



**OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS**  
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Denis A. Nadeau, Bldg. Com. /  
 Zoning Compliance Officer

Brett Burdick, Plumbing / Gas Inspector  
 Barry McBride, Electric Inspector  
 Donna Lickeig, Adm. Asst.

**PERMIT APPLICATION FOR A CHICKEN COOP**  
**\$50.00**

(If the chicken coop exceeds 120 sq. ft. an ADDITIONAL building permit is required at an ADDITIONAL cost of \$50.00)

**Please read the attached Bill No. 2015-aa from the Amesbury Zoning By-laws regarding maintaining chickens. If you meet the requirements, please fill out the information below.**

<b>Permit #:</b> _____	
<b>Building Official Decision:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
<b>If denied, list reason:</b>   	
<b>Building Official Signature:</b> _____	<b>Date:</b> _____

**SITE INFORMATION**

1. Property Owner: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Property Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Owner Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Owner Tel. #: \_\_\_\_\_
4. You must list the following setback information. Setbacks are the amount of feet from your property line to your structure:  
  
 Side Yard Setback: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.    Rear Yard Setback: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.    Lot Size: \_\_\_\_\_ ft.
5. List the dimension AND square footage of the chicken coop construction:  
 \_\_\_\_\_ dimension = \_\_\_\_\_ sq. ft.
6. List how many chickens you will have: \_\_\_\_\_
7. List the cost of the construction: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Adm. Office Hours:</b> Mon., Tues. Wed.: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Thurs.: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm Fri.: 8:00 am – 12:00 Noon	<b>Bldg. Insp.:</b> Mon., Tues., Wed.: 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Thurs.: 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Fri.: 8:00 am – 9:30 am
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**CLOSED DAILY FROM 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm**

**\*\*Plumbing/Gas & Electric: PART-TIME, Mon./Wed./Thurs. ONLY . . . in office 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm\*\***

Please list in detail how the chicken coop will be constructed. Drawings should also accompany this application:

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Owner Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Thurs.: 8:00 am – 7:00 pm  
Fri.: 8:00 am – 12:00 Noon

**Bldg. Insp.:** Mon., Tues., Wed.: 8:00 am – 9:30 am & 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
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**BILL No. 2015- aa** *A Bill to amend the provisions of the Amesbury Zoning Bylaws to allow for the limited use of maintaining chickens as pets and for egg production in residential areas*

**The purpose of this ordinance is to balance the desire of residents to own backyard chickens while protecting abutting neighbors from noise, odor, damage or threats to health and public safety.**

**Section V.G - Accessory uses**

**A. Poultry Use**

**1. Allowed uses:**

- a) In residential districts, or with respect to dwellings in non-residential districts, no more than six (6) chickens are allowed (the "Poultry Use"), unless the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) makes a specific finding that the site conditions on the affected property will accommodate a larger amount of chickens; but under the provisions of this Section, in no event shall more than 10 chickens be allowed on any lot. This Poultry Use shall only be allowed as an accessory use to a main use consisting of a residential dwelling use of a property. This Poultry Use shall be allowed in all districts provided it is accessory to such residential dwelling use, except that in the case of any multi-family residential use involving more than four units, Poultry Use shall not be allowed on any such property.

**2. Exemptions:**

- a) For homeowners who can demonstrate by clear and convincing proof satisfactory to the Building Commissioner that they have had 10 years of poultry raising as a nonconforming use, no new Permit for Poultry Use shall be required, but to maintain such nonconforming use such owners shall apply for and receive a building permit and provide the required sketch plan to the Building Commissioner.

**3. Permit Applications:**

- b) On Lots having less than 40,000 sf, Poultry Use shall only be allowed if a Poultry Use Special Permit is issued by the Zoning Board of Appeals

**4. Materials for Submission:**

- c) All Poultry Use Permit applications shall require the submission of a site plan. Such plan may be hand-drawn or sketched by hand on existing plans such as mortgage plot plans and there shall be no requirement for engineered or professionally prepared site drawings.

**5. Performance Standards:**

- a) All relevant yard area of a property shall be fenced with a traditional wood or plastic solid fence (no chicken wire) as screening and buffering to neighboring properties. For persons raising chickens still capable of flight, all such chickens shall be in a totally enclosed area (meaning all sides and the top of the coop) so that chickens cannot escape their Owner's land areas;
- b) Any beneficial relief under the Existing Zoning Bylaw for accessory buildings within applicable side yard setbacks shall not apply to structures relating to the housing or raising chickens. Poultry Use shall only be allowed in rear yards. Coops and other poultry structures (excluding

fencing) shall be located in compliance with the normally prevailing side yard and rear yard setbacks required in the Table of Dimensional Requirements in Section VI;

- c) A reasonably-sized chicken coop ("Coop") shall always be provided for any Poultry Use. No structures used to house chickens in Poultry Use shall be any closer than 100 feet from any residential and dwelling house located on an adjacent property; and
- d) The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) river-front 200 foot setback from "rivers" shall be maintained. No chicken production shall be allowed within the 200 foot Riverfront area. For purposes of this bylaw 200 foot setback shall also apply to ponds, great ponds and lakes including without limitation Lake Attitash and Lake Gardner.

**6. Special Conditions:**

- a) Meat production and on-site slaughtering shall not be allowed in connection with any Poultry Use;
- b) No roosters or crowing chickens (collectively "Roosters") shall be allowed. In accordance with other applicable provisions of the Table of Uses for Agricultural Uses, permits issued by the Planning Board for properties in the R80 and RC zones shall apply to roosters or crowing chickens;
- c) No Poultry Use may be excised without the application for, and issuance of, a Building Permit under the Massachusetts State Building Code, including payment of any applicable building permit fees;
- d) Provisions of Mass. Gen. Laws and all other state and local regulations and ordinances shall be followed, including without limitation the regulation of odors, noise, and existing prohibitions of life stock being allowed off the owner's property. In the case of odors, and animal health laws including those contained within Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 129, as administered by the Amesbury Health Department shall continue to apply. In the case of noise, applicable provisions of the Massachusetts State building code shall continue to apply. Except for the Zoning compliance needed to administer this Section, the provisions of all animal related statutes and regulations shall continue to be administered by the Amesbury Animal Control Officer. In all events, officials of the Amesbury Health Department, Building Department, and Animal Control Office shall have jurisdiction to enter on to applicable properties and conduct reasonable inspections in order to administer this Act; any party applying for a Poultry Use Permit Application as described herein will be deemed to consent to such jurisdiction to enter and inspect areas being used for Poultry Use

**7. Violations:**

- a) Violation of this Section shall be subject to the applicable fine structure already in existence in the Code of Amesbury Ordinances relating to other animals, such as pertains to dogs off leash, parking dogs, etc.