

## **ROOSTERS ILLEGAL BUT HENS ARE OKAY**

The City of Petersburg adopted Ordinance 325DG on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 ( now codified as Section 2.01.002(a) of Petersburg Code of Ordinances {“the Code”}). This Ordinance prohibits the keeping of roosters within the city limits of Petersburg. There is no ban on the keeping of chickens other than roosters. There is also no limit on the number of chickens that you may have on your property.

There are, however a few other city laws that come into play when considering the keeping of chickens.

The first is that it is unlawful for the owner, manager, or person in control of any chicken or chickens or any domestic fowl to permit the same to run at large, day or night, within the corporate limits of the City (Section 2.01.002 (b) of the Code) . A violation can subject you to a fine of up to \$500.00 with each and every day that the violation occurs being a separate and distinct offense (Section 2.01.002 (c) of the Code)

The second is that it is a nuisance and unlawful for any person to allow any pen, kennel, or other enclosure in which fowl or any animal is kept, to produce an odor from animal waste to occur if it offends or disturbs a person of normal nervous sensibilities and ordinary tastes, habits, and modes of living. (Section 6.03.001(d)(2)(A) of the Code)

The third is that it is also unlawful to allow any accumulations of waste or fecal matter to occur such that it becomes objectionable to persons of ordinary sensibilities. (Section 6.03.001(d)(5)(A) of the Code)

A violation of the second or third provisions listed above carries a fine of up to \$2,000.00 per offense and each and every day of violation is a separate and distinct offense.

In summary you may not have roosters within the city limits but you may have as many hens as you would like so long as you keep the pens clean, keep any waste from creating any offensive odors to your neighbors, and do not allow any of your chickens to run at large, day or night.