

**BOROUGH OF ROYALTON DAUPHIN  
COUNTY**

**ORDINANCE NO. 270**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF ROYALTON, DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF 1980 AS AMENDED, TO PROVIDE FOR THE KEEPING OF DOMESTIC CHICKENS AS A PERMITTED ACCESSORY USE IN ALL ZONING DISTRICTS, WITH RELATED REGULATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Borough Council is authorized by the Municipalities Planning Code to regulate zoning and land use within the Borough through its Zoning Ordinance of 1980 as amended;

**WHEREAS**, Borough Council desires to amend its Zoning Ordinance at Article III to provide for, and regulate, the keeping of chickens for personal use in all Zoning Districts in the Borough;

**Special Requirements for Domestic Chicken Keeping**

- A. A permit is required from Royalton Borough.
- (1) The permit fee of \$45.00 must be paid to cover the costs of processing/reviewing the application and performing the final inspection. The Borough reserves the right to inspect the property on a yearly basis following permit approval.
  - (2) A survey must be submitted that depicts the fenced in area, chicken coop, feed storage area, and dropping storage.
  - (3) Existing flock owners must obtain a permit within 60 days of Ordinance No. 270 enactment.
- B. Keeping chickens should be listed as an accessory use in all zoning districts only.
- (1) Additionally, the use should be restricted to single-family lots (not permitted for townhouses, duplexes, multi-family dwellings, or apartments).
  - (2) Residents who live in an HOA must obtain approval from their HOA.
- C. The keeping of chickens should only be for personal use. The selling of chickens, eggs, manure, roosters or anything else related to this use is prohibited. Also prohibited is the butchering of birds on-site.
- D. Maximum of 5 chickens are permitted. Male chickens over the age of 6 months (i.e. roosters) are not permitted. Existing flocks exceeding 5 chickens at the effective date of this Ordinance shall have one (1) year to comply with this maximum number of chickens.

E. Chickens must be kept within an enclosed, fenced-in area and must have a shelter structure (i.e. coop).

- (1) The required coop must be set back at least 40' from all dwellings on adjacent properties and must be within the fenced in area. (a) Combined fence/coop structures are permissible but must meet the setback from all properties lines or dwellings and may only be located in the rear yard (or, for corner lots only, in the side yard because of two front yards must meet front yard setback.)
- (2) Any chicken coop must be 6 sq. ft in size, with an additional 2 sq. ft. required for each chicken over 5.
- (3) Chicken coops must be covered, predator-proof, thoroughly ventilated and of sufficient size for the chickens to be able to move freely. Coops must be enclosed on all sides and have doors and openings covered in material to prevent vermin and predators from entering.
- (4) No scrap or mismatched materials can be used to construct coops. Coops must be painted or stained a color that is "in harmony" with the surrounding area
- (5) Coops must be maintained and sanitized to prevent vermin and obnoxious odors.
- (6) Feed and droppings must be stored in secured, rodent-proof containers or within an enclosed structure. Droppings stored outside in a secured container must be at least 40' from all property lines or dwellings.
- (7) Any vacant coops must be removed within one (1) year.

F. Chicken Coop standards – Permittees who wish to raise chickens on their property must comply with chicken coop standards promulgated by Council Resolution. A copy of these Regulations must be read, understood and signed.

G. Renters must supply written permission from the property owner or landlord when applying for a chicken permit.

H. Residents are responsible for preventing excessive noise, offensive odors or unsanitary conditions that disturb neighbors or threaten public health. The keeping of chickens and storage of any associated waste or feed may not create conditions hannful to the public health or which create safety hazards, odors, unsightliness, or public nuisances.

I. Violations

- A. The following acts shall be deemed to be violations of this chapter:
- (1) The keeping of chickens without a permit or keeping of chickens in violation of any provision of this chapter.
  - (2) Permitting any owner, renter, lessee or other occupant of a property to keep chickens on a property in violation of this chapter.
  - (3) Keeping chickens inside the dwelling unit.
  - (4) The slaughtering of chickens.

J. Repealer

The provisions of this Ordinance, as far as they are the same as those of ordinances in force immediately prior to the enactment of this Ordinance, are intended as a continuation of such ordinances and not as new enactments. The provisions of this Ordinance shall not affect any such suit or prosecution pending or to be instituted to enforce any right or penalty or to punish any offense under the authority of any ordinance repealed by this Ordinance.

K. Severability

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable, and if any of its provisions shall be held to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as a legislative intent that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional, illegal or invalid provision not been included herein.

**ENACTED AND ORDAINED** into an Ordinance this 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.

**ATTEST:**

**BOROUGH OF ROYALTON**

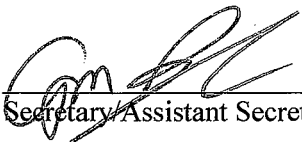
(Corporate SEAL)

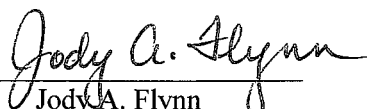
ENACTED AND ADOPTED by the Borough Council this 13th day of August, 2024.

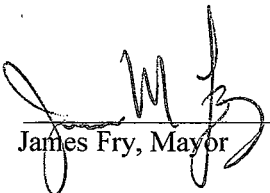
**ATTEST:**

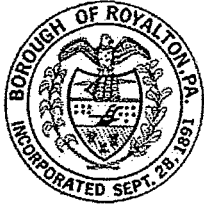
**BOROUGH OF ROYALTON**

(Corporate SEAL)

By:   
Secretary/Assistant Secretary

By:   
Jody A. Flynn  
Council President

By:   
James Fry, Mayor



## BOROUGH OF ROYALTON

### RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC CHICKEN PERMIT

1. Applicant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Size of Lot \_\_\_\_\_

\* Is this property a corner lot?  Yes  No

\* Do you have an HOA?  Yes  No

2. Do you rent this property?  Yes  No, I'm the property owner

*If Yes – Please list the following information:*

Name of Property Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

3. Number of chickens: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Size of Coop: Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Width: \_\_\_\_\_

Height of Structure from average grade level: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

5. Please provide the following information regarding the distance from each property line to the proposed location of your coop & fence. **This section MUST be filled in completely.**

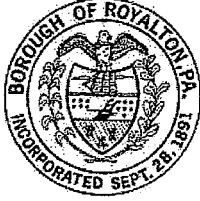
**Coop Setbacks:**

FRONT/right-of-way \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

REAR property line \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

RIGHT property line \_\_\_\_\_ ft.

LEFT property line \_\_\_\_\_ ft.



**BOROUGH OF ROYALTON  
RESIDENTIAL DOMESTIC CHICKEN PERMIT**

6. Building Material of proposed coop: \_\_\_\_\_

Building Material of proposed fence/enclosure: \_\_\_\_\_

*Feed and droppings must be stored in secured, rodent-proof containers or within an enclosed structure. Droppings stored outside in a secured container must be at least 40' from all property lines. This will be verified during the required inspection.*

7. I hereby acknowledge the information contained herein is true and correct, and I hereby agree that all applicable provisions of the Borough of Royalton Codes shall be complied with.

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

## RENTAL AUTHORIZATION FORM

*(Must be completed by the property owner)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Property Owner,

The Borough of Royalton requires that any renter who would like to keep domestic chickens on their property to submit written authorization from the property owner. As the owner of record, please complete the following form if you have allowed your renter to have chickens on your property.

I \_\_\_\_\_ am the legal owner of the property located at:  
*(Your Name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Address of rental property)*

I hereby grant approval to \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Applicant's Name)*

*to keep domestic chickens on the above listed property, in accordance with the regulations in the Zoning Ordinance, No. 270, as amended.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_