

Hello Mayor Kuzma and members of the City Council,

My name is Liam Steinberg, and I am 9 years old. As a resident of Ramsey, I am writing to request you reconsider the city ordinance Ch. 10-Animals- section 1, that states ducks are not allowed on properties that are less than 3 acres. I would like the council to allow ducks on properties under the same land regulations as chickens.

I have done some research and would like to provide you with a compelling argument. While up to 6 chickens are allowed on properties that are city lots up to one-quarter an acre, ducks are not allowed on properties less than three acres. I am asking that the land requirement change for ducks to match the requirements that are present for chickens. There are many reasons and positives as to why ducks should be allowed to have the same parameters as chickens. The following are my reasons that ducks are not only cooler than chickens, but better than chickens.

I think ducks are a very underappreciated species. There is a misconception that ducks need lots of land and water, like a pond, but they do not. Ducks only require a water source that is large enough for them to dunk their head in. When dipping their head in the water, they can clean out their nose and eyes, as well as adequately groom themselves. Additionally, ducks do not need to have much space, just large enough for them to move around, and get their needs met with food and water while protecting them from predators, because unlike chickens, ducks are slower and do not have pointed beaks they can use for protection. When compared to chickens, ducks are less destructive on lawns and gardens. Not only do ducks do incredible pest management, by eating all the bugs, worms, grubs, etc. it can find, once it spots the insect, it tracks it until it is caught. Ducks are tenacious, and I admire that about them. Due to the ducks having webbed feet, ducks do not tend to rip up yards nor do they create small dust storms for "baths," like chickens.

Ducks are also respectively quieter than the chicken. With a range of vocalizations, ducks also have a broader range of sounds--having the ability to produce purrs, sighs, whistles, grunts, quacks, honks, coos, clucks, and groans. Because ducks have such a variety of sounds could be why some people think ducks are quieter. Chickens just have variations on the traditional "cluck."

When considering a pet, ducks make great additions. Ducks imprint or follow the first animal it sees, this makes them adaptable to life with other animals, and people easier. Ducks are also healthier and have greater longevity than chickens. Ducks live on average 7-10 years (much like some larger breeds of dogs), whereas chickens live 3-5 years (like hamsters, guinea pigs, and chameleons). The immune system of a duck is better and heartier than that of a chicken. Ducks are also able to handle heat and cold temperatures better than chickens. With Minnesota weather, and the temperature fluctuations we experience, ducks can adapt and adjust much better than chickens. Especially in the winter, ducks are better equipped to withstand the harsher weather because they have an extra layer of fat that protects them. Chickens are more prone to diseases and sicknesses, because they do not spend as much time around water. Mites and other parasites are attracted to chickens; however, mites or other parasitic creatures could not attach to a duck due to the wax-like coating ducks place on their feathers or would drown in water when a duck takes a bath.

Duck benefits do not end there. Duck eggs are bigger by 50-100%, and contain higher amounts of protein, fiber, and vitamin B12. Some people even think duck eggs taste better than

chicken eggs. Did you know if you have chicken egg allergies, most people can eat duck eggs without problem? This would be a great benefit to some people; there is only one problem...duck eggs are hard to find and when you do find them, they are more expensive. While both chicken and duck eggs are beneficial to eat, ducks are more prolific and consistent egg layers than chickens. With the city of Ramsey identifying ducks as the same animal density unit as a chicken, why does the land requirement difference exist?

Mr. Mayor and the city council, my mom and dad said I cannot get ducks unless the city regulations change. I have wanted ducks for a long time and will promise to take care of them. I hope my research has proved useful in changing your mind about the land requirements (need far less than 3 acres), as well as providing important information about the value in raising ducks versus chickens.

Thank you for your consideration,

Liam Steinberg