

# URBAN AGRICULTURE REGULATIONS



The following information is intended to provide general information and a summary of the recently adopted provisions for small animal agriculture uses within urban residential environments to permit poultry and beekeeping with reasonable limitations. This summary is provided for general information only; for specifics, please refer to the city ordinance #2199.

## General Guidelines

*The provisions adopted assure the health, safety and welfare of the residents of the dwelling, the surrounding neighborhood, and the City itself.*

*This practice only applies for single family detached homes and some parks and open space properties. It does not impact farms or apply to attached homes (condos, apartments, townhomes, duplexes, etc.).*

*If you are not the owner of your residence, you must have written agreement from the property owner, manager or*

*person in control of the residence to keep poultry or bees on the property. Homeowner associations or management of common-interest communities need to give their okay as well.*

*No permit will be required but violations may be reported to the Animal Control Division of the Brighton Police Department. It is the keeper's responsibility to educate him/herself prior to the establishment of any poultry or beekeeping practice and to ensure that he/she is prepared for the long-term commitment associated with the practice.*

## Rules for Keeping Poultry (chickens, ducks, etc.)

*Shelter shall be provided to keep poultry safe and cared for, and must be cleaned on a regular basis (waste materials must be properly disposed of in the trashcan – not down the gutter or the toilet). All shelters shall meet the height and setback standards required by current zoning.*

*Food and fresh water must be maintained and kept in rodent proof containers.*

*Any on-site slaughter must be shielded from public view and limited to personal use only.*

## Rules for Beekeeping

*Good practices are required.*

*Only the common honeybee (*apis mellifera*) may be kept and raised. Keeping any other type of bee is strictly prohibited. Non-aggressive queens shall be selected for the generation of a colony.*

*The hive shall be built and designed for regular maintenance, elevated off of the ground, and worked at appropriate times.*

*A convenient water source must be provided within the fly path of the hive.*



## Number and type of poultry:

*The keeping of ducks and female chickens is permitted. These regulations also apply to pigeons and doves kept outside. Male chickens (roosters), turkeys, geese, pheasants, etc. are not appropriate for urban agriculture and are not allowed.*

*One household can keep up to six animals of any combination of chickens, ducks, pigeons, and/or doves in addition to the pet limits established in the Municipal Code.*

## Hive location

*Hives must be at least 15' from any property line or public right-of-way, unless a flyway is provided, and kept in the backyard.*

*Flyways are a 6' tall fence, wall, or thick hedge that directs the path of the bee up and out of the property. The hive shall also be oriented to face in towards the property so that the bees have a 10' clear flight path in front of the hive.*

## Number of hives

*Properties that are ½ acre or smaller (21,780 SF) can have a maximum of 2 hives*

*Properties that are ½ - 1 acre (21,780-43,560 SF) can have a maximum of 4 hives, or*

*Properties that are larger than 1 acre (43,560 SF) can have a maximum of 8 hives.*

*Hives that are more than 200' from any property line shall not be limited in number.*