

# Backyard Animal License Application

Village of Lake Bluff, Illinois



## Introduction

The Village allows residents to keep chickens and bees in their backyards after obtaining a license. First-time applicants must pay an application fee of \$100 and are subject to both an inspection and review of their application at a public meeting of a Village advisory body following notice to adjoining property owners. Licenses expire March 1 each year, no matter when first issued. Renewal applications require no fee and no public review.

## Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**License requested (select one):**

**Chickens**

**Bees**

**Application type (select one):**

**Initial**

**Renewal**

**For initial applications only, attach the following documents:**

\_\_\_\_\_ A statement (one page or less) describing why you wish to pursue this activity; how you will ensure that adjacent properties are not inconvenienced; and describing any relevant experience or training you have. *Refer to the Criteria for Applicant Review on the next page.*

\_\_\_\_\_ A site plan showing where the shelter, fencing, signage, etc. will be erected. Note the distances separating these structures from rear and side lot lines. *(You may use a survey of your property, or refer to [Lake County Maps](#) for a map to sketch upon.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Attach a drawing of any shelter you plan to build, or a catalog page of any pre-fabricated shelter you intend to purchase.

**My initials on each line indicate that I understand and agree to abide by the following conditions:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I authorize Village officials to inspect the shelter and living conditions of these animals.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will ensure that the animals will be kept and maintained at all times in a safe and sanitary manner and will not, at any time, constitute or contribute to a public nuisance.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will ensure that the animals do not violate the animal control ordinances of Lake Bluff. I will not allow them to run at large, emit disturbing noises or odors, or otherwise disturb the peace.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will notify the Village if there are substantial changes to the shelter arrangements described herein.

\_\_\_\_\_ If my property is subject to private deed restrictions, covenants, or conditions, said documents do not prohibit the activities allowed by this license.

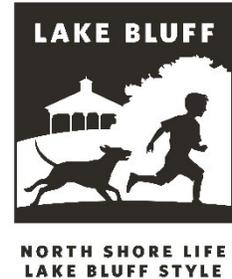
In accordance with the Lake Bluff Municipal Code, I will continue to meet all of the foregoing conditions and requirements. I hereby swear or affirm that all information in this application is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true and correct.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Chicken Specific Regulations

## Village of Lake Bluff, Illinois

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**Single-Family Dwellings:** Only residents of single-family dwellings may apply.

**Limit Upon Number:** No fewer than two adult chickens, and no more than six, adult chickens may be owned by any licensee at any one time.

**Female Chickens:** Only female chickens may be owned or maintained on a licensee's property.

**Sale of Eggs Prohibited:** The licensee shall not sell eggs produced upon the property.

**Slaughtering:** No slaughtering of chickens shall occur in public view.

### **Chicken Enclosure:**

- i. Chickens shall be kept in a pen, coop, run, or chicken tractor.
- ii. No chicken enclosure shall be erected or maintained within 10 feet of any occupied residence other than that of the licensee.
- iii. Chicken enclosures shall only be erected or maintained in the rear yard and behind the principal structure on the licensee's lot; except that the advisory body reviewing an application may, for good cause shown, allow enclosures to be sited at an alternative location on a lot that provides a similar level of visual screening, security, and privacy. No special notice or procedure is required to grant this exception.
- iv. Chicken enclosures shall provide at least four square feet of area for each chicken housed.
- v. Chicken enclosures must be maintained in a sound and useable condition.
- vi. Chicken enclosures must be constructed of sturdy and weather-resistant materials, such as, without limitation: wire, wood, hardware cloth.
- vii. Chicken enclosures shall be resistant to predators. All access doors must be able to be shut and locked. All opening windows and vents must be covered with predator-proof wire with less than one-inch openings.

**Open Space:** Chickens shall be provided with adequate open space in the form of either an enclosed chicken run or a yard fully enclosed by a fence.

**Sanitation:** The enclosure and open space must be kept clean and sanitary at all times.

**Rodent Protection:** All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens shall be protected from or to prevent rats, mice, or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with the feed.

**Nuisances:** No licensee shall license:

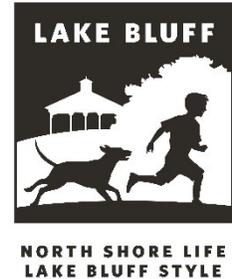
- i. Noxious or offensive odors from chicken-keeping, including the odor of chickens or manure, to be perceptible at or beyond the boundary of the licensee's property;
- ii. Offensive noise from chickens that disturbs the peace at any time; or
- iii. Any other public or private nuisance resulting from the licensed activity, whether by litter, droppings, feathers, waste, or attraction of pests or rodents.

**State Registration:** The licensee shall submit a livestock premises registration form to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and shall provide a copy of the submitted form to the Village unless the Department shall stop accepting residential chicken registrations.

# Bee Specific Regulations

Village of Lake Bluff, Illinois

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**Single-Family Dwellings:** Only residents of single-family dwellings may apply.

**Limit Upon Number:** No more than three hives may be kept upon a property.

## Hives:

- i. No hive shall be erected or maintained within five feet of any property line, or within 10 feet of any sidewalk, path, or residence.
- ii. Hives must have removable combs that can be inspected.
- iii. Hives must be maintained in a sound and useable condition.
- iv. Hives shall only be erected or maintained in the rear yard and behind the principal structure on the lot.

## Fences and Barriers:

- i. **Enclosure:** Except where a residential rear yard is fenced, an area no less than 20 feet by 25 feet (20'x25') shall be enclosed by fencing or a hedge with a secure gate.
- ii. **Flyway Barrier:** A flyway barrier shall be maintained at least six feet in height consisting of a solid wall, fence, dense vegetation or combination thereof that is parallel to the property line and extends 10 feet beyond the colony in each direction so that all bees are forced to fly at an elevation of at least six feet above ground level over the property lines.
- iii. A single structure may satisfy both the enclosure and flyway barrier requirements.
- iv. Signage shall be provided warning of the presence of a bee hive on the property. Such signage shall comply with all other regulations of the Municipal Code.

**Water:** Each licensee must ensure that a convenient source of water is available at all times to the bees so that the bees will not congregate at swimming pools or other water sources where they may cause human, bird, or domestic pet contact. The water shall be maintained so as not to become stagnant.

**Queens:** In any instance in which a colony exhibits unusually aggressive characteristics by stinging or attempting to sting without due provocation, or exhibits an unusual disposition towards swarming, the colony shall be re-queened. Queens must be selected from stock bred for gentleness and non-swarming characteristics.

**State Registration:** The licensee shall submit a colony registration form to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and shall provide a copy of the submitted form to the Village unless the Department shall stop accepting residential hive registrations.

# Advisory Review Considerations

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The Village requires that a first-time license for a bee-keeping or chicken-keeping application must be reviewed at a public meeting of a Village advisory body after notice to adjacent property owners. At the meeting, the advisory body will review the application and consider whether or not to recommend approval based on the following standards:



- **General Standard:** The extent that the application demonstrates the applicant will provide adequately for health, shelter, food, water, and yard conditions.
- **Compliance with the Regulations:** The extent that the application demonstrates that the applicant and the proposed activity will comply with all additional standards imposed on it (see previous pages).
- **Lot Size and Situation:** The shape, size, and location of the lot, principal structure, and keeping area; and the extent that these conditions tend to mitigate or exaggerate the potential that an adjoining property owner or others may be negatively affected by the proposed keeping. The advisory body shall show preference to those applications which demonstrate large lot sizes, screening, or other unique conditions which minimize the aforesaid potential.
- **Prior Violations:** If the applicant has been the subject of any valid complaint documenting a violation of the program or any nuisance, property maintenance or animal control regulations contained in the Lake Bluff Municipal Code.
- **Experience or Training:** The applicant's training, education, or prior experience in keeping the animal requested.
- **Unique Health Circumstances:** If residents of adjoining or nearby property present evidence that they suffer from a health condition whereby the proposed keeping may pose a unique risk to their health.
- **Public Testimony:** Testimony and other evidence received from the public during the advisory body's consideration of the application, to the extent that such testimony concerns the specific circumstances of the application and not the general propriety of the proposed activity.