



# helpful RESOURCES

*\*The City of Dubuque allows hens of the chicken or duck variety for EGG PRODUCTION ONLY.*

For information on setbacks for coops, contact the  
City of Dubuque Planning Services Department  
50 West 13th Street  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
563.589.4210 | [planning@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:planning@cityofdubuque.org)

For animal welfare questions or concerns, contact the  
City of Dubuque Health Services Department  
1300 Main Street  
Dubuque, IA 52001  
563.589.4181 | [health@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:health@cityofdubuque.org)

[www.backyardchickens.com](http://www.backyardchickens.com)

Information on purchasing and caring for  
your chickens, coop designs, and more.

[www.extension.umn.edu/food/  
small-farms/livestock/poultry/  
backyard-chicken-basics/](http://www.extension.umn.edu/food/small-farms/livestock/poultry/backyard-chicken-basics/)

University of Minnesota Extension guide  
to backyard chickens.

*Please remember to consult City of Dubuque  
Planning Department staff before siting your coop!*



REGULATIONS, GUIDELINES, AND RESOURCES  
FROM THE CITY OF DUBUQUE

THE CITY OF  
**DUBUQUE**  
*Masterpiece on the Mississippi*

 **SUSTAINABLE  
DUBUQUE**  
*viable • livable • equitable*

[www.cityofdubuque.org/hens](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/hens)

# Legal Requirements for Keeping Hens in Dubuque

Dubuque residents can keep/raise chickens and/or ducks (hens only) on their residential property but must comply with the city ordinance that was developed to respect the rights of all residents and prevent unsanitary conditions and safety concerns.

## Requirements:

As with any pet, please care for your hens properly

- Hens only. Male chickens or ducks are not permitted.
- Hens are allowed for egg production only.
- The property must be residentially zoned (not commercial).
- Coops should be located in your back yard.
- Hens should be provided with adequate shelter to protect them from the elements.
- Hens must be kept in an enclosure that keeps them from leaving the owner's property and protects them from predators.
- Coops should be located in the backyard of the property and the location must meet setback requirements from the owner's property. For details on requirements, please contact the City's Planning Services Department at 563-589-4210 or [planning@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:planning@cityofdubuque.org).
- Coops that have a "footprint" of 200 square feet (length x width) or larger require a permit from the City's Building Services Department before construction. Permits are available at [www.cityofdubuque.org/building](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/building) or by contacting the department at 563-589-4150 or [building@cityofdubuque.org](mailto:building@cityofdubuque.org).



**Please respect your neighbor's rights. As with any type of pet, please care for your hens properly. The City of Dubuque has nuisance and sanitary regulations in place to address instances of improper care or code violations.**