



## **Animal Keeping Ordinance FAQ**

### **Q1: What is Animal Keeping?**

Animal keeping is the practice of owning certain, non-domesticated animals and honeybees at residential properties for personal use. It allows homeowners and communities to produce healthy, nutritional food and promotes environmental sustainability.

### **Q2: What animals are allowed in the animal keeping ordinance?**

Only chickens, ducks, and honeybees. Roosters are not allowed in the ordinance.

### **Q3: How many chickens and ducks would be allowed on residential properties based on spacing?**

A combination of 8 chickens and ducks and up to 4 honeybee hives. Up to 12 chickens would be allowed on urban farms and gardens. An urban garden is a lot under one acre and an urban farm is a lot over one acre.

### **Q4: Do I need a license if I only wanted to keep honeybee hives?**

No, a bee keeping license is not required. Potential honeybee keepers only need to follow the spacing guidelines.

### **Q5: What are the distance requirements for honeybee hives?**

If a barrier is present between neighboring properties, hives must be no less than 5 feet from the property line. If a barrier is not present, hives must be 25 feet from the neighbor's property line. Barriers include fences, trees, and walls.

### **Q6: Are chickens and ducks required to be in enclosures?**

Yes, chickens and ducks must be kept in an enclosure in the rear of the owner's property no less than 30 feet from the neighboring homes and 5 feet from the neighboring property line.

### **Q7: Will a license be required to participate in Animal Keeping?**

Yes, applicants will need to apply for a license through Detroit Animal Care and Control for chickens and ducks. The proposed annual licensing fee is \$50. Once again, a license is not required to keep honeybee hives.