

Vision: Promote green initiatives and sustainable living in the City of Ottawa. This would include amendments to the existing municipal bylaw for rural Ottawa to remove chickens from the category of livestock and provide regulations for keeping backyard hens.

Policy Details:

It is recommended that:

The City of Ottawa amend municipal BY-LAW NO. 2003 – 77 (Respecting Animal Care and Control) for rural Ottawa so that hens are not classified as livestock and are therefore permitted in backyards. This by-law amendment should meet the following three criteria and adhere to the recommended provisions: ²²³

protection of public health and welfare;
 humane treatment of hens; and
 reasonable access to hen keeping for Ottawa residents.

<u>HENS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED PROVISIONS FOR OTTAWA RURAL AREAS</u>
Allowable zones	Rural Ottawa
Siting restrictions for hen enclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 m from property line • 5 m from houses • May not be located in front yards • Must be located at grade level
Size restrictions for hen enclosures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum area 13.4m² (144 ft²) • Maximum height 2m
Number and type of chickens allowed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum 6-8 hens per lot • Minimum 2 per lot (no single chickens) • No roosters
Housing requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 0.37m² (4 ft²) coop space and 0.92m² (10ft²) enclosed run space per hen (see note above) • Entire coop structure must be roofed and weather-proofed; run area should be covered with netting to prevent mingling with wild birds • ≥15cm perch for each hen and one nest box • Hens must remain enclosed within coop or run at all times
Basic care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hens must be provided food, water, shelter, adequate light and ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities to scratch, dust-bathe, and roost. • Keepers of hens must reside on the lot containing the hen enclosure, in order to ensure that hens receive appropriate care and supervision.
Pest control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enclosures must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kept in good repair and sanitary condition

- Constructed to prevent access by other animals
 - Feed dish and water dish must be kept in coop at night
 - Feed storage should be in proper rodent-proof containers
- Sanitation
- Manure /waste must be removed & composted or disposed of safely from coop in timely manner
 - Similar to pet dogs, chicken waste/poop can be disposed of via the Green Bins
 - Slaughtering of backyard hens is only to be done by a certified abattoir
 - If not to be consumed for meat, proper end-of-life disposal must be adhered to including veterinary care if required and burial of carcass
- Other regulations
- No sales of eggs, manure, or other products allowed
 - If chicken meat is to be consumed by owners then chickens must be slaughtered at a certified abattoir

Pertains to:

This policy pertains to the existing municipal bylaw: Respecting Animal Care and Control BY-LAW NO. 2003 – 77.

The Role of Businesses, Community Organizations, and Individuals – What You Can Do:

- Learn more about the benefits of urban hen-keeping.
- Join the efforts of community groups promoting and educating about hens and hen-keeping in urban areas.

Rationale:

Hens

Backyard hens provide many benefits, including improving local food security and contributing to a just and sustainable food system. Not only does hen-keeping promote food security, but it also provides valuable educational opportunities for young people to learn about the source of their food. Enthusiasm for urban chickens has grown throughout North America in the past few years, as increased attention is paid to issues of sustainability, food security, and consumption of locally grown food. Many North American cities have already enacted or updated by-laws to allow the keeping of urban chickens. Some Canadian cities that permit the keeping of urban hens include:

- Niagara Falls, ON
- Brampton, ON
- Guelph, ON (1 acre lot required)
- Victoria, B.C.
- Vancouver, B.C.
- Surrey, B.C. (1 acre lot required)
- Kingston, Ontario
- Quinte West, Ontario

While some city by-laws simply do not prohibit hens, others have set aside regulations specifying and/or promoting hens, for example:

- City of Kingston, Ontario - Regulations for Backyard Hens, June 14, 2011
- City of Quinte West, Ontario -By-law #11-93, June 13, 2011
- City of Niagara Falls, Ontario -By-law # 2002-129, July 15, 2002
- City of Guelph, Ontario -By-law #(1985)-11952, October 21, 1985

A summary of by-laws in select North American cities is provided as Appendix L5.

Although prohibited, some backyard hens are already kept within the City of Ottawa without problems.

Similar to growing vegetable gardens, urban chickens would enable Ottawa residents to better respond to potential emergency situations. If the City ever required an emergency food supply, residents who kept chickens would have a ready source of protein to feed their families. This would thus reduce the strain on food supplies during an emergency.

Given that other North American cities have embraced urban hen-keeping, current literature and resources already exist to help bridge the knowledge gap in introducing the concept to the City of Ottawa. A list of online resources is provided in *Appendix L7*.

Lastly, allowing City of Ottawa residents to keep hens would address the shortcomings of the current City of Ottawa Animal Care & Control bylaw, which allows for the keeping of similar animals such as pigeons. According to Section 79 of the bylaw, City of Ottawa residents can currently keep as many as 70 pigeons within urban limits²²⁵.

The recommendations here outline how the City can enjoy the benefits of urban hens, while protecting public health and safety and ensuring humane treatment of the hens. Current perceived barriers, both practical and ideological can be addressed with proper guidelines and education in order to provide adequate support for potential hen-keepers, and to dispel myths regarding hens in urban areas. In total, the recommendations provide a system of regulation that will allow Ottawa residents to safely and humanely enjoy the rewards that backyard hens provide.

Appendix L1 - Quick Facts on Hens ²²⁶

- Hens are social creatures that provide companionship to both other hens and humans alike. They can live 14 years or more.
- Egg laying begins at 6 months of age. Domesticated hens have been bred to lay one egg a day till they reach 18 months of age, when the figure diminishes. Purebred chickens or heritage breeds tend to lay eggs for a longer period.
- Hens can act as natural lawn mower and pest control, as hens spend waking hours grazing.
- Hens' waste products provide valuable, high-nitrogen fertilizer for gardening.

Appendix L2: Evidence / Precedent - HENS:

Concern

Laying hens produce a variety of vocalizations, none of which are very loud. Perhaps the loudest noise is an approximately five-minute period of clucking that occurs when a hen lays an egg.

Noise

In an investigation conducted by staff from the City of Pleasanton, California, noise readings of a "squawking" chicken registered at 63 dbA at two feet away, and would not register at nine feet away.

For comparison, the average human conversation registers at about 60

decibels and a barking dog can be as loud as 100 dbA. The occasional squawk by a hen would be no more of a noise nuisance than lawn mowers, children playing, or any other neighbourhood sound.

The City of Ottawa Noise By-law NO. 2004-253 protects the “public interest to reduce the noise level in the City of Ottawa so as to preserve, protect, and promote public health, safety, welfare, and peace and quiet of inhabitants of the city.” This bylaw makes no mention of noise from domestic animals.

The City of Ottawa Animal Care & Control By-law NO 2003 – 77 merely states that no animal shall be kept that disturbs, or is likely to disturb, the peace of persons within the vicinity or neighbourhood.

Given that noise from hens is relatively quiet and intermittent, it is unlikely to be a significant nuisance under the proposed guidelines, which provide setbacks and other management measures to ensure some separation between hen enclosures and neighbouring properties.

Given this separation, it is unlikely that a hen’s sounds will be above tolerable levels on neighbouring properties.

The recommendation that hens be kept in their coops from sunset to sunrise, which is primarily to protect hens from predators, will reduce potential noise impacts at night.

Unlike hens, a crowing rooster can reach decibel levels of 85-90 dbA. For this reason, it is recommended that roosters be prohibited under the proposed by-law amendment. In this regard, it is also recommended that no chickens under the age of four months be allowed, as determining gender (and thus avoiding unexpected roosters) can be more difficult in young chickens.

Similar to dogs & cats, unpleasant odours from accumulation of manure and/or food scraps can result if chicken enclosures are infrequently cleaned.

Although chickens produce only a few tablespoons of manure per day, accumulation of manure can produce ammonia, which is both harmful for chickens and unpleasant for others. It is recommended to remove manure and food scraps at least weekly, and preferably daily.

Chicken manure can be easily composted via the City of Ottawa Green Bin program or in backyard composters. Unlike the excrement produced by cats and dogs, composted chicken manure is an excellent fertilizer.

Proper disposal of chicken waste would follow sections 38 & 39 of the City of Ottawa Animal Care & Control By-law NO 2003 – 77, which state that:

38 *Every owner of a dog shall dispose of any feces removed pursuant to Section 37 on his or her premises.*

39 *Every owner of a dog shall remove from his or her premises, in a*

Smell

timely manner, feces left by such dog, so as not to disturb the enjoyment, comfort, convenience of any person in the vicinity of the premises.

Disease – General

Unlike the feces of dogs and cats, which easily transports parasites, hen droppings do not contain pathogens, can be easily composted, and provide a rich source of organic fertilizer for backyard gardens.

Chickens, like other birds, are susceptible to forms of Type A influenza that are collectively known as “avian influenza” (AI). The AI virus is widespread, particularly among wild birds, but most forms produce relatively mild or no symptoms. AI can mutate, after circulation in a concentrated poultry population, into highly pathogenic forms (HPAI) that produce severe symptoms but this is less common. AI is not an airborne disease, but is transmitted from infected to healthy birds via direct contact with birds and their droppings, feathers, and body fluids.

Unlike rural farm birds which might co-mingle with migratory birds or drink from a shared pond, backyard urban hens are contained in a coop and watered inside this coop limiting their exposure to AI.

The likelihood of AI can be further reduced by ensuring that only small numbers of hens are kept per household and that slaughtering is not done on the property. AI is more likely and spreads quickly when hens are kept in high concentration areas without regular access to sunlight.

Lastly, all hen owners would be subject to the biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

Disease - Avian Influenza A (H5N1)

Words from the experts:

“As a veterinarian and epidemiologist specializing in disease people get from animals (zoonoses) through food, water, and various other means, (insects, environment, direct contact), I know of no evidence linking human illness with keeping small, urban flocks.”

– Dr. D. Waltner-Toews, University of Guelph

The British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) conducted a literature review on the risk of infectious disease from backyard hens and found that:

“Overall, the risk of pathogen transmission associated with backyard chicken keeping appears to be mild and does not present a greater threat to population health compared to other animals allowed by similar bylaws (reptiles, dogs, etc). Public adherence to proper hygiene will significantly mitigate the risk of any disease acquisition including pathogens commonly found in chickens. “

**See Appendix L3 for a more detailed analysis of Avian Influenza and backyard hens.*

**See Appendix L6 for the full letter from Dr. Waltner-Toewes, University of Guelph*

Salmonella is another health concern associated with poultry and eggs.

Salmonella lives in the intestines of infected chickens, and can be shed in large numbers in the droppings.

Humans who handle the birds or clean their enclosures can then be exposed to the bacteria, which can cause severe gastrointestinal illness if ingested.

Disease – Salmonella

The guidelines recommended to reduce the risks of avian influenza will also help minimize the risk of Salmonella exposure in owners of backyard flocks.

This risk is further reduced by the recommended prohibition of hens less than four months old, as chicks shed much more Salmonella than older birds.

Transmission of the bacteria will further be limited by the recommended prohibition on commercial sale of eggs or other hen products.

Similar to other unprotected food sources such as bird seed, cat food or open trash, hens and hen feed can attract unwanted animals. These include rodents seeking food scraps, and larger animals, such as raccoons, foxes, skunks, and coyotes.

For this reason, it is vital that hen enclosures be secure from other animals and that hens be kept in coops from sunset to sunrise.

Predators

In order to discourage rodents and predators who may be attracted by food scraps and potential prey, by-law language is recommended that requires hen enclosures to be constructed and maintained to prevent rodents from being harboured underneath, within, or within the walls of the coop and the run, and to prevent access to the enclosure by any other bird or animal.

Additionally, storage of hen food in proper raccoon and rat-proof containers is recommended, as is the case with storage of other animal feed that is kept outdoors currently.

It is important to note that the predators of hens are the same as those of the wild rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, small birds, and other local wild prey animals already present in our community; hens themselves do not attract additional predators to the area.

Burden on humane society

Only 0.01% (or 1 in 10,000) of residents are likely to keep backyard chickens if the bylaw is amended, according to research conducted by Urban Agriculture Kingston.

See Appendix L5 for a detailed breakdown of the complaints related to chickens that cities have been burdened with. The average number of annual

hen complaints is 6. By comparison, the City of Ottawa received 13,762 animal-related bylaw complaints (the majority dealing with dogs and cats) in 2010.²³⁰

The City of Ottawa may wish to provide the Humane Society with funds to build a hen coop and vet access, especially during a transition period in order to assist the Humane Society with its concerns of chicken neglect. Similar gestures have been made in Kingston, where the municipal government gave the Kingston Humane Society a lump-sum of \$20,000 in order to cover the costs of any urban hen-related adjustments needed to their operating procedures.

Community organizations, such as the Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK), may also be used as a resource for end-of-life services related to urban hens.

Unlike puppies and kittens, hens are not bought on an impulse because they look cute. Hens require the construction/purchase of coop, placement of a run, and special feed. Unlike other animals kept in the city, hens cannot be bought on a whim at a local pet store. Purchasing hens requires planning. The planning and the high cost (\$200-\$500 for the coop alone) of set up leads people to embark on hen ownership in a responsible and educated way.

Bylaws in cities that allow hens include regulations around the basic necessities for hens and consequences, usually in the format of fines, for noncompliance.

The humane treatment of farm animals is commonly defined by the “five freedoms,” as developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, an advisory body to the UK government. These include:

Hen cruelty

1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
2. Freedom from discomfort - by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals own kind.
5. Freedom from fear and distress - by ensuring conditions that avoid mental suffering.

To enjoy the Five Freedoms, hens need shelter, food, water, adequate space, environmental conditions (such as adequate ventilation and light) conducive to good health, and the opportunity to socialize and engage in fundamental behaviours, which for them include scratching (foraging by scraping the ground with their claws), roosting (resting on a stick or branch), and dust

bathing (thrashing around in the dirt to clean feathers and remove parasites).

Appendix L3 - Avian Influenza

Chickens, like other birds, are susceptible to forms of Type A influenza that are collectively known as “avian influenza” (AI). The AI virus is widespread, particularly among wild birds, but most forms produce relatively mild or no symptoms. AI can mutate, after circulation in a concentrated poultry population, into highly pathogenic forms (HPAI) that produce severe symptoms but this is less common²³¹. AI is not an airborne disease, but is transmitted from infected to healthy birds via direct contact with birds and their droppings, feathers, and body fluids²³².

AI has spread to humans in rare instances. Transmission from birds to human remains difficult, usually involving prolonged and close contact, and human-to-human transmission has been suspected in only a handful of cases²³³. The greatest risk of infection for humans appears to be through the handling and slaughtering of live infected poultry. Public health concerns centre on the potential for the virus to mutate or combine with other influenza viruses to produce a form that could easily spread from person to person.

A high pathogenic H5N1 subtype of AI has caused virulent disease among birds in parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe, and rare but serious disease in humans. An outbreak of high pathogenic H7N3 AI occurred among poultry in the Fraser Valley in 2004, resulting in the deaths of 17 million birds (through disease and culling) but only two mild cases of flu among humans. Health authorities in Canada consider the risk of H5N1 reaching North America, or other HPAI subtypes spreading among backyard hens, to be extremely limited, particularly if biosecurity measures, such as those recommended by the CFIA, are followed.

The British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) conducted a literature review on the risks of infectious disease from backyard hens and found that:

Overall, the risk of pathogen transmission associated with backyard chicken keeping appears to be mild and does not present a greater threat to population health compared to other animals allowed by similar bylaws (reptiles, dogs, etc). Public adherence to proper hygiene will significantly mitigate the risk of any disease acquisition including pathogens commonly found in chickens.

Vancouver Coastal Health has worked with staff on developing the recommended guidelines and considers them to be protective of public health.

Dr. Victoria Bowes, a board-certified Poultry Veterinarian in the Fraser Valley and an authority on the Fraser Valley outbreak, considers the risk of HPAI among backyard hens to be minimal, stating that:

As long as Asian HPAI-H5N1 remains foreign to Canada AND the birds don't move out of the backyard once they are placed, then the avian influenza disease risks are extremely low (almost negligible).

Similarly, Interior Health recently released a document entitled “Backyard Chickens in the Urban Environment,” which is intended as a guide for municipalities considering the health implications of backyard chicken keeping. The document states:

The risk of avian influenza development is not appreciably increased by backyard hens. Urban hen keepers should be encouraged to follow the advice of CFIA: Bird Health Basics - How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds. The staff recommendation requires hen keepers to follow the CFIA biosecurity standards, and includes the standards as a required reading on the on-line registry. These measures are intended to limit introduction of diseases from other domestic poultry and cross-contamination between humans and hens. Staff further recommends that owners be required to

provide veterinary care for hens sufficient to maintain them in good health.

A number of other recommendations also will serve to minimize any potential for AI in backyard hens. Limiting the number of hens to four per lot (including multi-family lots) will ensure that the densities required for LPAI to develop into HPAI are not found in the city, especially given the expected low percentage of residents who will keep hens. The potential for spread of any form of AI is further reduced by the recommended requirement that hens be kept continuously enclosed in a roofed, secure structure. Under these conditions, introduction of any viruses from wild birds or other backyard hens would be extremely limited.

A third recommendation that will reduce risks in the unlikely event of an outbreak, or in the event that HPAI is found among North American wild bird populations, is the requirement for all hen keepers to enrol in an on-line registry, and to update their registration in a timely manner. The registry database will allow health officials to pinpoint the locations of backyard hens should a health emergency arise.

Other recommendations that will limit the potential for the spread of disease include a prohibition on backyard slaughtering, which will reduce exposure to blood and other body fluids from diseased birds; a prohibition on sale of hen products, which will limit transfer of disease; and requirements to keep enclosures sanitary and free from accumulated manure and waste.

Appendix L4 – Anticipation of Complaints Study, Kingston (April 2010)

<u>City</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u># of Complaints per year</u>	<u>Complaints per 100,000</u>	<u>Projected Yearly Hen-Related Complaints in Kingston</u> <u>(2006 Population: 117,297)</u>
Niagara Falls, ON	82,181	2	2	3
Guelph, ON	114,943	"just a few"		
Brampton, ON	433,806	6	1	2
Victoria	300,000	12	4	5
Surrey, BC	400,000	"very few"		
Saanich, BC	108,000	15	14	16
New Westminister, BC	58,549	4.5	8	9
Rossland, BC	3,278	0	0	0
Esquimalt, BC	16,840	0		
Burnaby, BC	216,336	12	6	7
Average Complaints per 100,000 population: 5				
Average Estimated Complaints in Kingston: 6				

Appendix L5 – Comparative Overview of Select Urban Chicken Bylaws

<u>Municipality and Bylaw(s)</u>	<u>Bylaw Details</u>	<u>Lot Requirements</u>	<u>Number of Chickens Allowed</u>	<u>Refuse/Other</u>	<u>Local Contact</u>
Brampton, ON Pop. 433,806 (2006)	See Section 11	“A building structure, coop, pen or run” No specification for size	2 maximum Roosters prohibited	Buried or in air-tight containers until removed Feed must be kept in rodent-	www.brampton.ca City Clerk’s Office (905) 874-2101 Bylaw Enforcement Office

<p>Bylaws 261-93 and 78-2009</p>	<p>8m from other building, 2m from property boundary</p>	<p>proof containers Chickens may not roam at large</p>	<p>(905) 458-3424 Animal Services - Tamara (905) 458-5200 x203 Brampton Animal Shelter (905) 458-5800</p>		
<p>Guelph, ON Pop. 114,943 (2006) Bylaw (1985)-11952</p>	<p>“No person shall keep ducks, geese, poultry or pigeons within the city limits unless kept in pens, with floors kept free from standing water, and regularly cleaned and disinfected, and that such pens be a distance of at least 50’ from any school, church or dwelling not incl. the owner’s dwelling.”</p>	<p>At least 50 feet from any school, church or dwelling house of others</p>	<p>Unspecified “Kept in pens, with floors kept free from standing water” Regularly cleaned and disinfected</p>	<p>www.guelph.ca City Clerk’s Office (519) 837-5603 Bylaw Enforcement Office (519) 836-7275 Guelph Humane Society (519) 824-3091</p>	
<p>Kingston, ON Pop. 117,207 (2006) Proposed bylaw regulation (June 18, 2011: 18-month pilot)</p>	<p>"Kingston residents are now permitted to keep up to six hens in their backyards provided they abide by the regulations outlined below. These regulations for keeping egg-laying hens will be</p>	<p>Section 4.14: “The regulation set out in section 4.13 does not apply to an agricultural property [or] to a property of five (5) or more acres.” Hen coops and runs must be at least 1.2m from the rear or side lot line, 15m from</p>	<p>6 maximum, Roosters prohibited</p>	<p>Hen coops and runs must be clean and free of obnoxious odours substances and vermin. Stored manure shall be kept in an enclosed structure and no more than three cubic feet shall be stored at any one time. Manure must be disposed</p>	<p>www.cityofkingston.ca City Clerk’s Office (613) 546-0000 Bylaw Enforcement Office (613) 546-0000 Urban Agriculture Kingston</p>

<p>in place during an 18-month pilot period (beginning June 8, 2011)."</p>	<p>any school, 7.5m from a church or business, and 3m from all windows and doors for abutting properties and they are not permitted in front or side yards.</p>	<p>of in accordance with Municipal bylaws — no waste the consistency of "swill" (sloppy liquid mixture) is to be collected. This means that hen waste would have to be solid, and it would need to be bagged.</p>			
<p>Niagara Falls Pop. 82184 (2006) Bylaws</p>	<p>All chicken coops shall be located only in the rear yard and must fully enclose the chickens and prevent them from escaping.</p>	<p>All lots housing chickens must have: a frontage of at least 40 feet; and, detached dwellings on them; a depth of at least 100 feet. The chicken coop shall be located at least 25 feet from the rear lot line of the lot on which the chicken coop is located. The chicken coop shall be located at least 15 feet from any side lot line of the lot on which the chicken coop is located.</p>	<p>Maximum 10</p>	<p>All dead chickens must be disposed of immediately and in any event, within 24 hours. There must be hygienic storage of and prompt removal of chicken feces. The chicken's food supply must be protected against vermin.</p>	
<p>Quinte West, ON Pop. 42,697 (2006) Bylaw 11-93</p>	<p>See General Provisions Section</p>	<p>Restricted to properties that are zoned to permit a single family dwelling 1 acre minimum</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	<p>Unspecified</p>	
<p>Saanich, BC Pop.</p>	<p>See Sections 4, 38, 39 and</p>	<p>12,000 sq. ft. lot minimum</p>	<p>lot 10 maximum,</p>	<p>Roosters prohibited in</p>	<p>www.saanich.ca Clerk's Office</p>

<p>108,265 (2006) Bylaw 8556</p>	<p>40</p>	<p>Research/consultations are currently underway aimed at allowing hens on lots smaller than 12,000 sq. ft.</p> <p>12,000 to 20,000 sq. ft.; 30 maximum, for lots 20,001 to 43,056 sq. ft.; unlimited number, for lots over 43,056 sq. ft.</p>	<p>residential areas; in rural areas, up to 5 roosters for lots up to 43,056 sq. ft.; unlimited for larger lots</p> <p>(250) 475-5494 x3507 Strategic Planning Unit (250) 475-5494 x3401 Animal Control Officer Sue Ryan, x4360</p>
<p>Surrey, BC Pop. 394,976 (2006) Zoning Bylaw 12000</p>	<p>See General Provisions Section</p>	<p>1 acre minimum</p>	<p>12 chickens maximum per acre of land Roosters prohibited</p> <p>No slaughter; chickens can be kept for egg production only</p> <p>Remove all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing; follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; keep hens for personal use only, and not sell eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from hens; not slaughter, or attempt to euthanize, a hen on the property; not dispose of a hen except by delivering it to the Poundkeeper, or to a farm, abattoir,</p> <p>www.surrey.ca City Clerk's Office (604) 591-4132 Bylaw Enforcement and Licensing Department (604) 591-4370 Surrey SPCA (604) 597-5655</p>
<p>Vancouver, BC Pop. 578,041 (2006) Bylaw 9150</p>	<p>See Section 7.15 and 7.16 Hens must be registered</p>	<p>Min. 0.37 m2 of coop floor area per hen, and at least 0.92 m2 of roofed outdoor enclosure; floor of any combination of vegetated or bare earth in each outdoor enclosure; in each coop, at least one perch, for each hen, that is at least 15 cm long, and one nest box.</p>	<p>Unspecified</p> <p>Remove all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing; follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; keep hens for personal use only, and not sell eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from hens; not slaughter, or attempt to euthanize, a hen on the property; not dispose of a hen except by delivering it to the Poundkeeper, or to a farm, abattoir,</p> <p>www.vancouver.ca City Clerk's Office (604) 873-7000 Bylaw Enforcement Office (604) Vancouver SPCA (604) 879-7721</p>

				veterinarian, mobile slaughter unit, or other facility that has the ability to dispose of hens lawfully
Victoria, BC Pop. 78,057 (2006) Bylaw 92- 189	Farm animals disallowed, however, hens are not directly referred to in Animal Control Bylaw.	Unspecified	Unspecified. Roosters prohibited, unless for 3- 6 month breeding period.	Eggs for personal consumption only, cannot be sold.
				www.victoria.ca City Manager's Office (250) 361-0202 Planning Department Victoria Animal Control (250) 414-0233 vacs.ca Victoria SPCA (250) 388-7722
Gatineau, QC Pop. 242,124 (2006) Bylaw 183- 2005	See Chapter 6: "Animal agricole"	2 acres minimum, with enclosed yard	Unspecified	www.ville.gatineau.qc.ca CAO's Office (819) 595-2002 Bylaw Enforcement Office 1-866-299-2002 SPCA de l'Outaouais (819) 243-2004
Chicago, USA Pop. 2,853,114 (2009) (Ch 7-12)	"keep restraint" "sanitary shelter" (under "Cruelty to animals") "In coops and runaways"	Unspecified	Dead animals can be buried if less than 150lbs.	
New York City, USA Pop. 8,363,710 (2008) (Title 24, Article 161)	Coops shall be kept clean and "maintained so as not to become a nuisance"	Unspecified Roosters prohibited Permit required for keeping poultry for sale	No "escape of offensive odors" No slaughter	
Seattle, USA Pop. 602,000 (2009) (Title 23, Subtitle III, Div.2, Ch 42-052)	Standard lot size (5000 sq. ft.), 1 extra chicken per 1000 sq. ft. "sanitary condition" (under "offenses	3 maximum (but more allowed on larger lots)	Feces must not be accumulated more than 24 hours. (under "offenses relating to safety and	

relating to
cruelty”

sanitation”)
No slaughter

Appendix L6 Letter from Dr. David Walter-Toews, de-linking human illness and urban chickens

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March 30, 2009

To whom it may concern:

As a veterinarian and an epidemiologist specializing in diseases people get from animals (zoonoses) through food, water, and various other means (insects, environment, direct contact), I know of no evidence linking human illness with keeping small urban flocks. In many parts of the world, urban agriculture provides a substantial portion of the food supply, and this is likely to increase in the future as more and more people move into cities and fossil fuel supplies dwindle.

It seems to me that many of the fears associated with having poultry in the city are based on antiquated notions of "going back" to the poverty and subsistence farming of 100 years ago. We now know a lot more about ecology and the careful managing of urban flocks, the positive impacts of proper composting of manure and dead animals, and have both vaccines and management tools available that were not, perhaps, widely known at that time. There are of course known risks associated with large, intensively reared flocks, in which bacterial shedding and the spread of infection are facilitated.

My great frustration in teaching food safety has been that so few consumers have any realistic notion of where their food comes from or what benefits and risks are associated with different ways of rearing and distributing food. Hence they are vulnerable to a variety of charlatans selling "antibacterial soaps" and promoting sterile households. My hope would be that the rearing of poultry on a small scale within city limits would begin the process of redressing this profound ignorance. I would hope that these urban "farms" could serve as places for education and sharing of information.

The small risks involved are far outweighed by the social and ecological benefits. In fact, if we do not make room for these urban entrepreneurs, we risk losing a set of very important food-rearing skills that will enable us to better navigate the economic, climatic and environmental instability our society will face in the coming decades. Cities like New York and Vancouver have recognized this; when Waterloo approves this, we will be in good company.

As a resident of downtown Kitchener I would be pleased to see more small scale agriculture within the city limits, including poultry. I look forward to my city following in Waterloo's footsteps.

-Dr. David Waltner-Toews, Professor.

223 These recommendations for Ottawa are premised on urban hen policies and regulations in other Canadian cities, as referred to elsewhere in this document. They have been revised to suit the Ottawa context.

224 It is recommended that hen-keeping be allowed in all residential zones, including multi-family, and that all of those zones be subject to the same requirements. Thus, a multi-family development could have 6-8 hens per lot, not 6-8 hens *per unit*.

225 City of Ottawa. Respecting Animal Care and Control By-law No. 2003- 77.
http://www.ottawa.ca/en/licence_permit/bylaw/a_z/acc/index.html.

226 District of Saanich, BC. www.saanich.ca/living/community/chickens/docs/HenBasics.pdf

227 City of Pleasanton. Planning Commission Staff Report, October 26, 2005, Item 6f. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/pcsr-6f-prz30-ord.pdf>.

228 National Agricultural Safety Database. Hearing Protection for Farmers. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://nasdonline.org/document/1144/d000933/hearing-protection-for-farmers.html>.

229 Coppola, Crista L., Enns, R. Mark, Grandin, Temple. "Noise in the Animal Shelter Environment: Building Design and the Effects of Daily Noise Exposure," *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 9(1), 1-7

230 Personal communication, City of Ottawa Bylaw Services, *Personal communication April 2011*

231 World Health Organization (WHO). Avian Influenza Fact Sheet. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/avian_influenza/en/

232 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Questions and Answers – The Facts of Bird Flu. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/qanda.html>

233 World Health Organization (WHO). H5N1 Avian Influenza: Timeline of Major Events. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/Timeline_10_01_04.pdf

234 Urban Agriculture Kingston. "Kingston Backyard Hens: An Eggcellent Idea Whose Time Has Come". April, 2010. Accessed online March 2012 from: <http://uakingston.webs.com/backyardhens.htm>.