

Athens Township Zoning Code

Subsection 6.04 (j), Non-domestic, Small Animals

The raising and keeping of non-domestic, small animals (chickens, ducks, and rabbits) and their associated structures on a non-commercial basis in a residential district is an appropriate conditional use provided that the raising and keeping of non-domestic, small animals is conducted in a way so as to not adversely affect the safety and general welfare of the citizens of the Zoning District. These regulations do not apply to LLR (farm) zoning districts.

1. A Conditional Use Permit shall be applied for and granted in advance of the housing of non-domestic, small animals.
2. The number of non-domestic small animals allowed shall be no more than the equivalent of twenty (20) animals per acre or, in the case of subdivision lots, no more than ten (10) animals total.
3. Roosters are expressly forbidden.
4. The on-site slaughtering of animals is prohibited.
5. No animal shall be permitted to roam outside the coop or enclosed area.
6. Free Ranging is prohibited.
7. Odors shall not be perceptible at the lot line.
8. Noise shall not be perceptible at lot lines to the extent that it results in a public nuisance.
9. Animals shall be confined within a secure outdoor enclosed area to prevent entry by predators or the escape of animals which shall include a covered and ventilated pen or cage that is in conformance to all setback requirements for accessory buildings.
10. The pen or cage and enclosed area shall be maintained in a neat and sanitary condition with no noxious odors, unsanitary conditions, or other nuisances.
11. Feed shall be stored and dispensed in rodent-proof and predator-proof containers.
12. All stored manure shall be placed within a fully enclosed container.
13. Animals shall be kept for non-commercial purposes only; however, the incidental sale of eggs is permitted.

Conditionally Permitted Use: A use which is subject to conditional approval by the Board of Zoning Appeals, upon such conditions as the Township may require. A conditional use may be granted by the BZA only when there is a specific provision for such special exceptions made in this Zoning Resolution. A conditional use is not considered to be a nonconforming use.

Conditional use permit: A permit approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals to allow a use other than a principally permitted use to be established within the zone.