

ORDINANCE 1375
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON, COUNTY OF CAMDEN AND STATE OF NEW
JERSEY AMENDING, REVISING AND
SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER 79 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF HADDON, ENTITLED “ANIMALS”

WHEREAS, the Township of Haddon (“Township”) is a municipal entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of New Jersey and located in Camden County; and

WHEREAS, in 2015 the Township enacted a pilot program to permit residents to house, keep and/or maintain backyard chickens in accordance with certain requirements, which is codified in Article II of Chapter 79 of the Township Code (“Backyard Chicken Ordinance”); and

WHEREAS, the pilot program was established for a period of one year beginning October 1, 2015 and terminating October 1, 2016, and was extended for additional one period until October 1, 2017 by of Ordinance No. 1363 adopted on October 25, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the pilot program has been successful in meeting its goals and there have been no complaints regarding the keeping of backyard chickens within the scope of the pilot program; and

WHEREAS, in light of the above, the Governing Body of the Township of Haddon deems it in the best interests of the taxpayers and residents of the Township to extend the pilot program for another year and make certain revisions to the Backyard Chicken Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:48-2, the Governing Body is authorized to enact and amend ordinances as deemed necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare and as may be necessary to carry into effect the powers and duties conferred and imposed upon the Township by law; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of the Township of Haddon, County of Camden, and State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1: Chapter 79 of the Code of the Township of Haddon, entitled “Animals,” Article II, entitled “Backyard Chicken Pilot Program,” is hereby amended, supplemented and revised as follows:

Article II – Backyard Chicken Pilot Program

§79-3. Chickens Permitted; Pilot Program.

The extension of the existing pilot program for the keeping of backyard chickens is hereby authorized as provided for herein. Keeping of backyard chickens shall be permitted in the Township of Haddon subject to the rules and regulations as specified in this Article. The pilot program shall terminate on October 1, 2018 at 12:01 a.m., unless the Board of

Commissioners of the Township of Haddon acts to continue same prior to that date. In the event the Board of Commissioners does not act to continue the program prior to said termination date, all persons with backyard chickens shall be grandfathered and be able to keep their chickens so long as no new ones are added and the guidelines and regulations of the pilot as set forth herein are maintained.

§79-4.

A. [NO CHANGE]

B. For purposes of this pilot program, no more than thirty (30) licenses may be issued at any one time. Any additional households wanting to participate may be considered on an individual basis by the Chicken Advisory Board established pursuant to Section 79-7 in conjunction with the liaison to the Governing Body.

C. There shall be a limit of eight (8) chickens per license. New licensees, defined as those individuals obtaining a license on or after the effective date of this Ordinance, shall only be permitted a maximum of four (4) chickens for their first year. Following the first year, new licensees must notify the Chicken Advisory Board if they wish to add more hens, subject to the aforesaid eight (8) chicken limit. No roosters are permitted.

D. Chickens, chicken coops and enclosed chicken runs are permitted only in the rear yard of any eligible property as same is defined in Section 142-10 of the Haddon Township Code.

E. Every chicken coop and enclosed run shall be set back at least twenty (20) feet from the habitable portion of any neighboring residential dwelling and in addition shall be set back no less than five (5) feet from any property line. Garages, attached or otherwise, and accessory buildings shall not be considered a “residential dwelling” for purposes of calculating the required distance.

F. The maximum permitted area of the chicken coop shall be one hundred (100) square feet.

G. The maximum permitted height of any chicken coop structure(s), whether or not said coops are stacked, shall be six (6) feet six (6) inches as measured from natural grade.

H. Chickens may roam outside of the coop area in a back yard suitably fenced to keep them contained provided that a resident age eighteen (18) or older is present the entire time.

§79-5. [NO CHANGE]

§79-6. [NO CHANGE]

§79-7. Creation of “Chicken Advisory Board;” complaints.

A. A Chicken Advisory Board consisting of eight (8) members of the community shall be formed. The Chair will be appointed to a one (1) year term by the Mayor. The Chair will select the other seven (7) members, with approval of the Governing Body, who will also serve for one (1) year terms. Besides the Chair, one member will be appointed Vice-Chair, one member will appointed Secretary of the Board, and the remaining members will be at-large. The Board shall meet on a regular basis and keep minutes which shall be submitted along with quarterly reports to the Governing Body via the Township Commissioner selected as liaison to the Chicken Advisory Board. These reports will include any activities of the Board, as well as any complaints from residents concerning backyard chickens and the resolution, if any, of those complaints.

B. [NO CHANGE]


SECTION 2: Except as set forth in Section 1 above, the balance of Chapter 79 shall not be affected by this Ordinance.

SECTION 3: All Ordinances contrary to the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent that they are inconsistent herewith.

SECTION 4: If the provisions of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision, or clause of this Ordinance.

SECTION 5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication according to law.

THE TOWNSHIP OF HADDON

BY: 
RANDALL W. TEAGUE, MAYOR

BY: 
PAUL C. DOUGHERTY, COMMISSIONER

BY: 
JAMES MULROY, COMMISSIONER