

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
TOWN OF COALHURST
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA**



**PROPOSED BYLAW NO. 416-20
Urban Hen Bylaw**

**To be held at 7:00 p.m., June 2, 2020
Through Electronic Means**

PURSUANT to Section 606 of the Municipal Government Act, Statutes of Alberta, Chapter M-26, 2000, as amended, the Council of the Town of Coalhurst in the Province of Alberta hereby gives notice of its intention to consider Bylaw No. 416-20 Urban Hen Bylaw;

WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Coalhurst is considering a Bylaw to Regulate the Keeping of Chickens on a Temporary Basis;

THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE THAT public participation on proposed Bylaw No. 416-20 will be held through electronic means at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd day of June 2020. A copy of the proposed bylaw and supplemental information is available on the Town's website – www.coalhurst.ca.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT anyone wishing to make a formal presentation regarding the proposed bylaw should contact the Chief Administrative Officer, at (403)381-3033 or rkhauta@coalhurst.ca, no later than 4:00 p.m. on the 29th day of May 2020. Written, e-mailed and/or verbal presentations may be given at the Regular meeting on the above stated date.

DATED at the Town of Coalhurst in the Province of Alberta this 21st day of May 2020.

*R.K. (Kim) Hauta
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of Coalhurst*

****This meeting will be conducted through electronic means, in accordance with Section 199 of the MGA. Public will be able to speak or to hear the meeting as it is occurring by dialing 1-647-490-1504 and entering the meeting ID 478 955 0259, when prompted. When you join, you are asked to mute your phone, until asked to speak, to minimize background noise. This public notice is provided in accordance with Section 606(6)(b) of the MGA.**

BYLAW NO. 416-20

**A BYLAW OF THE TOWN OF COALHURST
IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
TO REGULATE THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS IN URBAN AREAS
ON A TEMPORARY BASIS**

WHEREAS pursuant to provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, Council may pass a bylaw for municipal purposes respecting the safety, health and welfare of people, the protection of people and property, wild and domestic animals, and certain activities in relation to them; and

WHEREAS pursuant to provisions of the Municipal Government Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter M-26 and amendments thereto, Council has the authority to provide for a system of licences, permits and approvals; and

WHEREAS Council deems it desirable to regulate and licence the keeping of chickens in urban areas of the Town;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Coalhurst enacts as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

This bylaw may be known as the "Urban Hen Bylaw".

2. DEFINITIONS

In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 2.1 **"Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)"** means the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town appointed by Council, or designate;
- 2.2 **"Contiguous Boundary"** means property which either abuts directly on the property where the urban hens will be kept or is directly separated from the property by a street ~~of~~ ^{or} street right of way, alley, walkway, railway, water body, utility lot or other similar feature;
- 2.3 **"Coop"** means a fully enclosed weather proof structure and attached outdoor enclosure used for the keeping of urban hens, that is no larger than 9.2m² (100 ft.²) in floor area, and no more than 2m (6.56 ft.) in height;
- 2.4 **"Council"** means the Council of the Town of Coalhurst;
- 2.5 **"Hen"** means a domesticated female chicken;
- 2.6 **"Municipal Tag"** means a document alleging an offence issued pursuant to the authority of a Bylaw of the Town;
- 2.7 **"Outdoor Enclosure"** means a securely enclosed, roofed outdoor area attached to and forming part of a coop having a bare earth or vegetated floor for urban hens to roam;

2.8 “Peace Officer” means:

- a) a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
- b) a Community Peace Officer as appointed by the Solicitor General of Alberta;
- c) a Bylaw Enforcement Officer as appointed by the Town to enforce bylaws of the Town;

2.9 “Rooster” means a domesticated male chicken;

2.10 “Sell” means to exchange or deliver for money or its equivalent;

2.11 “Town” means the Town of Coalhurst, a municipal corporation in the Province of Alberta, and where the context so requires, means the area of land within the corporate boundaries thereof;

2.12 “Urban Area” means lands located within the Town on which agricultural operations, including but not limited to the keeping of livestock, are neither a permitted or discretionary use under Bylaws of the Town;

2.13 “Urban Hen” means a hen that is at least sixteen (16) weeks of age;

2.14 “Urban Hen Licence” means a licence issued pursuant to this Bylaw which authorizes the licence holder to keep urban hens on a specific property within the Town.

2.15 “Violation Tag” means a notice or tag in the form as approved by the CAO, issued by the Town, allowing a voluntary payment option of a fine established under this Bylaw;

2.16 “Violation Ticket” means a ticket issued pursuant to Part 2 of the *Provincial Offences Procedures Act*, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter P-34 and any amendments or regulations thereto.

3. PROHIBITIONS

3.1 In an urban area, no person shall keep:

- a) a rooster; or
- b) a hen, other than an urban hen for which a valid urban hen licence has been issued.

4. URBAN HEN LICENCES

4.1 The maximum number of urban hen licences that may be issued in the Town shall be ten (10).

4.2 A person may keep up to five (5) urban hens by:

- a) submitting a completed urban hen licence application on forms approved by the CAO, and, attached as Schedule “B”; and
- b) paying an annual urban hen licence fee of Thirty Dollars (\$30.00).

- 4.3 Urban hen licences are valid for the period ending December 31.
- 4.4 Urban hen licence fees shall not be reduced or prorated no matter the month of purchase.
- 4.5 Urban hen licence fees shall not be refunded or rebated.
- 4.6 An urban hen licence is not transferable from one person to another.
- 4.7 An urban hen licence is not transferable from one property to another except:
- a) when a licence holder has moved to a new property within the Town, then:
 - i. the licence holder may apply to transfer the licence; and
 11. an inspection of the new property must be carried out to determine the licence holder is still able to meet all requirements for an urban hen licence as set out in this Bylaw at such property.
- 4.8 A person to whom an urban hen licence has been issued shall produce the licence upon the demand of a Peace Officer.
- 4.9 An urban hen licence may be issued if the CAO is satisfied that:
- a) the applicant is the owner of the property on which the urban hens will be kept; or that the owner of the property has provided written consent to the applicant;
 - b) the land use designation of the property on which the urban hens will be kept allows the placement of a coop for the keeping of urban hens;
 - c) the applicant resides on the property on which the urban hens will be kept;
 - d) all required information has been provided;
 - e) the applicant has taken a course on the safe handling of hens and eggs, prior to issuance of a licence;
 - f) the applicable licence fee has been paid; and
 - g) the applicant has complied with all other Provincial and Federal Regulations for the keeping of chickens.
- 4.10 Notwithstanding Section 3.a. of Town Bylaw No. 292-02, any person who has applied for and been approved for ownership of urban hens may keep hens in accordance with the terms of this Bylaw and its attached Schedules.
- 4.11 An urban hen licence may be refused or revoked by the CAO if:
- a) the applicant or licence holder does not meet or no longer meets the requirements for an urban hen licence as set out in this Bylaw;
 - b) the applicant or licence holder furnishes false information or misrepresents any fact or circumstance required pursuant to this Bylaw;
 - c) the applicant or licence holder has, in the opinion of the CAO, based on reasonable grounds, contravened any part of this Bylaw whether or not the contravention has been prosecuted;
 - d) the applicant or licence holder fails to pay a fine imposed by a court for a contravention of this Bylaw or any other applicable Bylaw related to the keeping of livestock;

- e) the applicant or licence holder fails to pay any fee required by this Bylaw or any other applicable legislation; or
- f) fifty percent (50%) or more of the neighbours having contiguous boundaries with the property where the urban hens will be kept are not in support of the application;
- g) in the opinion of the CAO, based on reasonable grounds, it is in the public interest to do so.

4.12 If the CAO revokes, or refuses to issue an urban hen licence, the applicant may appeal the decision to Council, in accordance with Town Bylaws.

5. KEEPING OF URBAN HENS

5.1 A person who keeps urban hens must:

- a) provide each urban hen with at least 0.37m² (3.98 ft.²) of interior floor area, and at least 0.92m² (9.9 ft.²) of outdoor enclosure, within the coop;
- b) ensure that each coop is:
 - i. located in the rear yard of the property;
 - ii. a minimum 3.0m (9.84 ft.) from a dwelling;
 - iii. a minimum 1.5m (5.0 ft.) from any accessory structures;
 - iv. a minimum 1.2m (4.0 ft.) from a side yard and 1.5m (5.0 ft.) from the rear yard;
 - v. a minimum 3.1m (10 ft.) from a secondary front (corner lots); and
 - vi. at grade level, no more than 2m (6.56 ft.) in height;
- c) provide and maintain, in the coop, at least one nest box per coop and one perch per urban hen that is at least 15cm (5.90 in) long;
- d) keep each urban hen in the coop at all times;
- e) provide each urban hen with appropriate food, liquid (unfrozen) water, shelter, light, warmth, ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the urban hen in good health;
- f) maintain the coop in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances;
- g) construct and maintain the coop to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath, within, or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal;
- h) keep a food container and water container in the coop;
- i) keep the coop secured at all times;
- j) remove leftover feed, trash, and manure in a timely manner;
- k) store feed within a fully enclosed container;
- l) store manure within a fully enclosed container, and store no more than 85 litres (3 cubic feet) of manure at any time;
- m) remove all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing and dispose of such in accordance with Town Bylaws;
- n) follow biosecurity procedures outlined by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to reduce potential for disease outbreak;
- o) keep urban hens for personal use only; and
- p) inform the Town immediately of any disease or welfare issues that may affect the public, and of the steps taken to rectify the situation.

5.2 No person who keeps urban hens shall:

- a) sell eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from an urban hen;
- b) slaughter any urban hen on the property;
- c) dispose of an urban hen except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other operation that is lawfully permitted to dispose of such; and
- d) keep an urban hen in a cage, kennel, or any other form of shelter other than a coop, except for the purpose of temporary transport

6. AUTHORITY OF CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

6.1 Without restricting any other power, duty, or function granted by the Urban Hen Bylaw, the Chief Administrative Officer may:

- a) carry out any inspections to determine compliance with the Urban Hen Bylaw;
- b) take any steps or carry out any actions required to enforce the Urban Hen Bylaw;
- c) take any steps or carry out any actions required to remedy a contravention of the Urban Hen Bylaw;
- d) establish forms for the purposes of the Urban Hen Bylaw; and
- e) delegate any powers, duties, or functions under the Urban Hen Bylaw to a Town employee

7. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

7.1 No person shall willfully obstruct, hinder or interfere with a Peace Officer or any other person authorized to enforce and engaged in the enforcement of the provisions of this Bylaw.

7.2 Any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars, imprisonment for a term not exceeding one (1) year, or both.

7.3 Where there is a specified penalty listed for an offence in Schedule "A" to this Bylaw, that amount is the minimum specified penalty for the offence.

7.4 Where a person contravenes the same provision of this Bylaw two (2) or more times within one twelve (12) month period, the specified penalty payable in respect of the second or subsequent contravention shall be the amount stated in Schedule "A" for such offences.

7.5 In the case of an offence that is of a continuing nature, a contravention constitutes a separate offense in respect of each day or part of a day on which it continues.

7.6 The levying and payment of any fine or the imprisonment for any period provided in this Bylaw shall not relieve a person from the necessity of paying any fees, charges or costs from which that person is liable under the provisions of this Bylaw or any

other bylaw.

7.7 Any Peace Officer who has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that any person has contravened any provision of this Bylaw may issue and serve:

- a) a violation tag allowing a payment of the specified penalty to the Town; or
- b) a violation ticket allowing payment according to the provisions of the Provincial Offences Procedure Act, Revised Statutes of Alberta 2000, Chapter P-34 and amendments thereto.

7.8 Service of a violation tag will be sufficient if it is:

- a) personally served; or
- b) served by regular mail to the person's last known mailing address.

7.9 If a violation ticket is issued in respect to an offence, the violation ticket may:

- a) specify the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence; or
- b) require a person to appear in court without the alternative of making a voluntary payment.

7.10 A person who commits an offence may:

- a) if a violation ticket is issued in respect of the offence; and
- b) if the violation ticket specified the fine amount established by this Bylaw for the offence;

make a voluntary payment equal to the specified fine by delivering the violation ticket and the specified fine to the provincial courthouse specified on the violation ticket.

8. SEVERABILITY

8.1 It is the intention of Council that each separate provision of this Bylaw shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein and it is the further intention of Council that if any provision of this Bylaw is declared invalid, all other provisions hereof shall remain valid and enforceable.

9. GENERAL

9.1 Any person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw by:

- a) doing any act or thing which the person is prohibited from doing; or
- b) failing to do any act or thing the person is required to do.

is guilty of an offence and any offence created pursuant to this Bylaw is a strict liability offence for the purposes of prosecution under this Bylaw.

- 9.2 Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a person from complying with any provision of any federal or provincial law or regulation, other bylaws(s), or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or licence.
- 9.3 Words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular.
- 9.4 Schedule "A" shall form a part of this Bylaw and may, from time to time, be amended.
- 9.5 No provision of this Bylaw or any action taken pursuant to any provision of this Bylaw shall restrict, limit, prevent or preclude the Town from pursuing any other remedy in relation to a premises as provided by the *Municipal Government Act*, or any other law of the Province of Alberta.

This Bylaw comes into force upon the date of the passing of the third and final reading thereof.

READ A FIRST TIME THIS DAY OF , A.D. 2020

READ A SECOND TIME THIS DAY OF , A.D. 2020

READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS DAY OF , A.D. 2020

MAYOR

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Schedule "A"

SECTION	OFFENCE	PENALTY 1 st Offence	PENALTY 2 nd & Subsequent
3.1 a)	Keep a rooster	\$250	\$500
3.1 b)	Keep an unlicensed urban hen	\$250	\$500
4.3	Fail to renew urban hen licence	\$250	\$500
4.6	[Transfer urban hen licence	\$250	\$500
4.8	Fail to produce urban hen licence upon demand	\$250	\$500
5.1 a)	Fail to provide adequate coop space for number of hens	\$250	\$500
5.1 b)	Coop improperly located	\$250	\$500
5.1 c)	Fail to provide nest box or perch per urban hen	\$250	\$500
5.1 d)	allow urban hen to be outside coop	\$250	\$500
5.1 e)	Fail to adequately provide for essential hen behaviour	\$250	\$500
5.1 f)	Fail to maintain coop to prevent odors	\$250	\$500
5.1 g)	Fail to prevent rodents/animals from entering coop	\$250	\$500
5.1 h)	Fail to keep food and water in coop	\$250	\$500
5.1 i)	Fail to keep coop secured	\$250	\$500
5.1 j)	Fail to remove waste in timely manner	\$250	\$500
5.1 k)	Fail to properly store feed	\$250	\$500
5.1 l)	Fail to properly store manure	\$250	\$500
5.1 m)	Fail to properly dispose of manure	\$250	\$500
5.1 n)	Fail to follow biosecurity procedures	\$250	\$500
5.1 o)	Keep urban hens for other than personal use	\$250	\$500
5.1 p)	Fail to inform of any disease or welfare issues	\$250	\$500
5.2 a)	Sell products derived from urban hens	\$250	\$500
5.2 b)	Slaughter urban hen on property	\$250	\$500
5.2 c)	Unlawfully dispose of urban hen	\$250	\$500
5.2 d)	Keep urban hen in other form of shelter other than coop	\$250	\$500

Schedule "B"

TOWN OF COALHURST
URBAN HEN LICENCE APPLICATION



Urban Hen Licenses are effective until December 31, 20__, and are required to be renewed annually
(Applicant must be 18 years of age or older)

PLEASE PRINT AND COMPLETE THE ENTIRE FORM

Name of Applicant: _____
Complete Mailing Address: _____
If different than mailing
Address location of urban hens _____
Phone Number(s): _____
Email Address: _____
Number of Chickens At This Location: (Max. 5) _____

Circle One:

Owner

Tenant**

**if tenant, a letter of authorization is required from the registered property owner, along with this application form

Please initial once read

- Licence is for 2020.
- I have read and accept the *Terms and Conditions* contained in Town of Coalhurst Bylaw No. 416-20.
- I acknowledge that I am required to apply for a Premises Identification Number through the Alberta Agriculture and Forestry online at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises or paper application obtained from Rural Development (ARD) Field Office throughout Alberta.
- I certify that I will abide by all regulations after I have received my License, knowing that failure to comply may result in cancellation of the Urban Hen License.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

The personal information that you provide to the Town of Coalhurst is collected under the authority of the *Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act* – Section 33(c). The information will be used for the purpose of issuing urban hen licenses, and for monitoring and animal control purposes.

Collected personal information is protected from unauthorized access, collection, use, and disclosure in accordance with the *FOIP Act*, and can be reviewed and corrected upon request. Questions regarding the collection of personal information can be directed to: FOIP Head, Town of Coalhurst, 100 – 51 Ave. Box 456 Coalhurst, AB T0L 0V0, Tel (403)381-3033. For information about the license, bylaw, etc. please contact Town of Coalhurst Bylaw Officer at Tel (403)635-2529.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Criteria to be met	Compliance Yes or No	Comments:
❖ Payment received with Application		
❖ Received consent from 50% or more of the neighbours; (attach letters)		
❖ Property on which the hens will be kept is a detached or semi-detached dwelling;		
❖ Land Use Districting of the property on which the hens will be kept allows the placement of a coop;		

 Approving Officer

 Date: YYYY/MM/DD

 Urban Hen License No:

Follow-up after Approval	Compliance Yes or No	Comments:
❖ There are no roosters on site		
❖ Chicken coop is in the rear yard and located in accordance with Bylaw No. 416-20 – Section 5.1 b)		
❖ At least one nest box per coop and one perch per hen, that is at least 15 cm long;		
❖ The coop is constructed to prevent rodents from harbouring underneath or within its wall, and to prevent entrance by other animals;		
❖ Applied for and received the Premises Identification (PID) number within 30 days of assuming ownership of hens		

 Reviewing Officer

 Date: YYYY/MM/DD

Sources:

(1.) River City Chickens-Edmonton

<http://www.rivercitychickens.org/why-keep-chickens.html>

(2.) The Chicken Chick

<https://the-chicken-chick.com/backyard-chickens-salmonella-keep-it-in-perspective/>

Centres for Disease Control

<https://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/outbreaks.html>

(3.) The Old Farmer's Almanac

<https://www.almanac.com/news/raising-chickens/raising-chickens-101-when-chickens-stop-laying-eggs>

Black Diamond Bylaw

<https://www.town.blackdiamond.ab.ca/DocumentCenter/View/130/Animal-Control-Bylaw-16-01--OFFICE-CONSOLIDATION-PDF?bidId=>

Edmonton Bylaw

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/initiatives_innovation/food_and_agriculture/urban-hens-project.aspx

High River Bylaw

<https://highriver.ca/urban-chickens-bees/>

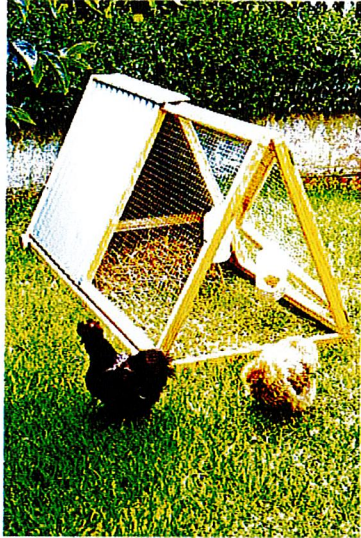
Red Deer Bylaw

<https://www.reddeer.ca/media/reddeerca/city-government/bylaws/Chicken-Bylaw-3517-2014.pdf>

Okotoks Bylaw

<https://www.okotoks.ca/sites/default/files/pdfs/publications/Bylaw%2024-17%20Urban%20Hens.pdf>

Samples of backyard chicken coops.





URBAN HEN KEEPING PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

These procedures and guidelines establish the regulatory framework for the keeping of urban hens within the City of Edmonton limits, and provide guidance for the selection of appropriate sites, the application processes and enforcement procedures to ensure successful urban hen keeping. In the development of these procedures and guidelines, the City of Edmonton reviewed best practices, communication plans, outcomes, and mitigation strategies of other municipalities who have made allowances for urban hen keeping. Zoning Bylaw requirements, potential health concerns, and provincial legislations were also carefully considered.

1

SITE REQUIREMENTS FOR HEN COOP AND RUN

- Coops may only be located in backyards of properties that are completely fenced and secured. Some properties, due to the smaller size of a backyard or other situational factors, may not be deemed suitable for urban hen keeping through the application process.
- Coop sites should take into consideration backyard locations that would minimize impact to adjacent neighbours (away from bedroom windows, furthest point from building, etc).
- An approved site may house only one coop and run, and they must be in compliance with *Zoning Bylaw 12800*. All coops are reviewed against the *Zoning Bylaw 12800* and require Development Permits unless they meet the specific criteria for exemption under Section 12.2. Consultation with a Development Officer/ Planner is recommended before purchasing or installing an accessory structure. Standard setback requirements are outlined in the *Zoning Bylaw*. The *Zoning Bylaw* requires that an accessory structure be located:
 - a minimum of 0.9m from a side property line,
 - a minimum of 18.0m from a front property line,
 - a minimum of 0.6m from the rear property line, and,
 - a minimum of 0.9m from any other buildings on the site.

2

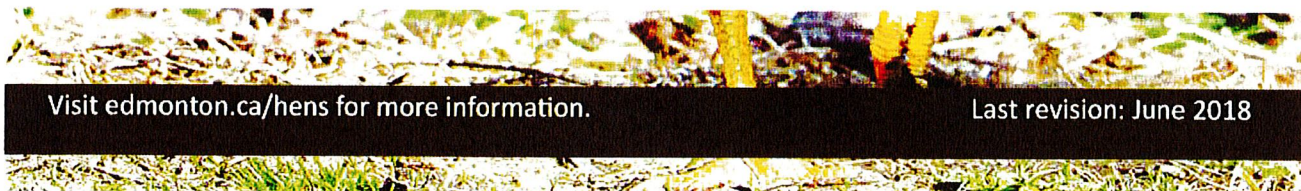
NUMBER OF HENS AND COOP SIZE

- Approved sites must keep a minimum of three hens and shall not exceed six hens per site. **Roosters are not permitted.** Hen Breed and numbers shall be indicated through the application process. Young hens (also called pullets) shall not be younger than 16 weeks old.
- A minimum of 0.37 square meters per hen is required for the coop, along with a minimum of 0.93 square meters per hen of for the run
- All coops must contain sufficient perch locations, have adequate ventilation, and be weather and predator proof.
- All hens must remain in the coop or an enclosed run unless directly supervised where they must then stay on the Licensed property.

3

NUISANCE CONDITIONS

- The site and coop must be properly maintained to prevent negative impacts, including but not limited to: attracting nuisance animals, the spread of food over the property, and excessive smells or noise.



4

STANDARD OF CARE

- Hen sites shall adhere to good management and husbandry practices, maintain hens in such a condition so as to prevent distress, disease, and welfare issues. Hens require appropriate food, liquid (unfrozen) water, shelter, light, warmth, ventilation, veterinary care and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, pecking, dust-bathing and roosting, in order to be comfortable and healthy.
- Animal Control must be notified immediately of any disease or welfare issues that arise that may affect the public and the steps taken to rectify the situation.
- In the winter months, runs are required to be wrapped. Runs can be wrapped with a hard material like corrugated plastic or a soft material like polyethylene film (poly wrap) or a tarp. Adequate ventilation in the run and coop area is important to reduce moisture and mitigate the conditions that contribute to frostbite. Pre-made coops and runs may need to be modified to ensure proper ventilation and insulation.

5

WASTE & DISPOSAL

- Manure must be removed, discarded, and/or properly composted to prevent nuisance odors.
- There is to be no on-site slaughter or euthanizing of hens within City limits. Removal methods include (but are not limited to) humane euthanasia by a veterinarian, relocation to a farm, or taking hens to a licensed abattoir. Deceased birds should be double-bagged and placed for garbage collection or taken to a veterinarian for disposal. All changes to flock size must be reported to Animal Control as a Licence requirement.

6

TRAINING & MENTOR

- The Licensee(s) must have completed an accepted urban hen keeping course. It is also recommended that for the first year each site have support and assistance from a recognized mentor. These conditions must be met, or reasonable steps towards meeting the requirement must be made prior to a permanent Urban Hen Keeping Licence being issued. The Licensee shall provide proof of completion of a training course recognized by Animal Control as comprehensive and specific to the Alberta climate. Licensees will be required to take a competency test before the end of their first year.

7

INSPECTIONS

- The Licensee(s) shall make themselves and the coops available for inspection on reasonable request from Animal Control Peace Officers.
- An initial inspection of the coop and site will be conducted prior to final site approval and the licence being granted by the City of Edmonton. Hens can be obtained after approval.

8

REGISTRATION

- The Licensee must comply with all Provincial regulations around the keeping of hens. The Province of Alberta requires all owners of poultry (including small urban flocks) to register their flocks into the provincial database and obtain a Premise Identification (PID) Number. The PID enables the province to keep track of livestock site locations in case of potential disease outbreak. The Province will maintain communication with site owners should any information or incidents occur that would require site owners to take action.
- Neighbour notification process will be completed and letters submitted back to the City as part of the application submission.

9

ENFORCEMENT

- Poultry keeping is enforced under Section 27 of the *Animal Licensing and Control Bylaw 13145*.
- Animal Control Peace Officers will respond to all complaints and initiate investigations when warranted. When enforcement or other animal husbandry issues arise, City administration will work with hen keepers, neighbours, and other external stakeholders to ensure they are addressed and resolved in a timely manner. Failing to comply with the terms and conditions of an Urban Hen Keeping Licence may result in a fine of \$100, or a licence being revoked. Keeping hens without a licence will result in a \$500 fine.
- Egg production is for self-consumption. No sale of eggs is permitted.
- All public complaints shall be directed through 311; this reporting approach is consistent with the City of Edmonton bylaw complaint process.



Your guide to keeping urban chickens in the Town of High River



High River Council has approved Urban Chicken Bylaw 4470/2016 to regulate and provide guidelines for residents to keep chickens within the corporate boundaries of the Town of High River.

This Bylaw requires residents to apply for and maintain an Urban Chicken License on an annual basis.

Urban Chickens kept within the Town of High River are for personal use only and any person wanting to keep Urban Chickens must obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulation (200/2008) in the *Alberta Animal Health Act*.

Liability insurance must also be obtained by the applicant.

URBAN CHICKEN REQUIREMENTS

- Only Hens will be allowed to be kept;
- Roosters are not allowed to be kept;
- No more than three (3) Hens can be kept on a single property;
- Each Hen must be provided with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the Hen in good health;
- No Hen shall be slaughtered on the property;
- Hens will be disposed of by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other operation that is lawfully permitted to dispose of Hens.

COOP RESTRICTIONS

- Provide each Hen with at least 0.37 m² of interior floor area, and at least 0.92 m² of outdoor enclosure, within the coop;
- Provide and maintain, in the coop, at least one nest box per coop and one perch per Hen, that is at least 15 cm long;
- Keep each Hen in the coop at all times;
- Maintain the coop in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances;
- Construct and maintain the coop to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal.

ENFORCEMENT

- This Bylaw shall be enforced by any Bylaw Enforcement Officer;
- Approved Licence holders shall make themselves and their coops available for inspection on reasonable request by the Bylaw Enforcement Officer.

HOW TO APPLY

Online

Visit www.highriver.ca and select 'Bylaw & Protective Services' from the Residents menu to download an application or for more information about the Urban Chicken Bylaw.

In person

Visit 309B Macleod Trail SW and pick up an application from the main reception desk.

Return all forms to:

309B Macleod Trail S.W
High River, AB T1V 1Z5



R. K. Hauta

From: Leda Kozak Tittsworth
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 9:02 AM
To: R. K. Hauta
Subject: FW: Website: Municipal Centre Legislative & Policy Services-URBAN HENS

Okotoks response below

Leda Kozak Tittsworth

Development Officer
Town of Coalhurst
(403) 381-3033
development@coalhurst.ca

From: Angela Clay <aclay@okotoks.ca>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:42 AM
To: Leda Kozak Tittsworth <development@coalhurst.ca>
Subject: RE: Website: Municipal Centre Legislative & Policy Services-URBAN HENS

Hello Leda,

I have received inquiries from other municipalities regarding our Urban Hen program/bylaw. Below are their questions and the answers provided.

We decided on the maximum of 1 license per 1500 persons based on other existing urban hen bylaws.

I am presenting the case for backyard chickens to my Town Council in... AB. I am hoping to get some insight from other Alberta communities that allow hens as to how the program has been going. If you wouldn't mind answering a few questions that would be fantastic.

Do you have a figure of what the program has cost the municipality?

Unfortunately, that was not tracked. There would have been a cost for all the research our department did at the beginning in order to create the Pilot Program Guidelines for urban hen owners to follow (which were then amended to create the bylaw), and then there would have been a cost for going out and doing all the site inspections; any expenses were absorbed by our department's annual budget and were not split out for tracking.

Does the registration fee tend to cover the associated annual costs for the municipality?

Certainly not initially, but now that most hen owners are set up and all the requirements are in place, the expense is nominal so the fee simply offsets any current expenses.

Do I have your permission to share your responses?

That is no problem!

Overall, do you feel the program has had a positive or negative effect on your community?

Positive: it has allowed those citizens who wished to have Urban Hens the opportunity to do so and with little to no impact on the rest of the community.

How long have hens been allowed in your community?

Our pilot project started in spring of 2015 and the Urban Hen Bylaw was passed by Council in August 2017.

Have there been complaints? If so, how many and of what nature?

We had several people opposed to the idea when it was first presented to Council, but Council decided to go ahead with a pilot project.

During the pilot project there were no official complaints although we did do some proactive work for neighbors who were concerned about noise and smell.

Since the bylaw was passed, we have received the following official complaints:

- a) one for keeping hens and a rooster without making application to do so – the accused was informed of the bylaw that prohibits roosters and told about the requirement to license hens and decided to find someone out of Town to take the fowl
- b) one for allowing hens to run outside the coop – the owner decided to withdraw from the program
- c) one for an urban hen owner failing to renew their hen license – the owner was contacted and paid the outstanding fees
- d) one for hens being noisy – the complainant was opposed to the entire idea so over sensitive to the situation; the hen owner was very cooperative as they did not want to be a bad neighbor and worked through the issue and ended up replacing one hen that seemed to be making more noise than usual and was causing the other hens to join in the “cackling”.

Have enforcement actions needed to be taken or fines given? If so, how many and of what nature?

See above – warnings only, no fines required to be issued

What is the number or percentage of households participating in your community?

We allow 1 license per 1500 person based on the Town's most recent population, but have never reached the maximum allowed.

The number of applications we have received:

2015 – 12

2016 – 3

2017 – 4

2018 – 4

2019 – none

2020 – none to date

We initially had 15 citizens actively participate in the Pilot Project and currently have 13 Urban Hen owners.

Was there any unforeseen issues that you would warn a community just starting out about?

The biggest hurdle initially was people opposing the idea before they understood the logistics and rules required to keep Urban Hens (myself included). Several interested applicants did not follow through once they realized what would be involved for them to keep hens. Our department did a mandatory site inspection for each application we received to ensure coops could be properly located in yards to minimize disturbance to neighbors.

If you have any other questions, don't hesitate to get in touch!

Sincerely,

Angela Clay

Municipal Enforcement Administrator

403-995-6302