



CITY OF CHICO
OFFICIAL PLANNING DIRECTOR INTERPRETATION

Authority: **Chico Municipal Code Section 19.02.030 (Procedures for interpretations)**

Applicable Code Sections: **Section 19.42.020, Table 4-2 – Allowed Uses and Permit Requirements for Residential Zoning Districts; and Section 19.76.040, Animals and Fowl.**

Discussion: Title 19 currently requires a use permit approval to authorize animal keeping on property in the R1 zoning district. Animal keeping is a broad category as defined in Title 19, including everything from chickens and rabbits up to horses and cattle. CMC Section 19.76.040 establishes standards for animal keeping for each category of animals.

Many Chico residents are currently keeping chickens or have expressed interest in keeping chickens. This sort of small-scale local food production is in the process of being formally encouraged by the City as part of the new General Plan to be adopted in 2011. Concern was expressed to the City Council on multiple occasions during 2010 regarding the cost of obtaining a use permit to authorize the keeping of chickens in the R1 zoning district. In response to this concern, the City Council voted on October 19, 2010 to not enforce the use permit requirement until such time as Title 19 is updated, currently scheduled for 2011. The Council indicated that this issue will be revisited during the Title 19 update, and that they may be some sort of permitting process established at that time. However, until the code is updated, no use permit or other permit will be required for the keeping of chickens in the R1 zoning district.

This interpretation does not affect other forms of animal keeping in the R1 zoning district, and does not relieve any party wishing to keep chickens from complying with the standards in CMC 19.76.040 (e.g. no roosters, no chickens kept within 20 feet of any occupied structure, and a minimum of 250 s.f. of yard area per chicken). Code enforcement will still enforce these standards.

Interpretation:

Animal keeping consisting only of the keeping of chickens in compliance with the standards in CMC 19.76.040 shall be allowed without use permit approval in the R1 zoning district.

This Official Interpretation is effective immediately and will not require an amendment to Title 19 Land Use and Development Regulations prior to the Title 19 update to occur in 2011.



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Planning Services Director

Date: October 22, 2010