

**VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS  
ORDINANCE 12-03**

**AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE SECTION 101-21 KEEPING OF CHICKENS  
OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS**

THE VILLAGE BOARD of the VILLAGE OF NEW GLARUS, GREEN COUNTY, WISCONSIN, does hereby ordain as follows:

**§ 101-21 KEEPING OF CHICKENS**

- (A) **Chickens Allowed.** Within the Village limits of New Glarus, female chickens (hens) are allowed on lots with single family dwellings.
- (B) **Roosters Not Allowed.** Roosters are not allowed within the Village limits of New Glarus.
- (C) **Maximum Number of Hens.** The maximum number of hens depends on the lot size:
  - (1) For lots under half (½) an acre, there may be up to five (5) hens
  - (2) For lots under one (1) acre and over half (½) an acre, there may be up to seven (7) hens.
  - (3) For lots over one (1) acre, there may be up to ten (10) hens per acre of land.
- (D) **No Slaughtering.** There will be no slaughtering of chickens within the Village limits of New Glarus, except on properties zoned and approved for such use.
- (E) **Bird Fighting.** Raising or keeping of hens for fighting and the fighting of hens and other fowl is not allowed within the Village of New Glarus as per Wisconsin Statute 951.08.
- (F) **Chicken Feed.** All food must be kept in airtight containers that are out of reach for wild animals.
- (G) **Chicken Coops.** Hens must be provided with a building structure that houses them and follows the following rules:
  - (1) Hens must be provided at least three (3) square feet of floor space each.
  - (2) A coop must have minimum dimensions of two (2) feet long by two (2) feet wide by four (4) feet tall.
  - (3) There must be at least one (1) nesting box per hen.
  - (4) Coops must include elevated perches to ensure chickens are able to rest in their natural position.
  - (5) Coops must be structurally sound insulated, moisture proof and kept in good repair.
  - (6) Coops must have vents to insure proper ventilation during all times of the year.
  - (7) There must be a minimum of one (1) foot of window for each ten (10) feet of wall space.
  - (8) Coops must be cleaned daily and the waste must be properly disposed of according to § 257 in Village Code.
  - (9) During the winter months:
    - a. Windows must be covered with plastic to minimize drafts.
    - b. Heating lamps or other technology may need to be provided to keep the coop at the proper temperature of no less than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.
    - c. Water must not be frozen in the winter.
  - (11) Coops must provide access to the chicken run.
  - (12) No coop shall be located closer than twenty-five (25) feet to any residential structure on an adjacent lot. Coops must be located in the rear yard of the property or non-address side yard on corner lots.
- (H) **Chicken Runs.** The chickens must be provided with an outdoor fenced structure in which to run around.
  - (1) Hens must be provided with at least six (6) square feet of space each in the run.
  - (2) The minimum dimensions are two (2) feet wide by two (2) feet long by three (3) feet tall.
  - (3) The fencing must have spacing of no more than one (1) inch.
  - (4) The top of the run must be covered with fencing with spacing of one (1) inch or less.
  - (5) The fencing should be buried a foot under the ground if the run is not mobile.

- (6) During the winter months:
  - a. The run must be surrounded by heavy plastic on all sides.
  - b. The top of the run must be covered in heavy plastic.
- (I) **General Care Requirements.** Chickens must be properly cared for.
  - (1) Food must be provided daily and must be proper for chickens in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 951.13.1.
  - (2) Clean water must be provided at all times and changed daily in accordance with Wisconsin Statute 951.13.2.
- (J) **Application Process.** Applications will be submitted to the Village Clerk's Office and must contain the following:
  - (1) Show the desired location for the coop and run on a scaled drawing of the lot. The drawing shall include dwelling units on properties within 100 feet of the proposed coop location and shall be approved by the Building Inspector.
  - (2) Provide the design for the desired coop along with proof of the building permit for the building of the same.
  - (3) All properties on which chickens kept must be properly registered with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. A copy of the proof of registration must accompany the application.
  - (4) Application Fee of \$20.00 *plus* first annual license fee of \$20.00.
- (K) **Licenses and Fees.**
  - (1) Licenses are for a 1-year term beginning January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
  - (2) License fee is \$20.00 annually and will not be prorated for any portion of a year plus the one-time application fee of \$20.00.
  - (3) Licenses not renewed by March 1<sup>st</sup> will be assessed a \$10 late fee.
- (L) **Renewal Process.** All licenses must be renewed on an annual basis prior to January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. License renewals will be submitted to the Village Clerk's Office and shall include:
  - (1) Current proof of registration with the Wisconsin Department of Agricultural, Trade and Consumer Protection.
  - (2) Annual Fee
- (M) **Penalties.**
  - (1) General Complaints. This includes noise complaints and nuisance complaints and others.
    - a. First Offense – a warning will be given to the permit holder that if similar complaints continue, a fee will be assessed as well as the potential loss of a license.
    - b. Second Offense – a fee of \$50.00 will be assessed on the part of the permit holder.
    - c. Third Offense – the license of the permit holder will be revoked for twelve (12) months and a fine of \$200.00 would be assessed.
  - (2) Animal Cruelty Violations. These consist of but are not limited to inadequate food or water, dirty coop, improper temperature conditions for the birds, sick or unhealthy birds, and improper size coop.
    - a. First Offense – a warning would be given with the order to fix the problem within a week or to provide proof of a start to fix the problem.
    - b. Second Offense – the license of the permit holder will be revoked indefinitely and either prosecution under Wisconsin State Law or a fine of \$500.00.

PRESENTED: 2/23/12 (Plan Commission)  
 PUBLISHED PH NOTICE: 3/1/12 & 3/8/12  
 PUBLIC HEARING: 3/22/12 (Plan Commission)  
 ADOPTED: 4/3/12

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Jim Salter, Village President

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Lynne R. Erb, Village Clerk