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**City of Adel**  
**Manual of Policy and Procedure**

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**Section:** 3. City Hall and City Operations

**Title:** Urban Chicken and Fowl Policy

**Effective Date:** October 13, 2015  
**(Revisions)** September 13, 2022

**Resolution No.** N/A  
22-62

**Policy Number:** 3.11.01

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**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide the steps and requirements needed for residents to keep urban chickens and other fowl on their property. This policy is designed to provide written consent of the Council regarding livestock within City limits (see Chapter 55.05 in the City of Adel Code of Ordinances).

**2. DEFINITION**

Fowl shall be defined as birds and livestock such as pigeons, pheasants, quail, chickens, and ducks which are of such type and nature that state and national associations exist. These associations establish norms for breeding, confining, and rearing.

**3. POLICY**

- A. It is unlawful to keep, possess, or maintain fowl on any parcel of property located within the City limits, except in accordance with the following restrictions:
- 1) No such fowl shall be kept on the same lot or premises with any multiple dwelling without obtaining permission of the other tenant(s) and/or landlord.
  - 2) No person, having the care of any fowl, domestic or nondomestic, shall permit the fowl to run at large in City limits as defined in Chapter 55.12 of the City of Adel Code of Ordinances.
- B. This policy shall not be deemed to prohibit the keeping or maintaining of any fowl which was legally kept in the City limits as of October 12, 2015.
- C. The approval of fowl per this policy is limited to the resident(s) requesting the approval.
- D. All other City nuisance codes and policies shall remain in full force, including Chapter 55 of the City of Adel Code of Ordinances. The City reserves the right to revoke approval if this policy or other nuisance codes and policies are not followed.

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Cages, hutches, coops, cotes, lofts, or other confinement shall be enclosures of sufficient size to house the number of fowl permitted by state or national standards. Set-backs may be required.
- B. On any parcel of land such fowl, as defined in Section 2, shall be no more than six (6) in total number, unless special approval is granted by the Code Compliance Officer and the City Administrator.
- C. Council approval is required when the number or type of fowl exceed the parameters as defined in sections 2 and 4.B.
- D. No fowl may be maintained, enclosed, or fenced in the front yard of a dwelling or within a dwelling.
- E. The young produced by the approved fowl, which exceed the number specified in section 4.B, shall be maintained with the parent for a period of approximately eight (8) weeks but no more than ten (10) weeks, unless by state or national standards a longer period is required.
- F. No roosters over eight (8) weeks old are permitted.
- G. No geese or guinea hens are permitted.
- H. Residents seeking approval of fowl per this policy shall sign-up at Adel City Hall with the Code Compliance Officer. Residents will be provided with a copy of this policy. Such sign-up will collect the following information from the resident:
  - 1) Name, address, and phone number
  - 2) Property owner's contact information (if different than applicant)
  - 3) Consent of property owner (if different than applicant)
  - 4) Type of fowl
  - 5) Number of fowl
  - 6) Description of fowl enclosure(s)
- I. Approval shall be given by the Code Compliance Officer. Applicants may appeal to the Adel City Council if approval is denied by the Code Compliance Officer.

**5. EXCEPTIONS**

Fowl maintained by the following entities for educational or exhibition purposes are exempt from the requirements of section four (4) of this policy:

- A. Schools
- B. Day care centers
- C. Vocational agricultural programs
- D. Public education programs
- E. Zoos
- F. State and county fairs
- G. Science centers
- H. Circuses
- I. Temporary exhibits or shows

**6. KILLING OF FOWL BY DOMESTICATED PETS**

No dog, cat, or other domesticated pet which kills fowl off of the permitted parcel of land shall, for that reason alone, be considered a dangerous or aggressive animal or the City's responsibility to enforce its animal control provisions.

