



Vision: Healthy, fresh, affordable food accessible to all, in a vibrant local food economy.

Mission: The Food Policy Council of San Antonio serves as a stakeholder forum to support a healthy, sustainable, and just local food system for people, the environment, the economy and community; gathers and disseminates information for all who work toward that goal in the San Antonio area; and advocates for policy improvements relating to food.

Frequently Asked Questions for San Antonio Chicken Owners *by Kevin Ellis*

How many chickens can I keep in my yard?

- *You may have up to 8 chickens without a permit or inspection. Only 1 of the 8 chickens may be a rooster.*

What if I want more than eight chickens?

- *For flocks with over eight (8) chickens you must get an excess animal permit from San Antonio Animal Care services. An inspection is required.*
 - *Cost is \$25 for the permit and \$25 for the inspection (for the flock, not for each bird).*
 - *Flocks with excess animal permits must maintain a 1-to-10 rooster-to-hen ratio after the initial 8.*

Are there space requirements for my flock?

- *According to the regulations, flocks must be kept in a coop and run that is “at least twenty-four (24) square feet in size, or at least six (6) square feet of space per fowl, whichever is larger.”*

How far does my coop need to be from other buildings?

- **For flocks of up to 25 birds:**
 - *Flocks must be kept in a coop and run “not less than fifty (50) feet away from any business or dwelling occupied by any person other than the owner.”*
- **For flocks of 26 to 50 birds:**
 - *Flocks must be in a coop and run “not less than seventy-five (75) feet from any business or dwelling occupied by any other person other than the owner.”*
- **For flocks of 51 or more birds:**
 - *Flocks must be in a coop and run “not less than one hundred (100) feet from any business or dwelling occupied by any other person other than the owner.”*



- *In addition, flocks of this size must have a business license that “demonstrates a need to house over fifty (50) domestic fowl. The facilities shall be subject to inspection by the department.”*

Do I need a chicken coop?

- *Yes! You will need a predator-resistant enclosure to house your flock overnight and in cases of bad weather. In addition, you will need a fenced in run or area where they may forage throughout the day.*

Does the coop need to have roosts?

- *The coop needs to have roosts that are approximately 18 to 24 inches from the ground, with 8 inches of space per bird.*

How often should I clean the coop?

- *Coops must be kept in a manner that ensures adequate sanitation in a manner that “prevents the attraction of pests.” You can cover the waste daily with straw and clean the composted buildup a few times a year, or remove it every day or two and compost it separately with straw, dry leaves, or other dry material. Fresh manure will burn your plants and will contain unsafe microbes. When composted, it makes excellent and safe fertilizer.*

Can I let my birds out of the coop during the day?

- *Per regulations, “up to eight (8) fowl may be allowed to temporarily roam outside the coop and run at a time, but within an enclosed area within the boundaries of the real property of the owner between the hours of 6 a.m. and 10 p.m.”*

Can I sell baby chicks?

- *Residents are NOT allowed to sell baby chicks or other fowl younger than three weeks of age. In addition, it is unlawful to color or dye domestic fowl such as chicks or ducklings.*

How can I contact Animal Care Services?

San Antonio Animal Care Services

(210) 207-4738

www.sanantonio.gov/animal-care

www.facebook.com/SanAntonioACS

4710 State Highway 151

San Antonio, TX 78227