



TOWN OF CHESHIRE  
Town Clerk  
191 Church Street - P.O. BOX S  
Cheshire, MA 01225

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
*Berkshire SS.*  
**TOWN OF CHESHIRE**  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
Monday, June 9, 2025, at 7:00 PM  
191 Church Street

**ARTICLE 30 : GENERAL BYLAW – KEEPING AND RAISING OF LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY**

In all zones other than the A-R (Agricultural/Residential), the keeping and raising of livestock or poultry shall require registration of said livestock or poultry with the Cheshire Board of Health and shall permit regular inspections by the Animal Inspector under applicable state and local law or regulations. All permits issued by the Board of Health under this section shall include conditions of approval and direct abutter notification, the submission of evidence of such notification and registration. The registration fee for the permit shall be set by the Board of Health.

Only selected domesticated fowl (hens, ducks, pigeons and doves), domesticated rabbits (including domesticated hares) and selected exotic mammals (potbellied pigs and dwarf goats with proper emotional support animal certification) may be raised and kept as an accessory use. On such properties, no roosters, geese, swans, turkeys, pheasants, peacocks, guinea fowl, pygmy goats, pigs, or any other livestock or poultry shall be permitted in the R-1 District.

No more than six total adult domesticated fowl and rabbits shall be kept on any property, regardless of the number of dwelling units.

Domesticated fowl and rabbits shall be confined with fencing or other secure enclosures which shall be set at least ten (10) feet from any property lines and twenty (20) feet from residential structures on any adjacent property. Within such an enclosure, a minimum of ten (10) square feet of open yard area shall be provided.

Within or attached to any such enclosure shall be provided a secure sheltering structure (e.g., coop, dovecot, hutch or shed, as appropriate) of sufficient size to ensure the health and safety of said livestock or poultry.

The keeping of pets shall be allowed by right, such as dogs, cats, various species of rodents (rats, mice, guinea pigs, hamsters, ferrets, chinchillas etc.), exotic birds, reptiles, fish or amphibians. The keeping of wild animals, exotic birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians as pets is subject to the requirements of M.G.L Chapter 131 Sections, 23, 25 and 26A as amended and 321 CMR 2.12 and 9.01, as amended, or take any action relative thereto.

*Board of Selectmen Recommends*  
*2/3rds Vote Required*

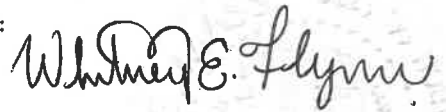
**Motion and second to adopt the provisions of Article 30 as presented in the warrant.**

**Discussion:** Voters questioned how this would be enforced since there is no longer an Animal Inspector in the Town. Others voiced concerns about rodent populations increasing with chickens in the residential neighborhoods, and some asked if there would be exceptions made to those who already have more than 6 chickens at one address. Replies stated that enforcement is going to be carried out by the Board of Health using animal inspectors from the Berkshire Health Alliance to the specifications stated within this General Bylaw. Discussion continued regarding the pros and cons of keeping the information as is within the current Zoning jurisdiction, and whether moving toward this purview as a General Bylaw would allow for better oversight of the existing chickens all over Town.

**Card Vote - 61 in Favor / 5 Opposed: Motion Carried, Passed.**

True Record

Attest:



Whitney E. Flynn  
Cheshire Town Clerk  
Berkshire SS

**JUN 23 2025**