre and less than one-half acre in size: Four (4) hive boxes. Lots between one-half acre and less than one-acre in size: Six (6) hive boxes.

Lots between one-acre and less than two-acres in size: Eight (8) hive boxes. Lots two acres and greater in size: Twelve (12) hive boxes.

Exception: For lots where all hive boxes are situated at least two hundred fifty (250) feet in any direction from all property lines of the lot, there is no limit as to the maximum hive boxes permitted per residential lot.

CITY OF AURORA

Chickens

Chickens are allowed in residential areas with an approved permit from the city. Owners can have no more than 6 chickens at any given time; roosters are prohibited on resident property.

- For all single-family residential properties upon lots of 20,000 or more square feet in size up to 8 chicken hens will be allowed, but no roosters.
- Chickens must be provided a chicken house and an adjacent 6-square-foot or larger enclosure; chickens must have access to such house and enclosure during daylight hours. Chickens must be secured in the chicken house from dusk to dawn. Chickens may not run at large.

HOUSE REQUIREMENTS: House must be covered and predator-resistant. House may be located in rear yard only.

House must be at least 2 square feet per chicken in floor space, but not greater than 120 square feet. House must be properly ventilated and designed to be easily accessed, cleaned, and maintained

Setbacks: Structure must be located at least 15 feet from the property line of any abutting properties. If Owner wishes the structure to be closer than 15 feet to an abutting property, Owner must get written consent from the property owner(s) of the affected properties.

Bee Keeping

Setback. All hives shall be located at least five feet from any adjoining property with the back of the hive facing the nearest adjoining property.

Fencing of flyways. In each instance in which any colony is situated within 25 feet of a developed public or private property line of the tract upon which the apiary is situated, as measured from the nearest point on the hive to the property line, the beekeeper shall establish and maintain a flyway barrier at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall or fence parallel to the property line and extending ten feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet above ground level over the property lines in the vicinity of the apiary.

Water. Each beekeeper shall ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools, bibcocks, pet water bowls, birdbaths or other water sources where they may cause human, bird or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

Maintenance. Each beekeeper shall ensure that no bee comb or other materials that might encourage robbing are left upon the grounds of the apiary site. Upon their removal from the hive, all such materials shall promptly be disposed of in a sealed container or placed within a building or other bee-proof enclosure.

Queens. In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, it shall be the duty of the beekeeper to re-queen the colony. Queens shall be selected from stock bred for gentleness and nonswarming characteristics.

Colony densities: It shall be unlawful to keep more than the following number of colonies on any tract within the city, based upon the size or configuration of the tract on which the apiary is situated: One-quarter acre or less tract size—Two colonies;

More than one-quarter acre but less than one-half acre tract size—Four colonies; One-half acre or more but less than one acre tract size—Six colonies;

One acre or larger tract size—Eight colonies;

Regardless of tract size, where all hives are situated at least 200 feet in any direction from all property lines of the tract on which the apiary is situated, there shall be no limit to the number of colonies.