



# **Livestock in Plano**

Jamey Cantrell  
Animal Services Director  
September 28, 2020

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# Questions from Previous Meeting

- Will the county handle animals and calls?
  - No – see included email in packet
    - › County will help network chickens looking for homes
    - › County will not accept any animals from Plano residents
    - › County will not answer any calls within Plano's jurisdiction

# Questions from Previous Meeting

- Can the Specific Use Permit (SUP) process be used?
  - Not recommended by Planning Director
    - › Process is expensive - \$250 plus preparation of a legal exhibit
    - › Written opposition from neighbors within 200 feet would force a Council vote
    - › SUP stays with the property, not the individual

# Questions from Previous Meeting

- Can neighbors' approval be considered?
  - Not recommended
    - › Could cause substantial conflict between neighbors
    - › Neighborhood disputes drain resources
    - › Could increase calls for Police, Property Standards, and Animal Services

# Plano Numbers

Fiscal Year	At-Large Impounds	Owner Surrenders	Total Intake
2014/2015	8	0	8
2015/2016	7	0	7
2016/2017	9	2	11
2017/2018	7	1	8
2018/2019	10	7	17
2019/2020*	14	0	14

An increased number of chickens being kept in the city will result in an increased number being at-large, surrendered, and complaints received



\*through 08/31/20

# Options to Reduce Bird Intake

- Don't respond to complaints of at-large birds
  - Citizens will complain
  - Owners often expect help catching at-large pets
  - Could result in feral chicken flocks
- Don't accept owner surrendered birds
  - Citizens will complain
  - Could result in more at-large birds
  - Could result in feral chicken flocks

# Feral Chickens

- Dumped or escaped birds
  - Escape can be due to owner's irresponsibility or natural disaster (high winds, tornado, etc.)
- Uncontrolled reproduction
- Nuisance complaints that can't be resolved
  - Noise
  - Feces
  - Property damage
- Elimination of established feral flocks will be very expensive and/or controversial
  - Some will defend the birds and love them around
  - Culling is more cost effective but can bring worldwide condemnation

# Areas with Feral Chicken Issues

- Bastrop, TX - [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)
- [Phoenix, AZ](#)
- [Miami, FL](#)
- [Hialeah, FL](#)
- [Tampa, FL](#)
- [Pompano Beach, FL](#)
- [Key West, FL](#)
- [The Bronx, NY](#)
- [New Orleans, LA](#)
- [Los Angeles, CA](#)
- [Yuba City, CA](#)
- [Fair Oaks, CA](#)
- [San Juan Bautista, CA](#)
- [Honolulu, HI](#)
- [Kauai, HI](#)
- [Fitzgerald, GA](#)
- Titirangi, New Zealand [1](#), [2](#)
- [Island of Jersey](#)
- [Bermuda](#)



# Staff Recommendation

- Staff recommendation is still no change to current ordinance
- Additional resources will be needed if change is made
  - Commercial Coop for Housing (one time cost) - \$ 7,500
  - Animal Services Officer position (ongoing) - \$68,087
  - Total \$75,587
- Does Council want to proceed with changes?



# Guidance Needed if Change is Requested

- Permit requirement
- Allowable number
- Coop requirements
- Inspection requirement
- Education requirement
- Identification requirement



# Information from Previous Meeting

Presented on June 22, 2020

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# Current Restrictions

- Zoning Ordinances
  - Livestock only allowed on Agricultural and Estate Development designations
    - › Both designations require at least 1.95 Acres if livestock are kept
    - › Estate Development allows horses, cattle, llamas, sheep, and goats but specifically prohibits swine and fowl
  - “It is anticipated that all “A” districts will be changed to other zoning classifications as the city proceeds toward full development.”\*

# Current Restrictions

- Animal Ordinances
  - Sec. 4-1 - Definitions: “*Livestock* means or includes domestic animals typically kept to provide food or fiber or provide work, whether or not they actually provide these functions, including but not limited to... chickens, ducks, and other fowl;...”
  - Sec. 4-184 – Keeping livestock; nuisance conditions:
    - › Can only keep livestock in accordance with zoning ordinances
    - › Cannot keep livestock in a manner that creates odor or noise that are offensive to those living nearby
    - › Must dispose of excrement in such a manner as to prevent the odor from becoming offensive

# Comparable Cities

- Allen
  - Permit required (\$25 one-time) – 15-20 permittees (comparable to 41-55 for Plano)
  - Up to four hens allowed
  - Coop must be twenty feet from nearest property line
  - Over a dozen complaints a year (over 33 for Plano)
- Richardson
  - May be kept as long as they do not create a nuisance
  - About 20 complaints a year (about 45 for Plano)
  - 5-10 owner surrenders (13-25 for Plano)
- Carrollton
  - Permit required (\$20 annual) – about 50 permittees (105 for Plano)
  - Up to six hens allowed
  - Estimates of calls/animal intake not given

# Comparable Cities

- Murphy
  - Up to four hens
  - Must be 50 feet from the nearest inhabited dwelling other than the owner's
  - May get five or a few more complaints a year (69+ for Plano)
  - About two owner surrenders in seven years (about four a year for Plano)
- Frisco
  - Up to 12 fowl in one enclosure
  - Approximately 30 complaints a year (approximately 40 for Plano)
  - Owner surrenders are referred to county shelter
  - Goal is to “eventually try to reduce the amount of chickens allowed in the city.”

# Benefits of Backyard Chickens

- “Free” eggs
  - Don’t support factory farming
  - More nutritious
- Insect control
- Process food waste
- Fertilizer
- Educational
- Meat



# Possible Issues with Backyard Chickens

- Wildlife Complaints
  - Bobcats
  - Coyotes
  - Foxes
  - Raccoons
  - Opossums
  - Skunks
  - Snakes
  - Birds of Prey

# Possible Issues with Backyard Chickens

- Nuisance Complaints
  - Smell
  - Rodents
  - Flies
  - Noise
- Egg production drops/stops as hens age
  - Slaughter or surrender
- Chick Sexing
  - Roosters misidentified as hens as much as 50% of the time

# Other Issues

- Zoonosis Outbreaks\*

- Salmonella

- › 2000-2018: 76 outbreaks linked to backyard poultry – 5,128 sickened, 950 hospitalized, 7 deaths

Year	Cases	Hospitalizations	Deaths	Percentage of Cases Involving Children <5
2017	1,120	249	1	
2018	334	56	0	21%
2019	1,134	219	2	21%
2020	97	17	0	30%

# Other Issues

- Commercial flock impact\*
  - Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND)
  - No cases in commercial flocks since 2003
  - May 2018 – cases in backyard chickens in California – 60,000 birds killed
  - December 2018 – found in commercial flocks – 1.2M birds killed
- Housing at Shelter
  - Currently no adequate housing
  - Shelter is designed for dogs and cats, not livestock

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\*See full memo in Council packet

# Other Considerations

- Enclosure Requirements
  - Sec. 4-1 – Animal Housing Enclosure (AHE): “any structure or other enclosure... including but not limited to... coops...”
    - › Sec. 4-29 – Animal housing enclosure requirements
      - » AHE housing fewer than five animals must be 20 feet from any adjacent building not owned by the owner of the animals
      - » AHE housing five or more animals must be 50 feet from any adjacent building not owned by the owner of the animals

# Other Considerations

- Enclosure Requirements
  - Coops meet the definition of “Accessory Building”
  - If over 120 square feet, a Building Inspections permit would be required
  - Coop: 3sf per chicken and run: 15sf per chicken\*
    - › 2 = 36sf
    - › 3 = 54sf
    - › 4 = 72sf
    - › 6=108sf
    - › 7=126sf



*\*minimums recommended by [thehappychickencoop.com](http://thehappychickencoop.com)*

# Other Considerations

- Number of Allowed Pets
  - Sec. 4-81 – “No single-family, residentially zoned property... shall harbor more than ten (10) adult animals...”
  - Multiple pet permit is available

# Resources

- If Council Gives Direction to Allow Livestock in Residential Areas
  - Commercial Coop for Housing (one time cost) - \$ 7,500
  - Additional Animal Services Officer position - \$68,087
  - Total \$75,587
- Could also impact other departments
  - Police
  - Neighborhood Services
  - Building Inspections
  - Environmental Health
  - Emergency Management





# Best Practices

- If Council Gives Direction to Allow Livestock in Residential Areas
  - Permit requirement
  - Training
  - No change to Animal Housing Enclosure requirements
  - No change to pet limits
  - Only allowed on single-family lots without deed or HOA restrictions
  - Minimum coop standards
  - Chickens only – no ducks, pheasants or other fowl

# Changes that Would Have to be Made

- Zoning Ordinances
  - Estate Development (specific exemption)
  - Residential

Or

- Animal Ordinances
  - Remove chickens from “Livestock” definition
  - Create new chicken section

# Staff Recommendation

- No change
  - Available resources
    - › Animal intake increases in economic downturns
    - › Possible reductions
    - › Increased calls, emails, education, etc.

# Staff Recommendation

- No change
  - No significant public support (all numbers as of 3:30PM 06/22/20)
    - › PlanoHens Facebook: 876 members – no residency requirement for joining
    - › Online petition\*: 1,947 “signatures” – random sampling shows 40-50% are not Plano residents
    - › NextDoor Poll

## Poll: Chickens in backyard in Plano

Background: [https://nextdoor.com/news\\_feed/?post=143387292](https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/?post=143387292)

Choose one:



I am AGAINST chickens in Plano backyards

59%



I am FOR chickens in Plano backyards

41%

Vote

425 votes



\*<https://www.change.org/p/plano-city-council-backyard-chickens-for-plano>

# Staff Recommendation

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    - › PlanoHens Facebook: 876 members – no residency requirement for joining
    - › Online petition\*: 1,947 “signatures” – random sampling shows 40-50% are not Plano residents
    - › NextDoor Poll – votes in favor = 175

$876 + 1,947 + 175 = 2,998$  or 1.0% of Plano's population



Questions?

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