

**TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE  
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-18**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE AMENDING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 39 OF  
THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF OLD BRIDGE ENTITLED "ANIMALS"**

**BE IT ORDAINED** by the Township Council of the Township of Old Bridge, County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey as follows (additions are bolded and underlined; deletions have strikethrough):

**SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to amend certain provisions within Chapter 39 of the Code of the Township of Old Bridge, entitled "Animals," specifically §§39-3 and 39-4, Article I entitled "Keeping of Animals," and by establishing a new section, §39-6, entitled "Chickens."

**SECTION 2: § 39-3 Health requirements; condition of premises; inspections.**

- A. *No change.*
- B. The Health Officer and/or Zoning Officer are authorized to inspect any premises where animals under this section are kept for the purpose of enforcing the provisions herein.

**SECTION 3: § 39-4 Limitations on number of animals.**

- A.-C. *No change.*
- D. Cows and other animals. No person shall keep any cows or other animals, excluding common household pets, and chickens kept on residential lots less than five acres which is regulated pursuant to § 39-6 below, except on lots greater than five acres. The number shall be limited to such that can reasonably be maintained and kept in compliance with the health standards of § 39-3.

**SECTION 4: § 39-6 Keeping of chickens on residential lots less than five acres.**

- A. Chickens may be kept and maintained on single-family residential lots as a permitted accessory use on lots less than 5 acres, provided a Zoning Permit is first obtained from the Zoning Office, and subject to the following requirements:
- B. Restrictions
  - (1) The number of chickens permitted shall be five (5) female chickens, per 5,000 square feet of lot size, with the minimum lot size being 10,000 square feet, but in no case shall there be more than 15 chickens.
  - (2) No person shall keep a rooster or a male chicken on any residential lot of less than five (5) acres.
  - (3) No person who rents the property where chickens are proposed to be kept or maintained may obtain a Zoning Permit without first receiving written permission from an owner of the property. Such written permission shall be provided to the Zoning Officer at the time of application.
  - (4) On properties where the owner is keeping the chickens, the Zoning Permit shall terminate in the case of change in ownership. On properties that are rented, and the tenants are keeping the chickens, the Zoning Permit shall terminate on change of tenant.
  - (5) Applicants for a Zoning Permit for the keeping of chickens shall present, as part of the Zoning Permit application, proof of an education class on the keeping of poultry.
  - (6) A Zoning Permit shall be obtained from the Township Zoning Office. The fee for a Zoning Permit for the keeping of chickens shall be a one-time fee of \$25, regardless of the number of chickens maintained. The Township Zoning and/or Code Enforcement Officer shall have the authority to determine the paperwork, filing deadlines and procedures governing the issuing of the permit.
  - (7) No person shall keep or maintain chickens for consumption or sale. Chickens may not be slaughtered on the property.
  - (8) Chickens shall be kept in a roofed shelter or coop, which shall provide a minimum of three (3) square feet per adult bird and shall also include a fully enclosed fenced chicken run that provides a minimum of five (5) square feet per adult bird. The run shall be attached to the coop such that chickens are at no time outside of both the coop and run. The shelter/coop and run shall be treated as an accessory structure

and for purposes of this section shall not exceed 2% of the subject property or 600 square feet, whichever is smaller.

- (9) The chicken shelter shall be bird, rat, and predator proof, and designed to be visually compatible with the residential area.
- (10) Chain link, metal wire, poultry, or mesh fence shall fully enclose the chicken run and be securely constructed with fence or netting overhead to keep the chickens separated from other animals and from roaming freely. Chicken run fencing height and coop height shall not exceed six (6) feet (Concertina wire and razor wire of any type is prohibited).
- (11) A chicken shelter/coop and chicken run are only permitted in the rear yard and except as provided herein, shall comply in all other respects with the accessory structure setbacks for the zone in which it is located, as set forth in 250 Attachment 5, Appendix E, Schedule of Area, Height and Yard Requirements, of the Old Bridge Township Land Development Ordinance, as amended from time to time. In no case, however, shall the chicken shelter/coop and chicken run be located less than ten (10) feet from an adjoining property line. In the case of a corner property, the secondary frontage shall be treated as a front yard for purposes of this section.
- (12) The chicken shelter/coop shall comply with applicable impervious and building coverage standards for the zone.
- (13) The fenced chicken run shall be well drained so that there is no accumulation of moisture. The coop floor shall be raised a minimum of six (6) inches above the surrounding grade. The floors and walls of the chicken shelter or coop shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, with all droppings collected at least weekly. Droppings shall be kept in a covered and secured metal container until disposed of or transported off-premises.
- (14) All chicken feed shall be kept in a covered and secured metal container off of the ground and inside the coop or other structure as may be the case.
- (15) Permits shall be obtained for the chicken shelter/coop: construction, electric, and plumbing, as applicable. Electric lines shall be installed underground. Electrical connections to a coop must be installed pursuant to a permit and be permanent in nature (Temporary connections are prohibited).
- (16) If, for any reason, an applicant no longer wishes to keep and/or raise chickens, they shall be removed from the property in a humane manner.
- (17) The Zoning Officer and/or Code Enforcement Officer shall have the right to periodically inspect the premises to ascertain compliance with these regulations.
- (18) Chickens shall be kept and maintained at all times in a humane manner and in accordance with good agricultural practices. The Animal Control Officer/Cruelty Investigators shall have all powers under NJSA 4:19-15.16c to ensure the chickens are maintained in a humane way and under humane conditions. Any failure to comply with the Animal Control Officer/Cruelty Officer shall be grounds for revocation of the Zoning Permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens.
- (19) The Middlesex County Board of Health, and/or any similar body the Township contracts with for public health services, shall have the power to investigate any claims under their jurisdiction related to the keeping and maintenance of chickens. Any failure to comply with such body shall be grounds for revocation of the Zoning Permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens.
- (20) If the Zoning Permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens is revoked, the chicken shelter/coop and chicken run shall be removed from the premises within 30 days of revocation of the Permit.

- C. Any person found to be in violation of the provisions of this section shall be subject to the penalty provisions of Chapter 1, Article II, Penalty, of the Code of the Township of Old Bridge. Additionally, any violation of the restrictions set forth in paragraph B above may be grounds for the revocation of the Zoning Permit permitting the keeping and maintenance of chickens.

#### **SECTION 5: INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with or in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 6: PARTIAL INVALIDITY**

If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, clause or provision so adjudged and the remainder shall be deemed valid and effective.

**SECTION 7: COPIES OF ORDINANCE**

At least three copies of said full Ordinance are on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk for public examination and acquisition. Copies are available for inspection or acquisition during regular weekday working hours and arrangements have been made for the publication of said proposed Ordinance in pamphlet or other similar form which will be available for purchase from the Township Clerk.

**SECTION 8: EFFECTIVE DATE**

- A. Except as set forth at subparagraphs B and C hereof, this Ordinance shall take effect on the earlier of the following dates: (1) on the date the Mayor affixes his/her signature thereto and returns same to the Municipal Council by delivering it to the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:69A-41 or (2) on the tenth day following presentment to the Mayor of the Ordinance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-41 applicable when the Mayor has failed to return the Ordinance; whichever occurs first.
- B. If the Mayor vetoes the Ordinance (in the manner set forth at N.J.S.A. 40:69A-41), this Ordinance shall become effective upon the Township Council's vote to override the Mayor's veto.
- C. Notwithstanding any other provision hereof, this Ordinance shall not take effect less than twenty (20) days after its final passage by the Council and approval by the Mayor, where such approval is required, unless the Council shall have also adopted a resolution declaring an emergency and at least two thirds (2/3) of all the members of the council vote in favor of such resolution.

Motion/ Second	Roll Call To Adopt On First Reading				Adopted on First Reading Dated: June 13, 2023
	YAY	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	
	Ms. DeCaro	X			
	Mr. DePalma	X			
	Mr. Desai			X	
	Mr. Garcia	X			
Motion	Dr. Greenberg-Belli	X			
	Mr. Murphy			X	
Second	Mr. Paskitti	X			<hr/> Kathryn Hutchinson Township Clerk
	Ms. Walker	X			
	President Sohor	X			


Motion/ Second	Roll Call To Adopt On Second Reading				Adopted on Second Reading Dated: July 11, 2023
	YAY	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT	
	Ms. DeCaro	X			
	Mr. DePalma	X			
	Mr. Desai			X	
	Mr. Garcia			X	
Motion	Dr. Greenberg-Belli	X			
	Mr. Murphy			X	
Second	Mr. Paskitti	X			<hr/> Kathryn Hutchinson Township Clerk
	Ms. Walker	X			
	President Sohor	X			

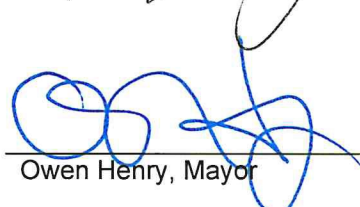
ATTEST:

  
Kathryn Hutchinson, Township Clerk

  
Mary Sohor, Council President

Approved As To Form And Sufficiency

  
Mark Roselli, Esq. Department of Law

  
Owen Henry, Mayor

