

**CHAPTER 55.5 – LIVESTOCK WITHIN CITY LIMITS**

**CHAPTER 57 – CHICKEN ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF NORTH ENGLISH, IOWA 2017 BY CHANGING CHICKENS WITHIN CITY LIMITS:

BE IT ENACTED by the City Council of North English, Iowa:

**SECTION MODIFIED, CHAPTER 55.05 of the Iowa Code of Ordinances:**

An ordinance amending the code of ordinances of the City of North English, Iowa 2017 by amending chapter 55.05: being enacted by the City Council, the City of North English, Iowa: Section modified, Chapter 55.05 modified, livestock within city limits prohibited of North English Iowa Code of Ordinances shall be modified to read as follows:

It is unlawful for any person to keep within the corporate limits of the City all cattle, swine, sheep, goats, or fowl (including chickens, geese, ducks, and pigeons, except to the extent they comply with Chapter 57 of the North English Code of Ordinances). The restrictions here imposed are not applicable to persons legally keeping or raising such animals within the corporate limits as of September 22, 1977.

**CHAPTER ADDED, CHAPTER 57 of the Iowa Code of Ordinances:**

An ordinance amending the code of ordinances of the City of North English, Iowa 2017 by adding Chapter 57, Chicken Ordinance: being enacted by the City Council of North English, Iowa: Chapter 57, Chicken ordinance, North English Iowa Code of Ordinances shall be adopted as follows:

**Chapter 57.01. Number and type of chickens allowed**

- A. The maximum number of chickens allowed is 6 (6 per lot of land), regardless of the size.
- B. Only female chickens (hens) are allowed.

**Chapter 57.02. Non-commercial use only** Chickens located in the City shall be used for non-commercial uses only, and the breeding, production of fertilizer or eggs for commercial purposes shall not be allowed.

**Chapter 57.03. Enclosures**

- A. Chickens must be kept in an enclosure or fenced area at all times. Chickens shall be secured within a hen house or chicken tractor during non-daylight hours.
- B. Enclosures must be kept in a clean, dry, odor free, and sanitary condition at all times.
- C. Hen houses, chicken tractors, and chicken pens must provide adequate ventilation and adequate sun and shade, must be impermeable to rodents, wild birds, and predators, including dogs and cats.
- D. Hen houses and chicken tractor regulations.
  - 1. Hen houses and chicken tractors shall be designed to provided safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens with a minimum of 4 square feet per bird, while minimizing adverse impacts to other residents in the neighborhood.

2. A hen house or chicken tractor shall be enclosed on all sides, and shall have a roof and doors. The access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Opening windows and vents must be covered with predator and bird proof wire of less than 1-inch openings.
3. The materials used in making a hen house or chicken tractor shall be uniform for each element of the structure, such that walls are made of the same material, the roof has the same shingles or other covering, and any windows or openings are constructed using the same materials. The use of scrap, waste board, sheet metal, or similar materials is prohibited. Hen houses and chicken tractors shall be well maintained.
4. Hen houses, chicken tractors, and chicken pens shall only be located in the rear yard.
5. Hen houses, chicken tractors, and chicken pens must be located at least 10-feet from the property line, and at least 25-feet from any adjacent residential dwelling, church, school, or place of businesses.
6. Any enclosed chicken pen shall consist of sturdy wire fencing. The pen must be coated with wire, aviary netting, or solid roofing.

#### **Chapter 57.04. Odor and noise impacts**

- A. Odors from chickens, chicken manure, or other chicken related substances shall not perceptible beyond the boundaries of each lot.
- B. Noise from chickens shall not be loud enough beyond the boundaries of the lot at the property boundary to disturb persons of reasonable sensitivity.

#### **Chapter 57.05. Predators, rodents, insects, and parasites**

- A. The lot owner/chicken owner shall take necessary action to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites. Chickens found to be infested with insects and parasites that may result in unhealthy conditions to human habitation may be removed by the City.

#### **Chapter 57.06. Feed and Water**

- A. Chickens shall be provided with access to feed and clean water at all times. The feed and water shall be unavailable to rodents, wild birds, and predators.

#### **Chapter 57.07. Waste, storage, and removal**

- A. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed structure with a roof or lid over the entire structure. No more than 3 cubic feet of manure shall be stored on the lot. All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed. The hen house, chicken tractor, chicken pen, and surrounding area must be kept free from trash and accumulated droppings. Uneaten feed shall be removed in a timely manner.

#### **Chapter 57.08. Chickens at Large**

- A. The lot owner/chicken owner shall not allow the chickens to roam off of the lot. No dog, cat, or other domesticated animal which kills a chicken off of the lot, will not, for that reason alone, be considered an aggressive or dangerous animal with respect to the City's responsibility to enforce its animal control provisions.

B. The chicken owner shall place and keep leg bands on all chickens that shall uniquely identify those chickens belonging to the owner of each specific tract of land where chickens are kept.

**Chapter 57.09. Unlawful Acts**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep chickens in violation of any provision of this chapter or any other provision of the North English Municipal Code.

B. It shall be unlawful for any owner, renter, or lease holder of property to allow chickens to be kept on the property in violation of the provisions of this article.

C. No person shall keep chickens inside a single-family dwelling unit, multi family dwelling unit, or rental unit.

D. No person shall slaughter any chickens within the City of North English.

E. No person shall keep a rooster.

F. No person shall keep chickens on a vacant or uninhabited tract of land.

**Chapter 57.10. Nuisances**

A. Any violation of the terms of this chapter that constitutes a health hazard, or that interferes with the use and enjoyment of neighboring property is a nuisance, and may be abated under the general nuisance abatement provisions of the North English Municipal Code.

Passed by the Council the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2020, and approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of December, 2020.

  
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DANIEL STROHMAN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

**TARA HEYNE, CITY CLERK/ TREASURER**

I certify that the foregoing was published as Ordinance No. 2020.3 on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.

  
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TARA HEYNE, CITY CLERK/ TREASURER