



Chickens and Roosters in Sacramento County

Zoning ordinances determine if you can keep chickens or roosters on your property.

What is a Zoning ordinance?

Counties adopt zoning ordinance (rules) to designate how land can be used. Zoning ordinances are designed to protect property owner rights and private property values by ensuring standards for public health, safety and welfare are in place. For many property owners, zoning's primary benefit is ensuring that potentially harmful, incompatible uses of neighboring properties will not threaten the value of their properties and their legitimate uses.

Can I keep chickens or roosters at my residence for personal use or consumption?

Your property lots must meet the minimum 10,000 square feet requirement to keep chickens and/or roosters. Duplexes and half-plexes may not keep chickens and/or roosters under any circumstances. Single family homes may apply for a "conditional use permit" to keep chickens or roosters as a hobby for personal use or food; however the application cost is about \$8,574 per address and does not guarantee the application will be approved. A renter may apply for the permit, but the property owner must also give permission in writing.

Why chickens and/or roosters are considered a problem?

Chickens and/or roosters can disturb the peace and quiet of a neighborhood and strain relationships with neighbors. They can cause noise, odors, and attract flies and other nuisance insects. They make it difficult for neighbors to spend time in their yards, noise can disturb their sleep, odors force people to keep windows closed, and interferes with the enjoyment of their homes.

If you have any questions regarding the "conditional use permit" and county zoning codes, please contact the Planning Department Public Information office at (916) 874-6221 or email at sacplan@saccounty.net.