

Chickens in Hellgate Meadows Residential Neighborhood

- Master Deed Restrictions 3.5 says the Hellgate Meadows Design Code is to be consistent with all applicable requirements of state and local law...(and we all know Missoula allows chickens)
- City Ordinance 6.12.020 F - http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/DocumentView.aspx?DID=1028#Chapter_6_12 - up to 6 hens are allowed on residential lots if they have a secure chicken house, and the chicken house can't be closer than 20 feet from any neighboring home. This is not to be confused with the general livestock ordinance, which doesn't apply to 6 or fewer hens.
- Declaration of Easements and Covenants 11.5 says pets may be kept if they don't cause an unsafe condition or unreasonable disturbance or annoyance...the Association reserves the right to regulate the number, type and size of pets, to prohibit the keeping of animals other than customary household pets (which it may define).
- Architectural Standards, pa 16 says that sheds and enclosures shall be placed on the lot to minimize visibility from adjacent streets and houses
- Village Regulations show that section of the neighborhood as "Village General", and the lot is 40 feet wide and 145 feet deep, which puts it in either the Cottage or Garden House category...which means outbuildings must be set back 3 feet from the side lot line. Since the house isn't very big, and the Larson's house sits close to the front of their lot, there is plenty of space for a chicken coop without violating the setbacks of the City 20 foot rule.

There's nothing in the "rules" currently that prohibits chickens, although it appears the Board has the authority to address the issue and prohibit chickens if it defines them as categorically constituting an "unreasonable disturbance or annoyance".