



# BACKYARD CHICKEN LICENSE APPLICATION \$25.00

Code Compliance & Community Development Departments  
1 Descombes Drive, Broomfield CO 80020 • 303.438.6389

Street Address:	
Daytime Phone:	Email:

The undersigned is permitted to keep chickens at the location listed above. Chickens are allowed in single-family areas, absent specific zoning provisions, subject to the following:

**RESTRICTIONS:**

- 1) No more than five chickens are permitted per residential lot;
- 2) Roosters are prohibited;
- 3) Chickens must be contained within a coop and enclosure;
- 4) Chickens may not be kept within a front yard;
- 5) Coops and enclosures must be set back a minimum of 10 feet from the property line;
- 6) Outside slaughtering is prohibited;
- 7) Coops and enclosures less than six feet in height or coops 32 square feet or less shall not require a building permit. Coops and enclosures six feet or greater in height or coops greater than 32 square feet shall require a building permit through the [Building Division](#) of the Community Development Department.

**Failure to comply with these provisions shall constitute a violation of the municipal code and shall be subject to the penalty provisions contained in [Chapter 1-12, B.M.C., the Broomfield Penalty Ordinance](#).**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

- SAFETY - It is important that your coop and enclosure be constructed securely to keep chickens safe from predators such as owls, foxes, coyotes, and skunks. **Please be aware that no action will be taken by the Colorado Department of Parks and Wildlife or by the City and County of Broomfield due to wildlife conflicts with coops or the killing of chickens by wildlife.** Additional information is provided on the attached predator information sheet.
- SANITATION AND ODOR - The keeping of chickens is subject to the provisions of section [6-28-010](#) of the municipal code which requires the removal of all fecal wastes from private property as necessary to prevent diseases, hazards, and odors.
- FOOD STORAGE – To prevent disease and illness, it is important to follow health guidelines related to the proper handling, washing, storage, and consumption of fresh eggs.
- COVENANTS – Private covenants in residential areas may prohibit the keeping of chickens. **The applicant is responsible for complying with and abiding by their homeowner’s association restrictions (if any).**

*I affirm that I live in a single family area and agree to abide by the restrictions listed above and contained in section [6-24-010\(B\)](#) of the municipal code and any other restrictions applicable to backyard chickens. Furthermore, I am aware of the risks and recommendations from Colorado Parks and Wildlife listed on the back of this license.*

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>For Office Use Only:</b>		
Issued by:	Date:	License #:

# BACKYARD CHICKENS PREDATOR INFORMATION SHEET

As a part of the research into the issue of backyard chickens, City and County of Broomfield staff contacted Colorado Parks and Wildlife, a division of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, who provided the following information:

Chicken coops have been found to attract a variety of wildlife including owls, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and skunks. (These are common urban predators that are found in most suburban communities, including Broomfield.) Colorado Parks and Wildlife have responded to a variety of residential conflicts with wildlife stemming from backyard chicken coops. Colorado Parks and Wildlife provided two recommendations:

- 1) make sure that chicken coops are very secure; and
- 2) make sure the resident is aware of the risks of keeping chickens.

Specifically, the following recommendations are suggested regarding secure chicken coops:

- Coops should be complete enclosures, including roof coverage, as owls commonly fly into open coops and kill all of the chickens inside.
- Coops should have a “night coop” area that limits the movements, sights, and sounds of the chickens at night since most predators hunt at night and are attracted to the sights and sounds of the chickens.
- Coops should have wire mesh around the edges that extends below the ground to prevent digging, as several predators will simply dig under the side of the coop at night.

Regarding the need to make the resident aware of the risks, it is recommended that:

- The licensing process should have the resident acknowledge the risks of conflict with wildlife and the need for proper coop design.
- The resident should accept the responsibility to provide facilities that are adequate to prevent wildlife conflicts and should accept the responsibility for subsequent conflicts and for the cost of the losses.
- It should be noted on the license that ***“no action will be taken by Colorado Parks and Wildlife or by the City and County of Broomfield due to wildlife conflicts with coops or the killing of chickens by wildlife.”***

Colorado Parks and Wildlife home page: <https://cpw.state.co.us/>

CSU Extension Office: <https://extension.colostate.edu/>