



April 2022

Dear Permit Holder:

It's that time of year again – renewal of your **permit to keep chickens**. Your current permit will expire on **May 31, 2022**. Please review the following information carefully if you intend to renew.

**You may renew online or by completing the enclosed application
NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2022**

For Online: Go to winchester.us/chickens and click on the online renewal application, complete and pay the renewal fee of \$20 electronically

For Paper: Complete and return the enclosed application to the Health Dept. office, with the renewal fee of \$20, payable to “Town of Winchester” (cash or check)

*****All renewal applicants must schedule an inspection of your chicken coop/enclosure with the Animal Control Officer, Ed O’Connell at 781-729-5151*****
You do not have to be outside for the inspection. The Animal Control Officer will provide the Health Department with inspection results.

FREE-RANGING: If you choose to have your chickens roam outside of their coop/enclosure, **it must be indicated on your application.** You need to let the Animal Control Officer know this *before* the inspection and must be done in accordance with Winchester’s *Regulation for the Keeping of Animals*:

- 8.3 Free-ranging of adult egg-laying hens is allowed under the following conditions:
- A. Only in fully enclosed fenced-in yards, and
 - B. Hens will be supervised at all times while roaming and,
 - C. The permit specifically allows for free-roaming

Protect your backyard chickens from the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI):

- Separate your flock from disease sources, including wild birds and other wildlife.
- Make sure chicken houses, coops and other areas where chickens spend time are clean.
- When introducing new birds to your flock keep them separated for at least 30 days.
- Do not share chicken handling equipment with neighbors.
- More details can be found at winchester.us/chickens

Feel free to contact this office at 781-721-7121 with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Murphy, MPH
Director, Winchester Health Department