

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF MY CHICKENS BECOME SICK?

Isolate the sick individual from the flock and seek immediate help. A list of area veterinarian offices who care for chickens is found below:

**UW School of Veterinary Medicine**  
2015 Linden Drive  
Madison, WI 53706  
(608) 263-7600  
[uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu](http://uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu)  
(608) 263-7600

**Janesville Veterinary Clinic - East**  
1730 E Milwaukee St.  
Janesville, WI 53545  
[janeshvillevetclinic.com/](http://janeshvillevetclinic.com/)  
(608) 752-8127

**Badger Veterinary Hospital - Janesville**  
3113 E McCormick Dr.  
Janesville, WI 53546  
[www.badgervet.com/](http://www.badgervet.com/)  
(608) 754-1888

**Janesville Veterinary Clinic - West**  
1802 Mineral Point Ave.  
Janesville, WI 53548  
[janeshvillevetclinic.com/](http://janeshvillevetclinic.com/)  
(608) 754-6606

## IF I DECIDE TO EAT MY CHICKENS, CAN I SLAUGHTER THEM AT HOME?

No, slaughtering of chickens within the City limits is prohibited. Only licensed facilities may be used. If you choose, you may contact this shop:

**Twin Cities Pack, Inc.**  
5607 E. County Highway J  
Clinton, Wisconsin 53525  
[www.twincitiespack.com](http://www.twincitiespack.com)  
(608) 678-4428

## MAY I HAVE CHICKENS ON

If your property is zoned residential and includes one single-family residence, you can keep up to four female chickens on your property.

### IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO DO BEFORE OBTAINING A COOP/RUN?

Interested individuals must acquire an annual residential chicken premises permit before obtaining chickens or constructing a coop and run. The following information is required:

- Complete & return the required application, available on the City of Janesville website at: [www.ci.janesville.wi.us/buildingpermits](http://www.ci.janesville.wi.us/buildingpermits).
- Provide an accurate drawing of the location of the proposed coop, run, single family residence and other detached buildings. This drawing will need to contain the distance between the coop and run in relation to all other buildings on the property, any neighboring house and all lot line.
- Provide a photo of the coop you intend to purchase. If you intend to construct a coop, you must still provide a photo of the design and construct it accordingly. Deviations to your plans may cause revocation of your permit.
- Provide documentation of your address being registered with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection pursuant to Wis. Stats. 95.51 and ATCP 17, Wis. Adm. Code. Further information and applications can be found here: [https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs\\_Services/PremisesRegistration.aspx](https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Programs_Services/PremisesRegistration.aspx)
- Check the property's deed to see if there are subdivision restrictive covenants that prohibit raising poultry on the premises.
- Pay the initial \$61 permit fee and the annual \$26 renewal fee each year thereafter.
- Permit year is January 1st - December 31st.
- Once you have obtained your permit, you are free to acquire a coop, run and chickens. You may be issued a violation if you obtain them prior to obtaining a permit.

## NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information, please visit the following resources:

"Ask a Poultry Farmer"  
<http://askapoultryfarmer.com>  
[dalewheelock@gmail.com](mailto:dalewheelock@gmail.com)

"Urban Chickens"  
<http://urbanchickens.org>

"Down the Lane"  
[http://www.downthelane.net/Page\\_7.php](http://www.downthelane.net/Page_7.php)

"University of Minnesota—Extension Backyard Chickens FAQ"  
<http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics/>



### Building Division

18 N. Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 5005

Janesville, WI 53547-5005

Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

**(608) 755-3060**

[www.ci.janesville.wi.us](http://www.ci.janesville.wi.us)



# Backyard

## Chickens



**See insert for acceptable Coop/Run Designs**

**A guide for keeping backyard chickens in Janesville**



**CITY OF JANESVILLE**  
*Wisconsin's Park Place*

# BACKYARD CHICKEN FAQs

## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RAISING CHICKENS?

### Raising Chickens is Fun and Interesting

Backyard chickens can be an enjoyable experience for the whole family and neighbors, including playing, feeding and just observing these unique birds.

### Positive Educational Opportunity

Children (and adults) will learn about where food comes from and develop responsibility for the care of an animal.

### Healthy, Local & Sustainable Protein Source

For households seeking to produce their own food, the eggs gathered from backyard chickens provides the needed source of protein that is often missing. As a benefit, well-treated backyard chickens tend to produce extremely high quality eggs.

### Chickens are Great for Your Garden

Chickens are huge consumers of bugs and pests. Their waste is also high in nitrogen, which makes chicken manure an effective and natural fertilizer for your garden.

## HOW DO I CARE FOR CHICKENS?

- Chickens need to be fed and their water changed on a daily basis.
- Chickens should be let out into their run each morning, and put back into the coop each night at dusk to protect them from unwanted predators (raccoons, owls, hawks, and cats).
- Chicken eggs should be picked up twice daily.
- The chicken coop and run should be cleaned once per week to maintain sanitation and odor control.

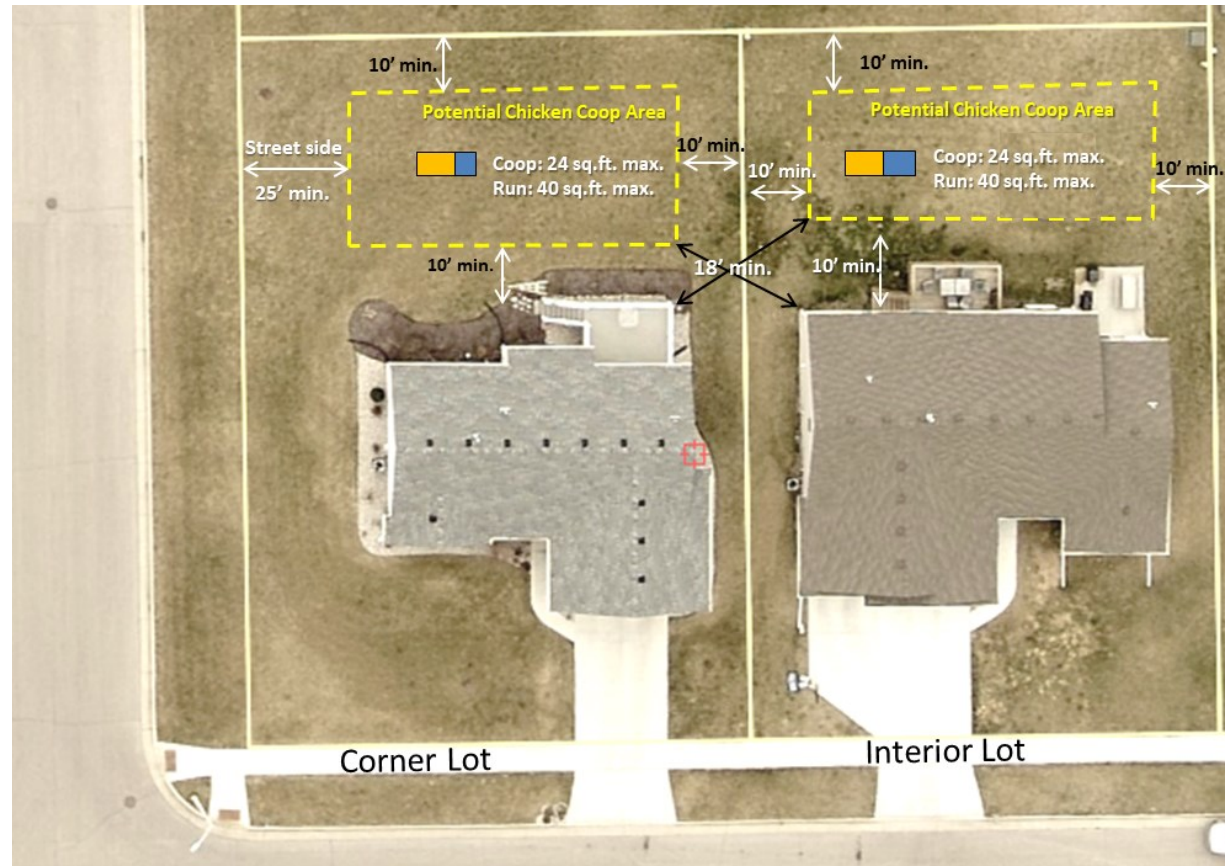
## WHAT DO CHICKENS EAT?

They eat grains, fruits and vegetables as well as insects. Chickens should typically be fed a prepared feed that is balanced for vitamins, minerals, and protein. A healthy laying hen diet should also contain crushed oyster shell for egg production and grit for digestion. A 6-pound hen will eat roughly 3 pounds of feed each week.

## WHERE CAN MY CHICKEN COOP AND

City Ordinance requires chickens to be kept in a coop or run **at all times**. The coop must be built in a workman-like fashion and the run must be attached and contiguous to the coop.

- Coops and runs must be located in the rear yard.
- Coops cannot exceed 24 square feet in size with a minimum of 3 square feet per bird.
- Runs must be attached and contiguous to the coop and may not exceed 40 square feet.
- Coops and runs must be no closer than 10 ft. from the rear wall of the house.
- Coops and runs must be no closer than 10 ft. from any property lot line.
- Coops and run must be no closer than 18 feet from an adjacent property's house.



## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH CHICKEN MANURE?

Chicken manure is one of the most nutrient rich of animal manures and is an excellent source of fertilizer for gardens. However, chicken manure has extremely high levels of nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>) requiring it to first be composted to avoid "burning" plants. You may also bag chicken manure and place it in your City-provided garbage cart.

Additional information on chicken manure can be found at the links below:

[https://www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock/camm/camm\\_files/poultry/pch3b\\_00.pdf](https://www.clemson.edu/extension/livestock/camm/camm_files/poultry/pch3b_00.pdf)

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics/>



## HOW DO I GET RID OF MY CHICKENS IF I NO LONGER WISH TO KEEP

If you wish your chickens to live a long and happy life elsewhere, please contact the following organizations below:

**Dane County Humane Society**  
[www.giveshelter.org](http://www.giveshelter.org)  
(608) 838-0413

If your chicken(s) dies from causes other than slaughter, you may dispose of the carcass by bagging and placing it in your City-provided garbage cart.

## Acceptable Designs

Coop: 24 sq.ft. max  
Run: 40 sq.ft. max

