

Hens in Montgomery?

The Planning Commission recently recommended to City Council that up to six hens be permitted to be kept in backyards in Montgomery with conditions. Do you agree with the Planning Commission's recommendation that you and/or your neighbor can keep hens in the backyard? If yes, what-if any-conditions should be put in place regarding keeping hens in the City? Need more information? There are a number of web sites, including the City's www.montgomeryohio.org , where frequently asked questions are answered regarding the keeping of chickens.

Public comments as of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM

All Participants



As with any public comment process, participation in Open City Hall is voluntary. The statements in this record are not necessarily representative of the whole population, nor do they reflect the opinions of any government agency or elected officials.

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Introduction

On July 1, City Council approved an ordinance in the criminal code to ban farm-type animals such as cows, horses, sheep, etc. within the City. However, the Planning Commission was asked to study the issue to see whether some type of farm animals should be permitted in the City under the zoning code and under what conditions or circumstances.

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As of October 27, 2011, 1:59 AM, this forum had:

Attendees:	261
Participants:	70
Hours of Public Comment:	3.5

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

Karen Zanger in Montgomery

October 7, 2009, 10:59 AM

I say yes

I see the benefits of keeping hens for eggs--a cheap, humane protein source, less reliance on feedlot animal meat, great gardening compost, added bug control--as outweighing much-anticipated problems. The owner must buy in by keeping the hens healthfully, humanely, and in a solid community spirit. The responsibility to feed and water the hens, clean out coops, and of course, keep one's hens in one's yard can be required, similar to what now applies to dogs. No biggie.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 25, 2009, 6:27 PM

I say yes

Keeping a few chickens in a backyard should be allowed by cities. The possible problems from chickens or other animals are not comparable to problems posed by the use of pesticides/fertilizers on suburban lawns. The almost universal use of pesticides should be of utmost concern to the community - not chickens.

Name not shown in Montgomery

September 24, 2009, 8:30 PM

I say yes

Chickens are fine...They don't hurt the environment nor are even as much trouble as dogs barking all the time in the neighborhood....Let worry about the deer and especially racoons in our neighborhood, that can spread diseases...

Dawna Miller in Longview

September 2, 2009, 12:18 AM

I say yes

I agree in allowing people to produce home-grown food and I also agree that consideration for neighbors is important. I can say that if I found myself moving into a house with chickens being raised in my neighborhood, I'd be delighted. Actually, I'd probably go over to their house, introduce myself and offer to buy the fresh eggs. Maybe even the meat and probably the manure.

May I suggest a hint of fascism in the assumption that everyone ought to buy their eggs at a major grocery chain instead of being able to produce their own? Is it likely that these same people are the ones hypocritically complaining about a possible "socialist" healthcare system?

In regards to the waste problem, last I looked, I have not seen poo running into the streets and gutters from any of the three of my neighbors' dogs who surround my yard, so why would chicken manure increase the likelihood even more than with dogs manure? And if it IS more likely to create this problem in residential areas, it is probably creating the same havoc in areas located around chicken farms. So, maybe we should just simply ... OUTLAW CHICKEN?? :-/

Rebecca Johnson in Wyoming

August 30, 2009, 11:35 AM

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

We are new hen owners in Wyoming and appreciate our city's open attitude towards this growing movement in local food growing and sustainable living. Wyoming is careful to make sure others are not be disturbed by chickens by placing restrictions under a nuisance ordinance. I would certainly recommend that Montgomery does not allow roosters or large (12+) flocks. Good luck!

Rebecca Johnon, Wyoming, Ohio

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 23, 2009, 10:51 AM

I say yes

They are doing no harm.

Charlie Vaughn in Montgomery

August 20, 2009, 3:08 AM

I say yes

My nephew in Baltimore MD used to keep hens. I think it was a positive experience for him. The hens had a nice enclosure & his family got fresh eggs.

Name not shown in Montgomery

August 18, 2009, 12:53 PM

I say yes

The City of Montgomery will be in line with cities all over the USA that are encouraging the move to green living of which growing ones own vegetables, and having ones own hens, is an integral part. I would be ashamed if our Montgomery community took a backward regressive decision and did not support backyard hens.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 11, 2009, 10:02 AM

I say yes

I'm sorry, but I do not see the problem with hens in backyards. They should have proper fencing, a coop that would prevent predators and be kept clean. Hens are far quieter than the people who have multiple barking dogs in our neighborhood.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 4, 2009, 9:57 PM

I say yes

I have no problem with chickens. The city is wasting time worrying about farm animals. I run/bike/drive the streets of the city daily and I'm not even aware of any. Certain if they exist, they have not caused any problems for the general public.

It's the wild critters that are destroying our property and posing various hazards. Those are the ones

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

we should be trying to do something about, instead of making an imaginary problem out of domesticated farm animals.

Dan Poch in Montgomery

August 3, 2009, 3:34 PM

I say yes

And absolutely yes! There is no need to further restrict Montgomery citizens. The current nuisance laws and maintenance laws are adequate enforcement mechanisms of problems people may have. There has not been a problem to date with the existing chickens in Montgomery so let's leave it alone. A community member has chickens not too far from my house and that family should not be turned into outlaws for such a ridiculous issue.

Jodi Keith in Montgomery

August 1, 2009, 8:10 AM

I say yes

Thanks to the Planning Commission for carefully considering this question. Others have offered many fine reasons in favor of allowing the attentive and appropriate keeping of chickens. I see the discussion of this topic as a great demonstration of the usefulness of the Open City Hall forum.

Eleanor Crandall in Cincinnati

July 29, 2009, 3:34 PM

I say yes

As a child in the city in a rented house with a small fenced back yard, I had a Bantam hen, named Rosie. We were very poor and she was my friend, and companion. I learned to take care of her, and found and gathered her little eggs daily. Rosie's eggs were so fresh and delicious to eat--what a treat. This was her gift to me for taking care of her. A neighbor who did construction for MGM studios in Culver City, CA. built a wonderful cage to hold Rosie, so I could pull her to school in my wagon for Pet Day. I always won a Blue Ribbon with her. She was blond, cuddly, cute, and quiet. Rosie brought me so much joy as a child that I would wish this same pleasure for every child in Montgomery.

Jan Sutton in Cincinnati

July 29, 2009, 1:43 PM

I say yes

How ironic! When my parents built the house I live in today, Dulle Park was the Dulle Family Farm and the cows sometimes wandered up to the barbed wire fence to say hello. Our lot had been part of an apple orchard, and we enjoyed fresh applesauce for years. I say yes to a chicken or two, mainly on the basis that less government is better government, and also in support of the movement towards growing one's own food. Perhaps the number of chickens per household could be limited. (Without the presence of roosters, who are very loud, you can be guaranteed the number of adults will stay low!) Alternatively, perhaps a small working co-op farm could be established for residents wishing to participate. BTW, I know someone who lives close to a family with chickens, and he has no complaints. He didn't even know they were there. So it is do-able. Of course, no city ordinance can trump health regulations. That comes first.

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

Where our food comes from, the effort and caring required to raise and cultivate it, the value of good nutrition and the pride of being self sufficient is something difficult to connect to in our lives. Having chickens, like growing vegetables and supporting our local farmers, is a great way to pass on a tradition that has begun to be lost on my generation. I am having to learn these basic life sustaining skills from scratch. Lets find a way to combine these skills, along with all of our new ones, and pass them on to our children. I would love to have a neighbor with chickens.

Name not shown in Montgomery

July 27, 2009, 1:50 PM

I say yes

I think the conditions should be the same as for any domestic animal -- if the hens are a nuisance then a citation or other action should be able to be issued just like any action that could be taken if a resident had a dog that always barked.

Name not shown in Montgomery

July 26, 2009, 2:23 PM

I say yes

We need to manage the problems chickens can cause the same way we manage other potential problems. For example, my dog is noisy, can be aggressive and a danger to others, and he uses the outdoors as his toilet. I, as his owner, need to manage his barking, make sure he doesn't cause danger to others, and I need to clean up his waste otherwise I would be cited as a nuisance.

We can do the same with chickens. Heck we allow teenagers, don't we?

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 25, 2009, 6:15 PM

I say yes

With the trend moving to more self reliance, I think it is a great idea to allow chickens!! My neighbors were just talking about this the other day and we thought it would be wonderful to have fresh eggs from your own backyard. Hens are not noisy and there is no need for a rooster in order to have eggs. The guidelines listed in the information provided in Valerie Taylor's post seem to cover any possible issues.

Nancy Sullivan in Cincinnati

July 25, 2009, 3:58 PM

I say yes

I encourage people to have chickens. It is wonderful for neighborhood children and a good way to make and keep friends around the block.

Ann Scranton in Cincinnati

July 23, 2009, 4:40 PM

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

I grew up on a farm and a few chickens are not a lot of maintenance or mess to keep within a small area. Basic rules and regulations that are similar to other pet ordinances would suffice. The ability to have fresh eggs would be wonderful.

Valerie Taylor in Montgomery

July 23, 2009, 10:03 AM

I say yes

We've been working with City Council to ensure that Montgomery citizens, who have always been able to legally keep chickens in Montgomery, can continue to do so without causing any problems. We've put together quite a bit of research on the subject of chickens in an upscale suburb -- this is the research the Planning Commission was given before they made their recommendations that City Council amend the zoning codes to continue to allow small numbers of chickens -- and we'd love to share it with anyone who would like to see it. It answers questions about noise, smell, property values -- pretty much anything that someone might have a question or concern about. It's at

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/17296398/Chickens-for-Montgomery>

and is a free download in pdf form. I'd also be happy to drop off a copy to anyone who would like one -- just email me at valerietaylor@cinci.rr.com and I'll put it into your mailbox for you!

Val

Name not shown in Milford

July 22, 2009, 12:29 PM

I say yes

Hens are quiet, easy to clean up after and if hand raised, yes they CAN be pets, I know, I have raised them myself. I'd rather live next to a neighbor with four hens than four dogs any day!

Cati O'Keefe in Cincinnati

July 22, 2009, 9:46 AM

I say yes

As a hen owner in Montgomery I speak from experience when I say that my family's hens are quiet, clean, and lots of fun. Our neighbors have no problem with the four hens we keep in our backyard. They provide eggs, recycle vegetables from our organic garden, are a source of fertilizer, and control pests. They are also our pets. A premier community is one that protects private property rights to the broadest extent possible, provided no one else's rights are trampled in the process. Since there have never been problems associated with backyard chickens--and current health, noise, and maintenance codes are in place to deal with problems should they arise--the city should pass the Planning Commission's recommendations as written.

Sharon Petko-Bunney in Montgomery

July 21, 2009, 5:03 PM

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

Until this issue was raised in Montgomery, I had never considered raising chickens. After researching the issue, I see it only to our advantage to offer this option to anyone in our progressive community. Hens are great ways to introduce our children to where food comes from, they are quiet and produce fertilizer. I support the Planning commissions recommendation!

Lee Anne Hilsabeck in Cincinnati

July 20, 2009, 8:10 PM

I say yes

I agree with the many reasons for allowing chickens - limiting #s, requiring owners to maintain their yards, chicken coops, etc. What a great way for our children to learn where their food comes from!!

Name not shown in Fort Thomas

July 20, 2009, 10:13 AM

I say yes

I am a strong advocate of sustainable food choices and educating our communities and our children that our food does not just magically appear on the grocery shelves. Having up to 6 hens is a great way to accomplish this. 6 hens if kept an appropriate distance from neighboring residential structures are not a nuisance at all. Our neighbors dog creates much more chaos than a few hens...and the chicken poop makes great fertilizer and not additional landfill waste! Thanks for your time.

Name not shown in Montgomery

July 19, 2009, 9:42 PM

I say yes

I agree with all of the yes voters opinions. But the issue of six could cause some problems with supply and demand. Especially if you eat allot of chicken.

Name not shown in Dayton

July 19, 2009, 11:43 AM

I say yes

I can see no reason to tell your citizens that they can not keep chickens if you allow cats and dogs. chickens are at least helpful to the environment as they eat insects and have the added incentive of providing food. Sounds like a win-win situation to me.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 18, 2009, 6:11 PM

I say yes

Well, I would say that I cannot see why there would be any restrictions. I consider it a fundamental element of liberty to maintain livestock as any body wishes.

Eliza Shallcross in Metuchen

July 17, 2009, 8:59 PM

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

Small numbers of chickens are in fact a benefit to gardens. They eat bugs, thereby reducing the need for pesticides. In the quantities discussed, they are less loud than the average dog. As with any animal (such as dogs and cats) there is a matter of bodily waste, but chicken manure can be used as fertilizer. (The feces of carnivorous animals are dangerous, but not of most other farm animals.) Keeping chickens is definitely a green contribution to the earth.

Name not shown in Montgomery

July 17, 2009, 8:42 PM

I say yes

I see no reason why chickens should not be allowed if REASONABLE regulations are in place regarding: distance from a neighbor's house, cleanliness of the structure and surrounding areas, and the usual concerns regarding pets being kept

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 17, 2009, 4:03 PM

I say yes

If the coop, hens, and surrounding area are kept clean and free of waste, debris, etc., I am all for hens in an urban area. Self-sustainability is an honorable effort that should be supported by all.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 17, 2009, 9:23 AM

I say yes

As a proud owner of 2 hens, I can state with confidence that allowing residents to keep a moderate number of hens will not only contribute to the owner's health and well-being, but it will also serve to reinforce neighborly friendships and enrich the community.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 17, 2009, 5:50 AM

I say yes

A maximum of six chickens in a minimum-sized yard or pen is reasonable and desirable from a locavore standpoint. Other issues such as pen clean-up are already covered (I assume) in Montgomery codes and bylaws.

Christina Ellzey in Florence

July 16, 2009, 11:28 PM

I say yes

In this economy, we need to allow our neighbors any chance to feed themselves, and with current factory farming methods, we need to ENCOURAGE everyone to eat local! Chickens are quieter and cleaner than dogs, are contained in their yards, unlike dogs and cats, and are useful for bug eating and fertilizer productions- again, unlike dogs and cats.

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I also don't believe the city needs to regulate the hen house specifications, there is already too much government control where none is needed. There are many free and inexpensive plans for coops, if the government mandates the design, you can bet it won't be free or inexpensive.

Mike Schenker in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 10:58 PM

I say yes

A few months ago I started reading about the raising of hens (not roosters) in a suburban environment. I also listened to some of the discussion at the planning commission. I think they have exercised great care and thought in coming to their recommendation. As with many other activities, if somebody handles it poorly and affects their neighbors, we already have nuisance ordinances that can handle it. Regarding waste, it can be used wisely in gardening and yard care. It can also be thrown away, just as with other pet excrement.

I am in favor of it. I think it will not hurt property values, and may even help them because it enhances our image as a community that keeps up with the times, and does not place unnecessary restrictions on residents.

Perri Schenker in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 10:33 PM

I say yes

Before I read up about backyard hens, I thought the idea was "out there." Now that I'm more informed on the subject, I completely support residents' being able to keep hens. I may even consider having a few myself. They're clean, quiet, and may help reduce the population of Japanese beetles that have been eating my herb plants. It's one small way that Montgomery residents can contribute to the sustainability of our community and the health and well-being of our families.

I already know the pleasure of walking out into my yard and picking fresh tomatoes, peppers, and basil to use in my cooking. How much nicer to produce ALL the ingredients for an omelet!

Name not shown in Upper Arlington

July 16, 2009, 10:25 PM

I say yes

There is no reason to prevent it.

Bill Skvarla in Bethel

July 16, 2009, 10:18 PM

I say yes

For God's sake, Mr. Saul..It's chickens, not roosters, cows or ostrich. Develop guidelines for cooping and a licensing fee like a dog owner would have to gain. I feel this is necessary for the sustainability of your community, green living, education, children's activities and Local food supply.

Michael Roman in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 10:05 PM

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

Six chickens is quite a reasonable number. Obviously, chickens should not be a nuisance to your neighbor. I know that hens are not as loud as barking dogs and much less dangerous than some dogs. People should have the right to raise a reasonable amount of chickens in their yard for food, just as people do the world over. There are distinct values that can be impressed upon people when connecting to their sources of food. This is true with children and adults.

Roy Mastromauro in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 9:57 PM

I say yes

My position on this issue is: congrats for considering it, and codifying it. My only concern is the limit of 6.

My position is based on the following considerations, albeit conditional on my understanding of the chickens you're raising in Montgomery; I assume they're not too different from the chickens I've met, and have in the past, and plan to again, raise myself. My position is this: council's position on this issue can, and will, establish your community as conscious, on a historical and environmental level, practical and thrifty.

Frankly, I'd be more worried about your geese and ducks than chickens. The "modern" chicken is an evolution of these animals, and bred, through the centuries, to be a staple among commodities, both for its produce and its meat. There's a reason we're talking about chickens here, and not the more common staple commodities: hogs, cattle, goats or sheep. For someone with a social conscious, but also a desire to raise their own food, chickens are one of the only alternatives in a community such as ours.

Regarding practicality: 6 chickens produce less waste than you average 70lb dog, in my estimate. Think about your neighborhood bird: most of the waste is in the form of liquid. The liquid does and can turn to ammonia in high concentrations, but in a properly run coop, it is among the best organic fertilizers known.

I know, from my experiences in Montgomery, that the community has great gardeners. One could not do worse than having a supply of organic fertilizer around. It is practical, and enviable.

I have to say this: raising chickens, organically, is not cheap. The cost, per egg or pound of meat, is in the beginning far higher than you would find in any supermarket. However, and in the true spirit of thrifty, people raise chickens as a choice to remain, in whatever way, self reliant.

This motivation, to spend more than you have to in such a basic way, is admirable, and (frankly) an aspect I would appreciate in my neighbors and my community.

As I have said, my only concern is that you restrict to 6 chickens. 6 chickens, in their prime, might produce a dozen and a half eggs or so a week. On average, a flock of 6 will produce much less over its lifetime. Your limit is encouraging the commodization of the animal, and the introduction of

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

unsustainable encouragements to production (antibiotics, forced light, etc.) that plague the alternative supply of organic eggs. It might be better, in my opinion, to consider the conditions under which these animals might be raised, and go from there. 6 chickens can be cooped in a container not much larger than a dog house, a small one at that: trust your constituency with more chickens, and appreciate no more worry but greater satisfaction, in the long run, than you would otherwise consider with 6.

Finally, I see "hens," and I have to balk, but I understand: I don't want to live next to crowing roosters. But I am sorry for that, for myself.

Shirley Reischman in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 8:58 PM

I say yes

As long as the chicken don't disturb the neighbors and the property has a large enough yard, I don't see any reason why residents shouldn't keep chickens. They're quieter than most dogs and it's great to get fresh eggs each day.

Pam McCallen in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 7:06 PM

I say yes

They are no different from having a dog or cat. We had a pet chicken where I lived as a child. What a great way to learn about where eggs come from! Of course, there should be restrictions on numbers, size of coop, just like there are restrictions on numbers of dogs & cats per household.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 6:52 PM

I say yes

It's no different than owning a cat or dog. Nobody's asking to keep bulls in their backyards.

Eric Hammer in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 6:40 PM

I say yes

Montgomery has had chickens in our midst for some time and no one has complained. We have an entire organic farm on Spooky Hollow Road, less than a mile from downtown Montgomery! It adds to our community.

Martha Criswell in Loveland

July 16, 2009, 5:47 PM

I say yes

Agriculture is the most basic zoning. Anywhere people live they should be allowed to grow their own food-not just plants-but meat and eggs as well. I would trust the safety of "homegrown" eggs more than those from the grocery store. Hens are not noisy. There are some in my neighborhood that I didn't know were there except for the presence of a rooster. Living in neighboring Loveland, I would

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

hate to see this ban spread to my house. I think anyone should be free to raise chickens (and rabbits too) in their yard. As for coyotes, they are just as likely to get your small dog or cat. Why not ban the coyotes and jail them if they come into your neighborhood.lol

Brenda Jacoby in Milford

July 16, 2009, 5:34 PM

I say yes

Chickens are very calming and funny creatures. It is so enjoyable to watch them walking around the yard. They contribute to the family with their eggs. They should be allowed in everyone's backyard, along with a garden. We must do more to become more self-reliant. Thank you.

Mary Sherman in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 5:34 PM

I say yes

In this day and age, I think it's important to be able to save money by producing your own food (it's not just about vegetable gardens!). In addition, raising chickens is fun and great for the environment. Free fertilizer and pest control for your garden is an added bonus; they are great recyclers, eating extra or leftover garden and kitchen scraps. And the taste of eggs fresh from your chickens just can't compare to supermarket eggs. Plus I would love for children to be able to see where food actually comes from. And I don't believe that chickens could create any more of a nuisance than my neighbor's cats that run around loose.

Name not shown in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 3:18 PM

I say yes

I love the idea of having hens in my backyard for fresh eggs. Right now we buy ours in Clermont County as I do not have the time to properly maintain hens. As long as they do not annoy surrounding neighbors they should be just as welcome as dogs or cats.

Name not shown in Montgomery

October 10, 2009, 9:52 PM

I say yes

Name not shown in Cincinnati

August 2, 2009, 9:50 AM

I say yes

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 17, 2009, 8:04 AM

I say yes

Gwen Spitz in Canfield

July 16, 2009, 9:34 PM

I say yes

Name not shown in Loveland

July 16, 2009, 5:39 PM

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All Participants who selected 'Yes'

I say yes

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All Participants who selected 'No'

Name not shown in Cincinnati

September 29, 2009, 4:49 PM

I say no

In our community there is no economic reason why someone needs to raise chickens in their yard. Chickens are noisy, messy and leaving out food for them attracts rodents, and other animals like opossums, etc.

Gary Gross in Montgomery

August 26, 2009, 11:22 AM

I say no

Montgomery lot sizes do not allow for filtering of the phosphorus and there is no way to treat it once it hits our water systems. Here is a new postig on the internet,

Judge: Poultry litter is solid waste

Comments 29

Buzz up!By The Associated Press

Published: August 14, 2009

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — A federal judge ruled Friday that poultry litter could be classified as a solid waste under federal environmental laws when applied in excessive amounts on farmland.

Advertisement

The decision was a partial victory for the state of Oklahoma in its environmental lawsuit against 12 Arkansas poultry companies. Oklahoma Attorney General Drew Edmondson claims excessive application of chicken waste has resulted in runoff polluting the Illinois River watershed.

Name not shown in Montgomery

August 24, 2009, 10:44 AM

I say no

Think of how many dogs in your neighborhood are not sufficiently controlled by their owners or properly cared for. Owners who don't prevent their dogs from barking, owners who don't provide adequate exercise for thier dogs are a few examples. Yes, there are nussience laws that allow me to call the police on the neighbors who I will need to live with for the next 20+ years, but I'd like to avoid that except as a last resort.

What makes us think that people will be able to manage chickens any better? Any plan to limit the urban chicken farming to just eggs? I'd rather not have to see the neighbors give one of them 'the axe'.

I say you allow the chickens if they live indoors with the boa constrictors, ferretts, chincillas, hedgehogs, parrots, and other pets that were once very trendy but now just serve as a burden to their owners. Luckily, in those cases the burden lies within the walls of their home which I can choose not to visit rather than in their yard that adjoins mine.

Hens in Montgomery?

The Planning Commission recently recommended to City Council that up to six hens be permitted to be kept in backyards in Montgomery with conditions. Do you agree with the Planning Commission's recommendation that you and/or your neighbor can keep hens in the backyard? If yes, what-if any-conditions should be put in place regarding keeping hens in the City? Need more information? There are a number of web sites, including the City's www.montgomeryohio.org, where frequently asked questions are answered regarding the keeping of chickens.

All Participants who selected 'No'

I say no

I believe that chickens would present a problem to the citizens of Montgomery. While some of us have knowledge of how to maintain and care for hens, most of us do not. Chickens are a health hazard for our children and pets as rainwater will cause runoff of chicken waste on streets and sidewalks. When we walk our dogs and ride our bikes, we'll be spreading unsanitary chicken droppings all over the city. Chickens would make our yards and potentially other areas less clean. As we pay a premium to live in Montgomery, we expect our living space to be clean. Another point to consider is that chickens would attract coyotes and wild dogs who would try to eat them. As Montgomery already is home to coyotes, they could also become more harmful to other animals such as dogs, cats, rabbits, and squirrels in the area. The chicken eggs would possibly attract snakes who would potentially eat the eggs. After reading some other reviews, it seems like some people want the chickens for the eggs, not for the pet aspect. If we can afford to live in Montgomery, we should be able to afford to purchase eggs at Krogers.

If residents want to keep chickens, they should be confined in the owner's home where the odor and feces are contained.

Can you imagine trying to buy a home in Montgomery only to find that up to 6 chickens had also been residing in or near the house?

Raymond Noschang in Montgomery

July 25, 2009, 8:31 PM

I say no

I frequently visited my grandfather's farm and know from first hand experience that chicken droppings are quite offensive, particularly during the summer. There is a serious potential for sanitary problems due to run-off during rains. Our pets and our children should not be exposed to this. We pay a premium to live in Montgomery and expect to maintain high property values. Chickens in the backyard will NOT help our home values!!! A fresh egg now and then is hardly a reason to jeopardize our health and our home values.

Name not shown in Montgomery

July 23, 2009, 5:28 PM

I say no

Cities such as Montgomery are not developed in such a manner as to adequately allow farm animals. The lots are simply too small and close to neighboring properties. While there are some that may understand all the requirements of caring for chickens, including egg production, life span, proper containment, etc. there are many more who do not understand all that goes into this. Montgomery is not intended with its current nature of development to be a farming community.

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 22, 2009, 5:54 PM

I say no

After spending 10 days in Hawaii next to people that had chickens(rooster, too), I am definately against FARM animals of any kind. The rooster made noise every day from 3 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

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All Participants who selected 'No'

He definately didn't have a sun up sun down clock! Farm animals need to be on a farm!

Gerald (Gerry) Houchell in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 9:48 PM

I say no

Montgomery is not a farming community, hens belong on a farm. I was raised on a farm, the fenced area where we kept the chickens was generally very unsanitary. Is the owner of the hens committed to cleaning up the mess? Compare owning six hens to owning six dogs or cats, we have five within a four house area and must be careful when walking in the yard, yes we try to clean up the mess but are not always successful. Imagine six dogs all penned within one small area and you get the idea of how much excrement you have to clean up. And just maybe the owner of the hens will introduce a Rooster, then what, start selling baby chicks? One more comment: Will the owner of hens be required to build a special concrete floor that allows the excrement to be washed away? Will the owner be required to build or install a chicken coop? If so, where does the material end up, maybe in the trash or sewer? Farming is a serious business and belongs on several acres where the problem can be dealt with without offending or endangering the neighbors.

Kendra Hildbold in Cincinnati

July 16, 2009, 9:43 PM

I say no

NO!! Property values will suffer! I definiitely don't want the possible smell or noise associated w/ farm animals. If I need fresh eggs, I will stop by Greenacres or Pipkins.

Bob Saul in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 3:55 PM

I say no

Farm animals are not suitable in a compact residential environment. Montgomery has long ago left its agricultural beginnings behind.

Hens should be restricted to lots with 5 acres or larger. Hens are not pets. If a pet is desired, keep a dog or cat, and clean up after them at all times.

Paul Weitfle in Montgomery

September 29, 2009, 11:24 AM

I say no

Name not shown in Cincinnati

July 21, 2009, 12:38 PM

I say no

Doug Hughes in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 7:19 PM

I say no

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All Participants who selected 'Neutral'

Robert Schuck in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 4:59 PM

I am neutral

My only concern is that hens will probably attract coyotes! That will
> require us to shoot them on our property. What day will the city set
> aside to pick up All the dead coyotes? Or maybe there will be a drop
> off point near city hall. :>)
>
> You have to understand there may be unintended consequences!

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All Participants who selected 'Maybe'

Name not shown in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 4:31 PM

I say maybe

As long as I can't be hear it or smell it, it is okay with me.

John Perry in Montgomery

July 16, 2009, 3:41 PM

I say maybe

There should be certain requirements met for a person to get a permit to have chickens in Montgomery.

The permit should limit and specify the size and location on the lot of the chicken coop and spell out the materials to be used in the construction.

It should also list the minimum and maximum amount of space that should be fenced around the chicken coop, and cover the disposal of waste, so that neighbors are not bothered by smell or run off water.

The cost of the permit should cover the expense of having a city employee inspect the lot and construction of the chicken coop and any follow up calls based on neighborhood complaints.

There are many lots in Montgomery that can accomodate a chicken coop with no problems, but there are also some where a chicken coop could be a problem for even the best of neighbors.
