



ORDINANCE 2018-2

**Amending and Supplementing Chapter 14, Animals, of the
Township Code of the Township of South Brunswick by
Adding Standards for Keeping Chickens (Revised 1/22/2018)**

WHEREAS, South Brunswick is historically a farming community, and a number of residents keep chickens on their property; and

WHEREAS, the Township Council believes it is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of its residents to establish standards for keeping chickens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of South Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that:

I. Chapter 14, Animals, of the Township Code of the Township of South Brunswick is amended and supplemented with the addition of the following:

Secs. 14-90. - 14-105. Reserved.

Article IV. Standards for Keeping Chickens.

Sec. 14-106 Minimum Residential Lot Size.

A minimum lot size of one-quarter (1/4) acre is required to keep or raise chickens pursuant to this article. Keeping of chickens shall only be permitted in residential or agricultural use zoning districts.

Sec. 14-107. Number of Allowable Chickens.

(A) In all residential or agricultural use zoning districts other than the Rural Residential (RR) and R-1 Single Family Districts, no more than four (4) chickens may be kept on lots measuring between one-quarter (1/4) acre up to but less than one (1) acre; and no more than eight (8) chickens may be kept on lots measuring at least one (1) acre.

(B) In the Rural Residential (RR) and R-1 Single Family Districts:

- a. Where the total acreage is less than five (5) acres, the above restrictions shall apply.
- b. Where the total acreage is five (5) acres or more, the above restrictions shall not apply.

Sec. 14-108. Prohibited.

Roosters and Cockerels are prohibited at all times.

Sec. 14-109. Slaughtering.

The slaughtering of chickens in public view shall be prohibited.

Sec. 14-110. Required Shelter.

- (1) Chickens shall be provided a fully enclosed shelter with a fenced enclosure. Shelters and enclosures shall be located in the rear yard. Shelters shall be constructed so as not to allow predators to have access to chickens.
- (2) Shelters and enclosures shall be located not less than ten (10) feet from neighboring property lines and thirty-five (35) feet from any building intended for occupancy by human beings, whether for dwelling or business purposes and whether or not the building is actually occupied.
- (3) Shelters shall not exceed sixty (60) square feet in size or six (6) feet in height.
- (4) Fences shall not exceed six (6) feet in height and shall be constructed so that the shelter cannot be seen by the public.
- (5) Shelters and Enclosures shall be maintained and kept clean at all times.

Sec. 14-111. Feed Storage.

Animal feed stored outdoors shall be kept in a metal container or other approved containers with tight fitting lids.

Sec. 14-112. Waste Storage.

Storage of manure or other waste, odor or dust producing substances associated with keeping chickens shall comply with all State and local health guidelines and disposed of properly off site.

Sec. 14-113. Running at Large.

No person owning, keeping or maintaining chickens shall permit or allow chickens to run at large upon any public or private roadways or upon any public or private property.

Sec. 14-114. Disturbing the Peace.

No person owning, keeping or maintaining chickens shall permit or allow chickens to disturb the peace or harmony of the neighborhood by creating a noise nuisance. Noise levels shall comply with the regulations set forth in Chapter 42.

Sec. 14-115. Exemption from Restrictions.

The restrictions set forth in this article shall not apply to properties qualifying under the Right to Farm Act.

Sec. 14-116. Disease.

If a majority of the chickens maintained on the property perish due to disease or suspected disease, the property owner and/or the person owning, keeping or maintaining the chickens shall immediately notify the South Brunswick Health Department.

Sec. 14-117. Violations and Penalties.

The maximum penalty for violation of any provision of this article shall be as provided in Section 1-13.

II. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this ordinance or any other codes or ordinances incorporated herein shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof, directly involved in the controversy in which said judgment shall have been rendered.

III. This ordinance shall become effective twenty (20) days after its final passage.

The above ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of South Brunswick held on January 23, 2018, and will be considered on second and final reading and final passage at a regular meeting of the Township Council of the Township of South Brunswick to be held at the Municipal Building, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey, at 7:30 P.M. on February 27, 2018, at which time and place any person having an interest therein will be given an opportunity to be heard.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Josephine "Jo" Hochman, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Ken Bierman, Councilman
AYES:	Ken Bierman, Charlie Carley, Josephine "Jo" Hochman
ABSENT:	Joseph Camarota, Chris Killmurray

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true copy of a Ordinance Adopted at the South Brunswick Township Council meeting held on February 27, 2018.


Barbara Nyitrai, Township Clerk