

HEN OWNER GUIDELINES

A resident of a property may keep backyard hens by:

1. Submitting:

- a Hen Owner License Form and Hen License fee and paying a one-time \$10 Hen License fee. If the resident is not the owner of a property, an Agency Agreement must also be submitted; and
- a scaled site plan showing the location of Coop, Pen, electric fencing, other Hen related structures and any other buildings and structures on the property.

2. Once City staff have approved the submitted site plan, constructing a Coop and Pen and associated structures in accordance with the following:

- no more than five (5) Hens may be kept on any property;
- only Hens four (4) months of age and older may be kept;
- a rooster may not be kept;
- Hens may not be kept within a residential dwelling unit or on a balcony or deck;
- proper cleaning and animal husbandry must be followed at all times;
- provide a Coop and Pen, with a minimum 0.37 m² Coop space and 0.92 m² Pen space per Hen;
- ensure the Coop is not visible from the street;
- locate the Coop behind the rear face of the Principal Building and no closer to an exterior side lot line than the Principal Building;
- ensure the Coop or related structures comply with the setback requirements for accessory buildings and structures in the City's Zoning Bylaw;
- construct and maintain each Coop and Pen in such a way that it is secure from other animals and rodents and prevents them from harboring underneath structures or within walls;
- ensure that each Hen remains at all times in a Coop or Pen and that each Hen is kept within a Coop from sunset to 7:00 a.m.;
- ensure the Coop is roofed and provide each Hen with its own nesting box and

approximate 15cm perch;

- ensure Coops and Pens do not exceed 10 m² floor area or 2 m in height;
- not keep a Hen in a cage unless for the purposes of transport of the Hen;
- not slaughter, euthanize or bury a Hen on the property;
- not dispose of a deceased Hen other than by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other facility with the ability to lawfully dispose of the carcass;
- ensure that Coops and Pens are enclosed by an electric fence located a minimum 1m from the Coop and Pen, and that the electric fence and gate:
 - i. has a minimum of six strands of 12.5 gauge high tensile galvanized wire, with the bottom wire no more than 5 cm from the ground and subsequent wires spaced at an interval of no greater than 25 cm apart, with alternating positive and negative strands, with the top wire no less than 1.1 m from the ground;
 - ii. is programmed to a minimum conduction of 6000 volts to a maximum of 10,000 volts;
 - iii. is grounded using three (3) 16 mm ground rods, 2-3 m deep and spaced at least 3m apart, connected to the negative output terminal of the fence charger by ground clamps; and
 - iv. is braced by corner posts (and guy wires or inside angle braces where necessary) to ensure posts will not bend or pull from the ground when the electric fence wire is pulled to the appropriate tension.

NOTE - When contacting the City's Bylaw Enforcement Officer (See step 3 below) photos, receipts or other documentation will be required that demonstrate: 1) the ground rods were installed 2-3 m deep; 2) the wire is 12.5 gauge; and 3) the fence is programmed between 6000 and 10,000 volts.

- maintain each Coop and Pen in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and obnoxious smells and substances;
 - secure all Hen food storage within a fully enclosed structure;
 - store manure within a fully enclosed structure in a manner that does not generate excessive heat or odour, ensuring that no more than 0.085m³ (3 cubic feet) is stored at a time;
 - not deposit manure in the City recycling or yard waste systems, or the City sewage or storm drain system. Small quantities of manure may be placed in a receptacle for household garbage, but must be contained within a sealed bag;
 - not sell any manure or meat derived from the hens; and
 - ensure the timely removal of leftover food, trash and manure from each Coop and Pen.
- 3.** Contacting the City's Bylaw Enforcement Officer at 250-365-8963 to arrange an inspection PRIOR to obtaining and keeping Hens.