



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

PO Box 1163, Richmond, Virginia 23218

Phone: 804/786-3501 • Fax: 804/371-2945 • Hearing Impaired: 800/828-1120

www.vdacs.virginia.gov

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Sale of 6 Chicks or Less

Title 3.2 of the Code of Virginia contains laws pertaining to agriculture, and one of the laws states as follows (with formatting added):

*3.2-6510: “No person shall sell, raffle, give away, or offer for sale as pets or novelties **OR** offer or give as a prize, premium, or advertising device any living chicks, ducklings, or other fowl under two months old in quantities of less than six....”*

This statute has been interpreted in years past to not allow the sale of chicks or ducklings in quantities of less than six, but the Attorney General’s Office recently provided an updated clarifying interpretation indicating that the law applies only to those chicks and ducklings that are provided as pets or novelties, or as prizes, premiums, or advertising devices. Therefore, if the chicks or ducklings are purchased for agricultural purposes such as egg or meat production, the statute does not apply to them, and they may be purchased in quantities of less than six if so desired.

However, poultry purchasers should keep in mind that very young chicks and ducklings tend to be healthier and keep warmer during cold times of the year when they have some other chicks or ducklings to huddle with to keep warm. Some stores may continue to elect to restrict sales in quantities of six or greater for this reason.