

Hens for Houston: Houstonians who want to legally raise hens in the city.

The current ordinance doesn't make sense for anyone... *Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Sections 31-38*

Because of the distance requirement, essentially no one can raise chickens in Houston. Up to 30 roosters or hens can be kept as long as the coop is 100 ft from any neighboring residence. Composting is prohibited. The only exception is for medical conditions requiring unfertilized eggs; then up to 7 hens can be kept.

We believe...

That policy decisions must be backed by facts, and consider precedent.

That we should do our research first, before proposing an ordinance.

That we can update the ordinance to respect the rights of those who want to own hens and those who do not.

We do not currently have a proposed ordinance. We're doing research. We've found...

Many cities now allow 4-6 hens on city lots...

- Los Angeles, CA

- Baltimore, MD

- Dallas, TX

- Chicago, IL

- San Francisco, CA

- Bellaire, TX

We've also mathematically analyzed City of Houston property data to show what changes to the ordinance would benefit the most people. These GIS maps were created with help from Rice University. (Posted online soon.)

We will hold meetings once a month, email hensforhouston@gmail.com to find out more

To join, sign up today or online at hensforhouston.wordpress.com

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There are many reasons why Houstonians support urban hens...

- Economic, high-value eggs
- Entertaining pets
- Sustainable local food
- Education about nature and food
- Stronger, healthier communities
- Green way to diminish food deserts
- Diminished waste stream
- Pest and weed management
- Organic fertilizer
- Animal welfare
- Preservation of heritage breeds
- A smaller carbon footprint

Healthy hens...

Don't need a rooster. Well fed hens will lay tasty eggs just fine without a rooster.

Aren't loud. Only roosters crow. Hens only make noise briefly when laying an egg, which never happens at night.

Don't smell if their coops are maintained. Chicken manure is highly compostable, unlike dog and cat waste.

Aren't space hogs. A hen needs only 5 - 10 ft² of space. Unlike dogs or cats, they don't roam into the street or in front yards. Most backyard coops go completely undetected by neighbors and neighborhood visitors.

Don't attract pests any more than dogs or cats do. Chickens actually love to eat the bugs, ticks and garden pests that plague vegetables and other pets. Larger pests, like rodents, are only attracted to coops when owners leave chicken feed outside, the same as they would with any pet food.

Are healthy! Backyard hens are at much less risk of diseases than factory farmed birds. Bird flu has never been found in North America, and is a direct result of factory farming. Salmonella is better prevented by properly cleaning backyard eggs than depending on factory eggs. Chickens carry fewer diseases than cats and dogs.

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