

Backyard Chickens in Densely Populated Communities

Prepared for the Shorewood Village Board
3/12/09



**These photos were taken on March 9th, 2009 in Madison.
Notice this neighborhood is as densely populated as
Shorewood, and contains similar types of homes.**



“Many lots in
Madison are
small. Ours is,
and it is work-
ing out just
fine.”
-Alicia Rheal,
owner of the
home shown
here





This coop/greenhouse in the backyard of the Rheal home.

Below, the coop and attached run are viewed from the rear of the lot.





A closer view of the predator-proof structure, with greenhouse on right and chicken coop on left.

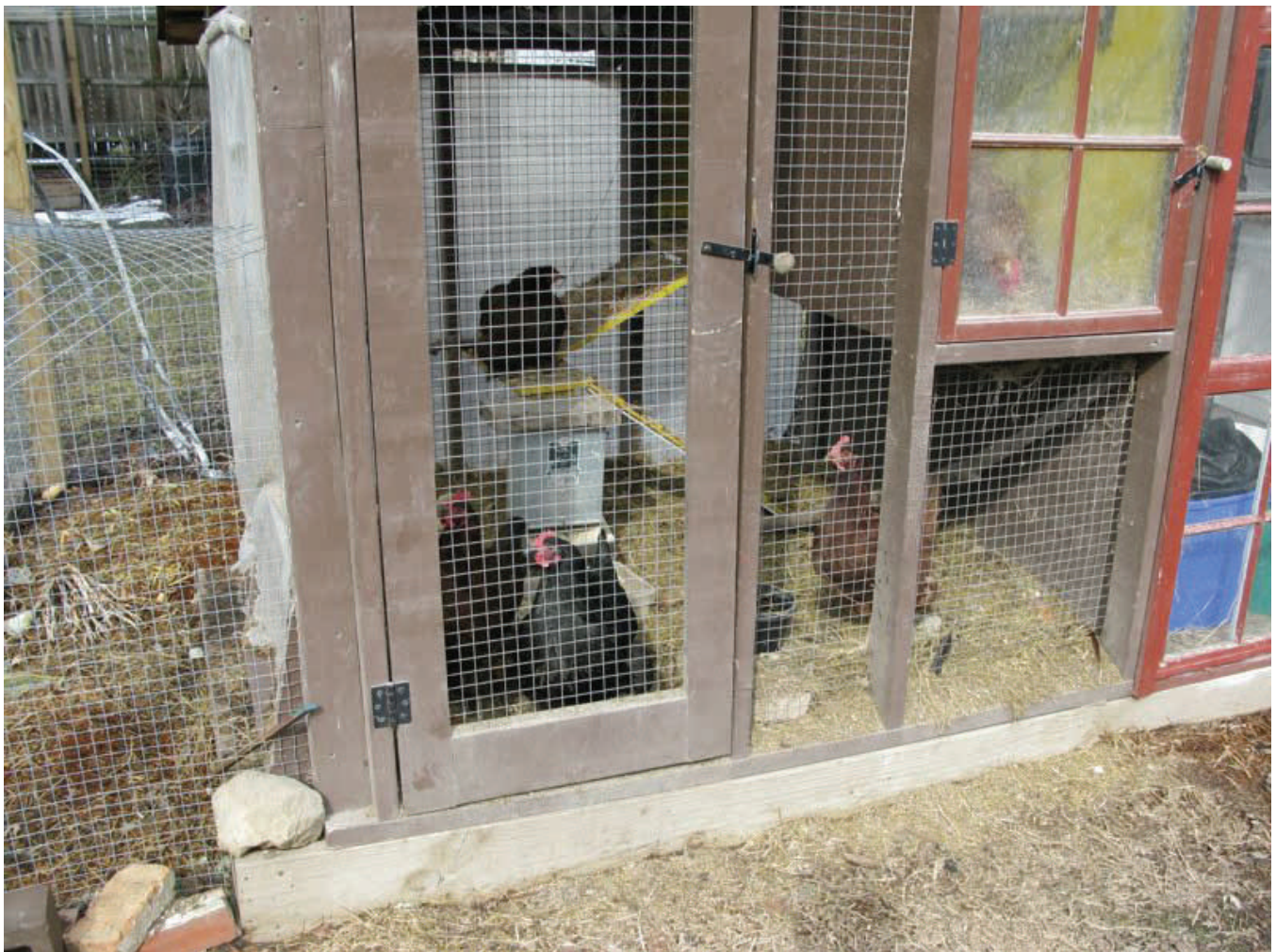
It is recommended that chickens have about 4 square feet of coop space per bird. Thus a coop for four hens could have a footprint as small as 4' x 4.'





Roosting space is provided for the chickens to sleep at night.

A fenced-in chicken run is visible to the left of the coop. This allows the chickens to free range whenever the door connected to the run is unlatched.



"I was a little surprised at the lack of smell. With only a little effort, there's little to no smell in the coop area, and certainly nothing that would carry over to my neighbors. The birds are quiet most of the time. [They] can squawk loudly after laying an egg, but still it's not as obnoxious as a barking dog."

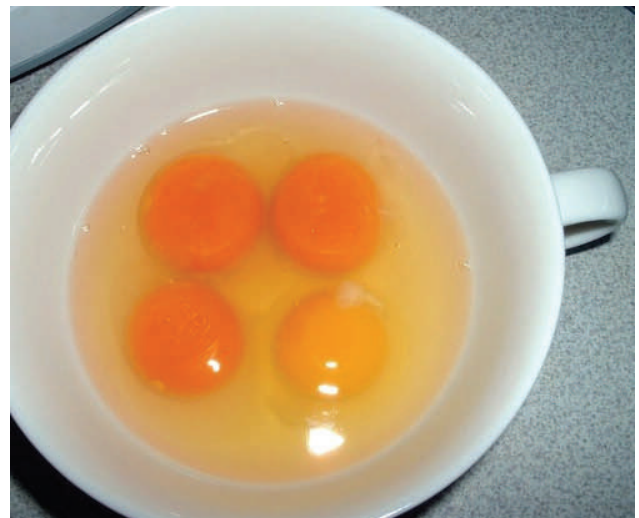
-Carl Wacker, Madison chicken owner



Another Madison area coop from last year's Mad City Chickens coop tour.



Free range eggs have been shown to be more nutritious, containing 4 to 6 times the amount of vitamin D, 3 times more vitamin E, 7 times more beta carotene, 2 times more omega-3 fatty acids, and yet 1/3 less cholesterol. Three of the eggs show at right are from free range hens, and one is from the store. *Can you guess which one?*



MORE COOPS...

The remaining photos of backyard coops were found on websites about city chickens.



Many plans for do-it-yourself coops are available on the internet and in books. Pre-made coops are also available.



Chickens love to eat food scraps, which diverts this source of waste from landfills and the water treatment system.



There are many cold-hardy breeds of chickens. In extreme cold, a heat lamp may be needed in the coop to prevent frostbite.





Typical sounds made by hens cannot be heard at all from 25 feet away.





Some coops are built without floors and can be moved around so the chickens can eat fresh grass & insects.



Backyard chickens make healthy eggs, increase community food security, and offer a fun learning experience for the whole family.

