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**Chicago Tribune: Illegal roosters torment Lemont man, neighbors**

By Jon Yates

The unwanted wake-up calls begin at sunrise, roughly a half-dozen roosters throatily cock-a-doodle-doo-ing in a chicken coop across the street from Jim Jandora.

“It’s not very enjoyable to hear the sounds of five cocking roosters at 5 a.m. each morning and continuing throughout the day,” said Jandora, who lives in unincorporated Lemont. “There are some big roosters in there.”

On several occasions, Jandora has complained to Cook County officials, including folks at animal control, the sheriff’s department and building and zoning, he said.

Still, the roosters crow on.

“None of these departments are willing to accept responsibility and bring immediate action to end this dreadful nuisance,” he said. “Other neighbors have also voiced their complaints. If someone was running power tools in the wee hours of the morning or blasting music at 1 a.m., I would bet the police would quiet the situation.”

Jandora said the previous owner of the house moved out over the winter, but a coop housing about 20 chickens and roosters remained. Complicating matters, he said, is the fact the coop seems to straddle the property line between two houses.

Although no one is living at the house where the bulk of the coop is located, the next door neighbor feeds the animals, Jandora said.

He said sheriff’s deputies have told him there is little they can do.

“They say ‘I can’t arrest a rooster,’ and that’s true,” Jandora said. “But I’m not asking them to.”

Tired of being awoken early and frustrated that the roosters remain, Jandora emailed What’s Your Problem? in late May.

His goal was to get the animals removed and taken to some place more appropriate.

“We have our house up for sale and this crowing is constant. It’s throughout the day,” he said. “Someone comes to look at the house and they’re going to hear the crowing and they’re going to run.”

The Problem Solver called and emailed Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle’s office May 30.

That day, the Cook County Department of Building and Zoning mailed a series of violations to the owner of the property in question, Koby Construction Group Inc., of Lemont.

The county cited the owners for having “approximately 15 chickens with roosters,” violating a noise ordinance, and for failing to have a permit for the remodeling of the home’s basement.

The county also cited the homeowners for having the chicken coop without a permit.

In an attached letter, the county gave Koby Construction Group until June 29 to correct the issues, or the complaints will be forwarded to the Cook County State’s Attorney or the Cook County Administrative Hearing Board.

Karen Vaughan, press secretary for Preckwinkle, said roosters are not allowed under county code, and residents can have just three chickens.

“Failure to bring the premises into conformity will result in litigation,” Vaughan said in an email. “The complaint or violation proceeding will seek that the violations be corrected and that fines be assessed between \$100 and \$1000 (per day per offense).”

The Problem Solver called Koby Construction Group and spoke with Casey Kobylarczyk, who said he purchased the property in December.

“I got the property the way it is,” he said. “I don’t even know what the law is.”

Kobylarczyk said the chicken coop spans both his property and the neighboring property. He said a neighbor cares for the animals.

“They’re not my chickens,” Kobylarczyk said. “(The neighbor) is taking care of them. He’s saying he can have them.”

Kobylarczyk said he received the complaint from the county Monday. He planned to sit down with county officials and figure things out.

“If they’re going to make me remove them, then that’s what I’m going to do,” he said. “I don’t want problems with anybody.”

Jandora said he’ll be happy when the roosters are gone. He just hopes it happens before June 29.

“I’m sure it will get done eventually, but I don’t think anybody’s going to drop what they’re doing to get it done,” he said.

The Problem Solver will provide updates as warranted.