



TOWN OF PERINTON

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Keeping of Bees, Chickens & Other Animals

The keeping of bees, chickens and other non-customary household pets on non-farm properties in the Town of Perinton requires the property owner to obtain a Special Use Permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Applications requirements

1. Obtain an application for a Special Use permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals Secretary or online at <https://perinton.org/government/boards/volunteer-boards/zoning-board-of-appeals/forms/>
2. A letter of intent detailing the nature of the request.
3. Include parts 1,2 & 3 of the short-form Environmental Assessment Form-
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6191.html>
4. Monroe County Planning Department application & comments are required.
<https://www.monroecounty.gov/planning-guide>
5. Completion in a class on animal-specific techniques from a Town-approved entity. The Town will not accept an application unless it is accompanied by proof of completion.

Acceptable courses include:

- Chicken Behavior and Welfare (Coursera online class) www.coursera.org
- Raising Backyard Chickens (Udemy online course) www.udemy.com
- Background to Beekeeping (Udemy online course)
- Local Cornell Cooperative Extension courses
- Rochester Beekeeper courses
- Any other appropriate courses, subject to Town review/approval

6. Provide a copy of the property survey map indicating size and location of any coop/hive boxes/enclosures, proposed fencing, barriers and distances to adjacent property lines.

General Requirements

Animals shall be housed in such a manner as not to create an annoyance to surrounding properties.

For chickens:

1. Properties are limited to six female chickens on the premises at any given time.
2. Roosters are not permitted
3. Chickens must be provided with an enclosed shelter/coop with additional fencing around the perimeter to ensure that chickens stay within the property. Said shelter must be located in the rear yard and set back 30 feet from adjacent property lines.

For honeybees:

1. Apiaries should consist of no more than two colonies.
2. Apiaries should be located in the rear yard and set back 15 feet from adjacent property lines.
3. Apiaries should be bordered by a hedge, fence or flyway barrier to force bees to fly above head level and provide screening from neighbors.
4. Beekeepers should explain steps to control swarming behavior.

The Zoning Board has the right to modify these requirements as they see fit based on the merits of each individual application.

Standards for Special Use Permits- See Section 208-54D, which includes:

1. The use will not prevent the orderly and reasonable use of adjacent properties
2. The public health, safety, general welfare or order of the Town will not be adversely affected by the proposed use in its location.
3. The use will be in general harmony with and promote the general purposes and intent of the most recent Comprehensive Plan of the Town and the Zoning Ordinance.
4. The proposed use will not interfere with the preservation of the general character of the neighborhood and that the proposed use will be compatible with its surroundings and with the character of the neighborhood and of the community in general.