



ORDINANCE #2026-04

Introduction: February 9, 2026

Adoption:

AN ORDINANCE OF SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE AMENDING AND RESTATING CHAPTER 68 "ANIMALS" TO PROVIDE FOR THE KEEPING OF BACKYARD CHICKENS; AMENDING CHAPTER 143 "FEES" BY AMENDING SECTION 4- ANIMALS FOR THE LICENSING OF BACKYARD CHICKENS WITHIN SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village Council of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

SECTION 1

Chapter 68 is hereby amended by restating Sections 32 through 35 in their entirety and adding Section 36 as follows:

68-32. Permitted Purpose for the Raising of Backyard Chickens

- A. Chickens may be kept on residential property within South Orange Village solely for household egg gathering, subject to the provisions of this chapter. No licensee is permitted to sell backyard chickens, chicks, or eggs laid by backyard chickens. No licensee is permitted to slaughter any chickens.

Residents must occupy single-family homes within South Orange Village. No resident occupying any apartments, condominiums, cooperatives, dormitories, or residential facilities shall be permitted to keep and maintain chickens. There shall be a maximum of five (5) chicken hens per license and per property; roosters are not allowed.

- B. Notwithstanding the foregoing, where the Village Health Department has found evidence of rodent infestation in any area (the location and boundaries of which will be defined by the Village Health Officer), no resident in said area shall receive approval to raise chickens until such time as the Village Health Officer certifies to the Board of Health that such infestation in said area has been ameliorated and there has been no evidence of infestation therein for a period of not less than six months.

68-33 Application for License to Maintain Backyard Chickens; Fees

- A. An application for a license to maintain backyard chickens must be submitted to the Village Health Department, including:
1. A diagram of the structures housing the chickens, including run areas.



2. Proof of contiguous neighbor consent.
- B. Initial application and renewal fees are as specified in Chapter 143, Fees, of this Code.
 1. The initial application fee must accompany the initial application.
- C. All license applications and renewals are subject to inspections by the Department of Health of the Village and at its discretion.
 1. The Village Health Officer may refuse to issue a license if the applicant is not in compliance with the ordinance, the Village's Health Code, the Village Code, or the laws of the State of New Jersey.
- D. Upon satisfactory review, the Village Health Officer may issue a license.
 1. The license will be mailed to the applicant and expires on January 31 of the year following the year of issuance.
 2. Licenses shall be renewed annually, with a renewal fee as established in Chapter 143, Fees, of this Code.
 3. Late renewals after March 1 incur a late registration fee in addition to the license renewal fee as set forth in Chapter 143, Fees, of this Code.

68-34 Housing of Backyard Chickens; Restrictions and Limitations

The housing of backyard chickens shall adhere to the following rules and:

- A. The chicken housing structure shall be at least 2 square feet per chicken, with a height not exceeding six feet.
- B. A fenced run area, at least 10 square feet per chicken, not including the coop, must be attached to the chicken housing structure. The run area shall not exceed a height of 6 feet.
 1. Coops and runs must be in the licensee's rear yard.
 2. Fenced run areas must be located at least 10 feet from the property line or no less than 20 feet from a neighboring house.
- C. All structures and run areas must be rat-resistant, with a surface under the chickens raised off the ground, made of wire, slatted wood, or similar material. This should allow waste to pass through, collected on trays made of impervious material underneath for frequent disposal. Alternative designs may be considered with approval from the Health Officer.
- D. Chickens may roam in the rear yard under supervision but are not allowed inside or in front of the house.
- E. Diseased chickens must be promptly removed and held in covered, rat-proof containers.
- F. No food may be kept overnight in the chicken housing structure or run area. All food must be stored securely in air-tight containers. Daily feed and water must be secured to prevent infestation by rats and other vermin.



68-35 Violations and Penalties

Any violation of this chapter may result in imposition of a fine no less than \$100 for a first violation; no less than \$150 for a second violation; and no less than \$200 for a third or subsequent violation. The resident will have up to 2 weeks from the date of notice of violation to correct or cure the violation. Failure to correct or cure the violation within the grace period may result in the issuance of a Municipal Court summons and revocation of the license.

68-36 End of License

If a licensee no longer wishes to keep chickens or the Village Health Officer suspends or revokes the license, the licensee must arrange for the relocation of the chickens and the removal of all structures at their sole cost and expense.

SECTION 2.

Chapter 143, Section 4 "Animals" is hereby amended and restated in its entirety as follows:

143-4 Animals

Description	Code Section	Fee
Backyard Chicken Initial and Renewal Application Fee	§ <u>68-33B</u>	\$30
Spayed/neutered cat/dog — Annual fee	§ <u>68-5A</u>	\$17
Nonspayed/nonneutered cat/dog — Annual fee	§ <u>68-5A</u>	\$20
Late registration of dog/cat/chicken license renewal fee	§ <u>68-5A and C</u>	\$20
Vicious/potentially dangerous dogs — Annual fee	§ <u>68-5C</u>	\$700
Animal Facilities:		
Kennels with 10 or fewer dogs — Annual fee	§ <u>68-14</u>	\$10
Kennels with more than 10 dogs — Annual fee	§ <u>68-14</u>	\$25



Pet shop with 10 or fewer dogs— Annual fee	§ <u>68-14</u>	\$10
Pet shop with more than 10 dogs – Annual fee		\$25
Shelter — Annual fee	§ <u>68-14</u>	\$0
Pound – Annual Fee		\$0

SECTION 3

If any section, sub-section, paragraph, sentence or any other part of this ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this ordinance.

SECTION 4

All ordinances and resolutions, or parts of ordinances and resolutions inconsistent herewith shall be and are hereby repealed as to such inconsistencies.

SECTION 5

This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as required by law.

SECTION 6

On passage this ordinance shall be codified.

Introduction – First Reading

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canning		X	X			
Greenberg	X		X			
Haskins			X			
Jones			X			
Lewis-Chang			X			
Zollman			X			



CERTIFICATION

I, Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this Ordinance was introduced on first reading by the Village Council at their regular meeting held on February 9, 2026.

Ojetti E. Davis
 Ojetti E. Davis
 Village Clerk

Adoption – Second Reading

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canning						
Greenberg						
Haskins						
Jones						
Lewis-Chang						
Zollman						

CERTIFICATION

I, Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this Ordinance was adopted on second reading by the Village Council at their meeting held on March 9, 2026.

 Ojetti E. Davis
 Village Clerk

Adopted:

Attest:

 Sheena C. Collum, Mayor

 Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk