MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND ZONING
1001 STUMP ROAD, MONTGOMERYVILLE, PA 18936-9605
Telephone: 215-393-6920 · Fax: 215-855-1498

CHICKEN PERMIT APPLICATION

<u>ATTACHED ARE GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING OF CHICKENS</u>

ALLOWING OCCUPIED SINGLE-FAMILY DETACHED RESIDENCE ONLY WITH A MINIMUM LOT SIZE OF 20,000 SF TO HAVE CHICKENS (HENS ONLY)

DATE _____ **PERMIT#**_____ **FEE $**_____

APPLICANT INFORMATION:

[ ] **Check** if the **applicant is not the property owner ****

NAME_____ PHONE _____

EMAIL_____ CELL PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

PROPERTY OWNER INFORMATION:

NAME_____ PHONE _____

EMAIL_____CELL PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ LOT SIZE _____

NUMBER OF HENS PROPOSED TO BE HOUSED ON _____

PROPOSED DIMENSIONS OF CHICKEN COOP: _____

PROPOSED DIMENSIONS OF PEN/RUNWAY: _____

Signature of Applicant _____ **Date** _____

<u>LETTER FROM PROPERTY OWNER GRANTING PERMISSION FOR USE REQUIRED</u>

(For Office Use Only)

PROVIDED WITH APPLICATION:

[ ] **Construction Plans For Chicken Coop/Pen (runway)**

[ ] **Drawing showing the Location of Chicken Coop/Pen (Runway) Property Lines and Distance from the closest residential structure**

[ ] **Property Owner Approval (if not the applicant)**

Application approved? [ ] Yes [ ] No
Date:_____
By:_____

REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

Please attach the following required items using the space below or additional sheets as necessary, **each attachment should be marked with an exhibit number:**

- □ Site Plan (parcel boundaries, structures and coop location with dimensions)
- □ Specifications plans/sales (brochure) of the proposed coop and run (with dimensions) distance from Property lines and distance from closest Residential structure (property owners, neighbors)
- □ Use separate sheet if necessary

EXHIBIT: _____

**** GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING OF CHICKENS IN MONTGOMERY TOWNSHIP****

Zoning Ordinance Chapter 230, Section 149-D, Accessory Uses.

D. The keeping of chickens is permitted as an accessory use to a dwelling, subject to the following requirements:

(1) Type and Number of Chickens.

(a) Roosters are prohibited.

(b) A minimum net lot area of 20,000 square feet is required to keep chickens.

(c) No more than four (4) female chickens shall be permitted on properties with a net lot area of less than 40,000 square feet.

(d) No more than six (6) female chickens shall be permitted on properties with a net lot area between 40,000 square feet and three (3) acres.

(2) Permitting and Inspection.

(a) Chicken coops, chicken runs, and fences are not permitted to be installed before submitting a complete permit application to the Township and receiving approval from the Township Zoning Officer.

(b) If a tenant should wish to keep chickens on rented property, then the tenant must secure written authorization from the owner as well as conform to all other requirements as enumerated in this section, and both tenant and landowner shall be liable for compliance with the provisions of this section.

(c) The Zoning Officer shall have the right to inspect any chicken coop, chicken run, and fencing between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. (M-F). The inspector shall issue any order deemed necessary to comply with any and all federal, state, county, and municipal codes. Twenty-four hours' notice shall be given to the property owner where practicable.

(3) Chicken Coop, Chicken Run, and Fencing.

(a) All chickens shall be housed within a secure, fully enclosed, chicken coop which is contained within a fenced chicken run which both areas do not exceed 100 square feet total.

(b) There shall be at least four (4) square feet of space for each chicken within the coop and an additional ten (10) square feet of space per chicken within the chicken run.

(c) The chicken run fence shall be made of durable materials, such as wood and wire mesh, extending underground for at least one (1) foot and have an above ground height of at least four (4) feet. The chicken run shall also have a roof made of wire mesh or aviary netting to protect against predators. The height of the chicken coop and chicken run shall not exceed six (6) feet.

(d) It shall be unlawful to let any chicken roam freely outside of the areas of the chicken coop and chicken run. Any fencing shall be extended underground for at least one (1) foot and have an above-ground height of at least six (6) feet.

(e) Chicken coops, chicken runs, and fencing shall be located in the rear yard and shall be no closer than twenty (20) feet to any property line and no closer than twenty-five (25) feet to any residential structure. Must be shielded from the view of adjacent properties with a fence or shrubbery with a minimum height of 4 feet.

(4) Slaughter.

(a) Public slaughter is prohibited.

(b) Commercial slaughter is prohibited.

(5) The sale of chickens or chicken eggs for commercial purposes is prohibited.

(6) All chicken related materials and feed must be kept in a secure enclosed structure on the premises so as to prevent vermin and any nuisance to surrounding neighbors.

(7) All chicken waste must be stored in a insect-proof container and disposed of regularly in a sanitary way acceptable to the Township.

(8) It shall be unlawful and shall constitute a nuisance if any chicken, chicken coop/run, or fenced area produces odors, excessive noise, at and beyond the property lines or attracts vermin, or is kept in an unsanitary condition and/or is otherwise a concern to public health in the discretion of the Zoning Officer.

(9) The keeping of chickens shall not be permitted as an accessory use on a property where such use is prohibited by a covenant, restriction, rule or regulation of a homeowners' or other association which includes the property.