

SUBMITTED AT THE  
APR 11 2017  
REGULAR COUNCIL  
MEETING

To Mayor and Council

Date: April 10/17

From: Name BENJAMIN DYMENT  
Address   
Email   
Phone 

Subject: Backyard hens

Good evening Mayor Walton and Counsel,

My name is Benjamin Dymment. As you know, I would like to have chickens. I love animals. If I could, I would have many kinds of animals. Currently I have a dog, a cat, two chinchillas and three gold fish. We feed the wild birds and I love watching them and identifying them. I am hoping to have chickens soon.

I have already told you all the good reasons to allow us to have chickens. I also already told you how to protect the chickens and the wildlife. So now I just want to say thank you for writing the back yard chicken bylaws. I was hoping to have 8 chickens so if you can change the bylaws to allow for 8 chickens I would appreciate that very much.

Thank you.

BEN  
DYMENT

Ben Dymment

To Mayor and Council

SUBMITTED AT THE

APR 11 2017

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Date:

*April 10/17*

From:

Name

*Dr Lana W. Dymen +*

Address

Email

Phone

Subject:

*see pages typed.*

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I am Dr. Lana Dymant. I am the proud mother of Master Benjamin Dymant who has written and spoken to you a few times now. I would like to thank Counsel for moving forward with the community request to permit backyard chickens.

In my address I assume the following:

1. The safety of hen keeping has already been established in previous discussions and meetings with respect to humans, hens, domestic animals and wildlife provided that reasonable bylaws are drafted and followed - and therefore the current debate is not on whether or not to allow chickens but to draft the bylaws acceptable to the majority in order for hen keeping to be permitted.

2. I assume that while many people are in support of back yard chickens, we all know there will be a few individuals who will not be and that one person can make many loud complaints. It is my hope that counsel will not allow a small minority who may be opposed to backyard chickens to derail this important community initiative brought to counsel by an independent young forward thinking person and a collective community group. It is my hope and understanding that we are beyond the point in debate of whether or not to have backyard chickens, but rather we are now debating how to have chickens. Otherwise we are spinning our wheels and going over the same topics of debate for over a year now, and we have wasted counsel's time with our previous meetings and debates. I am assuming that counsel is now looking for feedback on the drafted by-laws that allow the keeping of hens, and that this debate is on what the bylaws

will look like, not whether they will exist.

Therefore, my comments following are restricted to the bylaws proposed. If I am incorrect in my assumptions, then I would kindly ask counsel to refer to Master Benjamin Dymont's and my previous letters and presentations to counsel and those of CLUCK on the issues of safety, smell, waste, noise, etc. I would gladly enter in to debate on these previous topics again, but will waste no further time on them now.

Tonight I would like to thank Counsel for drafting the bylaws for keeping back yard chickens. I hope you receive positive feedback and are able to approve your bylaws with little complication or delay.

If there is room for improvement on these bylaws I have the following recommendations:

A. The current bylaw recommendation is for 6 hens. Allowing for 8 hens, rather than 6 hens, would put less pressure on the hens to be high producers. High producers require lights and have shorter life spans. Allowing for 8 would ensure that as hens become older and less productive they are not replaced too quickly with younger hens.

B. The current recommended bylaws require keeping the hens cooped from 7 PM to 7AM. Hens that are kept cooped with each other for prolonged periods of time during daylight hours get bored. They may start pecking at the hen in the lowest pecking order, causing harm and

③

distress to this lowly hen. In short, prolonged cooping encourages poor flock social behaviour. The proposed bylaws would enforce 12 hours of being cooped up - fine for winter months but not fine for summer months with long days. I would recommend bylaws that allow for seasonal variation. "Dusk to Dawn" coop hours would be a healthier bylaw for the hens. Chickens are not like construction workers, waking up and going about their business by the clock. They are quiet dawn risers and dusk sleepers. With no roosters being permitted, there will be no dawn rooster calls to annoy neighbours.

C. Finally, as noted in my comments to counsel on the on-line community input forum, one nesting box per hen is not required. Contrary to popular belief, chickens do not all rush at once to the nesting box first thing in the morning. They each vary in the time of day that they lay and do not lay every day. One box can be used by up to three hens. I would recommend at least reducing the number of boxes required to one box per two hens.

D. Perhaps counsel would be interested in recommending some good references. While I have kept chickens in the past, and therefore have some experience, many have not. I have brought one reference book as an example which I am happy to pass up for counsel and staff to review and take note of.

*Book - Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens.*

Duncan Martin  
[REDACTED]

SUBMITTED AT THE  
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MEETING

April 10, 2017

To The Mayor and Councillors of North Vancouver City and District

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

Since 2012 I have had the privilege of working with the North Vancouver chapter of the Canadian Liberated Chicken Club to promote the cause of re-localizing our egg production and thus reclaiming a large portion of the protein in our diets.

For many reasons, among them health, environmental ethics, humane treatment of animals, and food security, I see backyard chickens as a sensible and effective means of taking back control of the food that we eat. Having built over 100 chicken coops in and around Vancouver, I have become very familiar with many peoples' experiences getting chickens. If I could say one thing about all of them, it is that they are some of the most eager-to-learn, curious, and responsible people I have met.

I want to express my support for a bylaw allowing backyard hens and would like to address an issue that has come up as this initiative moves forward. While backyard chickens typically require about 2 minutes of one's day, I and other proponents of backyard flocks are well aware of the complications that can arise from time to time. In the workshops I give, I help residents plan their coop, their flock, and their own schedule so they can mitigate those problems commonly attributed to chickens.

Rats, raccoons, smell, noise, and other annoyances are easily dealt with through proper design and care systems such as using thick-gauge wire, keeping feed locked up, composting, and locking hens in while asleep or away. In North Vancouver, as with many rural areas that allow chickens, bears and cougars present a special challenge. When properly planned for, however, large predators need not be a danger to chickens or themselves.

In cases where houses border greenways and ravines, for example, chickens keepers may be opt to either overbuild their structure and/or include an electric fence that delivers a small shock when grounded. These are readily available through farm-supply stores in both plug-in and solar-powered models.

For more urban locations that are surrounded by high fences and busy streets, a sturdy coop and run with a locking door may be all that is necessary to keep the chickens safe. Light-sensing and timed doors are common methods to ensure that chickens are fully secure in their coop at dusk, even if nobody comes home to lock them in.

Just as we take caution with garbage, pets, children, and ourselves, the above are some proven common-sense ways to keep backyard chickens without providing an easy food source for bears. As every situation and backyard is different, I believe an effective policy is one that outlines some basic standards of care and recommendations for construction techniques but allows chicken keepers to apply their learned knowledge toward their final structure and daily routine, with enforcement of bylaws occurring on a complaint or incident basis. There are countless books and websites (CityChicks,

*continued →*

Backyardchickens.com, etc.) devoted to these very topics, and there is no shortage of success stories.

Thank you for taking steps toward re-introducing small flocks of chickens into urban life. Although one could cite psychological studies, nutritional research, architectural literature, and countless anecdotes promoting backyard chickens, I simply feel that there is something healthy and innately fulfilling about participating in the food system through gardening and animal husbandry. I am overjoyed to see so many municipalities taking this on and recognizing that it is a relatively easy way to take a big step in reshaping our relationship to the earth. And the eggs taste delicious!

Thank you,



Duncan Martin



- **2008 Journal of Animal Behaviour**,  
Socially learned foraging behaviour in wild black bears , Rachel Mazur
- “Once initiated ..., [human ] food-conditioned foraging behaviour in black bears persists across multiple generations ...” Mazur warns, that our behaviour lead bears into “**an ecological trap**”, the lure of easy access to food, pushes bears into increasing and dangerous contact with humans.

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- **BACK COUNTRY BEAR BASICS** Larry Aumiller ,  
**Alaska 25 years**
  - **BEARS**
  - **Sight** : See you 120 meters away. May Not react ,  
But they know you are there.

- **Hearing** : Hear you 300 meters away
- **Speed** : Run as Fast as a Horse - short distances

- 
- **John Hechtel, bear biologist,**
  - **Danger for bears is serious.**
  - **95% who come into town will be killed.**
  - **A Fed Bear is a Dead Bear ,”**



**From:** [Kim Wasson](#) on behalf of [Infoweb](#)  
**To:** [DNY Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Share your thoughts with Mayor and Council  
**Date:** Thursday, April 13, 2017 8:44:02 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: [infoweb@dnv.org](mailto:infoweb@dnv.org) [<mailto:infoweb@dnv.org>] On Behalf Of District of North Vancouver  
Sent: Wednesday, April 12, 2017 5:20 PM  
To: Infoweb  
Subject: Share your thoughts with Mayor and Council

Submitted on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 - 17:19 Submitted by user: Anonymous Submitted values are:

Your name: Bruce R. Lindsay [REDACTED] up by the forest.  
Your email address: [REDACTED] Your phone number: [REDACTED] What would you like to tell Mayor and Council?  
Dear Mayor Walton and Council.

Ref: Council Meeting April 10

Regarding Backyard Hens.

Thank you for the recent dialogue on Backyard Hens.  
The last council meeting had a balanced discussion and thoughtful input on both sides of this question.

As Mayor Walton mentioned , the best way to move forward is to get some New Information.

Evidence and thoughtful ideas that will generate New Insight . We don't need 20 people on either side of the question repeating the same old Subjective opinions , long into the night.

I will endeavor to get some 3'rd party input that will be useful for you.

However, this questions of Backyard Hens reminds me of chewing a big lump of raw coconut .

The more you chew , the more there is.

See you at the next council meeting .

Respectfully,  
Bruce R. Lindsay.  
Add additional information:

**From:** [Louise Simkin](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [REDIRECTED]Public Hearing - Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:32:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [OutlookEmoji-1480112086933\\_PastedImage.png](#)

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**From:** Hazen Colbert [[mailto: \[REDACTED\]](#)]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2017 12:44 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council - DNV  
**Subject:** [REDIRECTED]Public Hearing - Backyard Hens

Without being cocky I request this input be included in the Public Hearing regarding backyard hens.

One of the reasons in support of backyard hens is that youth can learn that eggs do not come from the grocery store shelf but from hens. Who knew?

Perhaps other similar bylaws could be passed.

For instance, I recently learned through this video that goats grow on trees. I did not know that salient fact.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gEaAmUDEiGo>

[Tree Goats \(Original\)](#)

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)



DO GOATS GROW ON TREES? Fi  
Morocco © Michael Chinnici

<http://www.PhotoWorkshopAdver>

Article:

<http://photoworkshopadventures>



**From:** [Kim Wasson](#)  
**To:** [DNY Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Chickens - Councillor - Robin Hicks - Thanks - Bruce L  
**Date:** Monday, April 24, 2017 9:57:05 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Bruce Lindsay [<mailto:> ]  
Sent: Thursday, April 13, 2017 6:23 PM  
To: Robin Hicks  
Cc: Kim Wasson  
Subject: RE: Chickens - Councillor - Robin Hicks - Thanks - Bruce L

Hi Robin:

Thanks for your response. I appreciate you taking a moment to get back to me. I have been pondering this a little and I'll give you some additional insights.

I'm not troubled about this for myself .

As you know, I've had plenty of experience with Wild Bears on the West Coast and know how to behave around them.

You feel their presence, sense them, even though you can't see them and generally it's not a problem.

The forest is suddenly quiet. The hair on the back of your neck goes up , Just-A-Little-Bit.

Then you know it's time to pay attention, or maybe fire off a couple of bear bangers just so there's no misunderstanding between you and them , or maybe both of you should go back the way you came and call it a day.

WILD Predators and Critters away from the city want nothing to do with humans. They avoid us at all costs.

Why ? Because they have Lots of Food out in the forest. So the healthy ones don't need to come close to the farm chicken coop to make a living.

That's why , anecdotes of Chicken Coops Not Being Raided in remote areas like Kamloops etc etc , are not a big deal and simply do not factor in .

Not Relevant to our North Shore situation.

URBAN Bears, Cougars, Coyotes , Critters etc. are a much different deal , a unique situation. In the worst case situation , They Are Dangerous .

The Bad Consequences I had in mind go Far Beyond noise , smell next door , and loose chickens running on the road.

That's easy stuff and not a big deal and yes they the are learning experiences that you refer to.

I know that at simplest level you are right . Probably no one is going to get attacked or killed by a predator. Hasn't happened yet. We've been O.K. so far. BUT ,

We All know it is possible and can happen. Our community is getting more crowded not less. So are the chances of it Not happening increasing or decreasing?

But here's the thing,... in the worst case , URBAN Predators can hurt to you and kill you , and this goes far beyond being one of the "Risks of Everyday life."

They are not predictable. They don't know or obey the rules.

Some kid , old person, or one of our New Canadian brothers or sister can get beat up or chewed on or worse by a bear that's not afraid of you.

I had a newly arrived gentleman down the street the other day ask me what he should do .

He had come home last week at night and there was a bear in his driveway checking out the garbage

cans.

He had gone inside and got his camera and was taking photos out about 5 meters away from the bear.

I have been in this house for 22 years and up until 5 years ago we never had bears. My backyard has a 6' fence around it. Since 2012 or so we have had bears in it during the day about 2 times per summer. We keep inside and the bears are looking right at you and then walking away. Supposing a kid was napping in the yard etc etc. Or I had my back turned gardening, Not a good deal.

The next door neighbor has had the door of his garden shed ripped off by bears 2 or 3 times over the last 3 - 4 years.

Let me tell you a little story:

I was on a 40' water taxi a few years ago going up Howe Sound. Naturally, me being me, I finagled a seat up in the wheel-house beside the skipper. There were about 15 -20 passengers back in the cabin seats.

Great weather, sunny day and several other amateur small boaters out on the water. Nice Day. I was looking at the engine controls, instruments, etc and noticed that the Radar was ON. ?? Hmm? So asked the skipper why he needed the Radar on in such perfect conditions.

- "Well just for this story, let's assume my radar was Not On." he said, " You see all those run-about and speed boats, outboards etc. ?

Sooner or later, ... some day, maybe not this week, or this month, ... but sooner or later, one of those weekend boaters is unexpectedly going to make a sharp turn and cross my bow.

Outboard engines are notoriously un-reliable and his engine could stop dead and there might be a collision. Well naturally when two boats collide there will be a marine inquiry.

When they get me in court up on the stand they will ask me- How the weather was - Fine. - Was the visibility good - Yes. -Did you have all your radios and navigation aids in good order - Yes.

-Was Your Radar On - NO! 'Ah HA IF your radar was on you might have avoided that collision, and those people would not have been hit.' I

would lose the case but that's not the point. it's more than just that. As

the skipper I have to be thinking this far ahead to keep the passengers safe, me safe and all the other small boaters safe. The prudent approach is to assume the worst case and then avoid the risk."

So you see Robin, participating in and running a local gov't is a lot like being a skipper on a water taxi.

You have to think soooo far ahead of the bow of your boat, that... you scare yourself.

That way you will keep your-self, the passengers, and everyone around you out of trouble.

Management by crisis, after the fact, is often fatal and is Always

Always, way more expensive than avoiding the risk before the fact.

We should apply what we know, use our collective Wisdom and govern ourselves accordingly. New learning experiences? No thanks.

We are not looking to council as a source for new life experiences.

Reversing the decision after someone gets beat up or worse, by a bear / predator, is not a good course for decision makers to steer.

We cannot control the Wind, But we Can adjust our Sails.

Best Regards,

Bruce Lindsay, "The Lumber Doctor"

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

We acknowledge and reply promptly to ALL , E-mail, Phone, & Fax Messages.  
You call Me . You get Me.

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-----Original Message-----

From: Robin Hicks [<mailto:HicksR@dnv.org>]

Sent: April-13-17 1:06 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Chickens

Thanks for your comments with which I agree .

Obviously there are downsides to residents keeping back yard chickens ,

but at the moment I am not seeing potential problems as outweighing the benefits , particularly if the rigorous cleanliness and protective safety regulations are adhered to .

There is risk in everyday life and this provides a learning experience for all of us .

We can always reverse a decision if it leads to bad consequences but if we don't try we can never learn .

Robin

Robin Hicks Councillor DNV

I pad message=

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This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

<https://www.avast.com/antivirus>

**From:** [Louise Simkin](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [REDIRECTED]Rent a Chicken for the Backyard - Backyard Chickens Public Hearing  
**Date:** Monday, May 01, 2017 8:29:15 AM  
**Attachments:** [OutlookEmoji-1480112086933 PastedImage.png](#)

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**From:** Hazen Colbert [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 01, 2017 8:20 AM  
**To:** Mayor and Council - DNV  
**Cc:** Corrie Kost  
**Subject:** [REDIRECTED]Rent a Chicken for the Backyard - Backyard Chickens Public Hearing

An additional dimension regarding the bylaw and public hearing for backyard hens.

Can I operate a business under a temporary use permit renting chickens to people for the short term? How is the bylaw impacted by having chickens temporarily in the backyard rather than permanently.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/chicken-rental-service-comes-to-lower-mainland-1.4088339>

### [Chicken rental service comes to Lower Mainland](#)

[www.cbc.ca](http://www.cbc.ca)



A chicken rental service is available in the Lower Mainland this summer, but know your city's bylaws before you rent.

Hazen S. Colbert





From: [John Surridge](#)  
To: [DNV Input](#)  
Cc: [Mayor and Council - DNV](#)  
Subject: Keeping of Backyard Hens  
Date: Monday, May 08, 2017 9:15:48 AM

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Dear Mayor and Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

To start with I should commend the report and supporting information from staff. They provided a very comprehensive and balanced review of the issues.

Personally I am opposed to the subject of the bylaw. I recall families who kept backyard chickens when I was young. (OK - a few years back...) The reality was far from the idealized view of country living. Even well kept hen houses draw rodents and predators. Those who are keen about keeping backyard hens usually tire of the novelty pretty quickly as they face the reality of keeping them clean and well managed.

I note that there are a substantial list of potential offences and corresponding fines proposed but I wonder if the District really needs yet another draw on its resources - I don't think so.

Having said this I suspect that there may be a number of DNV residents in support. If the District does go ahead then I would recommend a permit based system requiring the approval of a majority of immediately adjacent neighbours. Typically this would be up to five immediately adjacent residences. Such a scheme would at least limit the likelihood of complaints and the resulting workload on DNV bylaw enforcement staff.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this issue.

All the best in your deliberations.

John Surridge



*Copy to Council*

Bruce R. LINDSAY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

*to be*

For reasons not clear to me the idea of backyard chickens has been seriously considered for almost a year in the community, on the council and the media. Unfortunately, until very recently, the advice and input on this subject has been one-sided, incomplete, and biased that glosses over the downside of hens. There has been ~~no~~ *no* thoughtful looking beyond the bow of the boat to see that there is rough water ahead if we continue on this course. *needs*

I have had a good chance to reflect on this and in my opinion adding one more predator attractants will lead us into a horrible muddle that will have to be undone **after** some serious incident, at considerable expense to taxpayers, and at No cost to the Hens owners. PREDATORS will get accustomed to being around humans and will be shot.

I feel compelled to resist the sincere endeavours of the Hen Supporters. We are just starting to turn the corner on reducing and controlling attractants. Hens will undo the hard work of groups like Bear Aware, Bear Society and regular folks with the simplest understanding of what attracts bears.

This may make for some sour reading for some folks but I think we have to look well beyond the end of the chicken coop. Chickens are around 12 months of the year, can't run away, and will not be taken the house to protect them from predators.

Chicken coops have a sphere of influence of 1 km and more beyond the chicken coop. To get to the hens, predators will seek out attractants in the yards of innocent third parties. Remember the bear in the house in Delbrook, a trashed Lexus in West Van,, hikers near the Cap River pursued by bears, and a large hunting dog attacked by Cougar in broad day. Your Child could have just as easily been jumped on by that cougar. *Is it worth the risk?* *involved in any of these*

The simple question is : Will backyard hens attract predators into the neighborhood ? Yes or No.

Our respectful exchange of *ideas* ~~concerns~~, thoughtful input and fair comments can aide the council to make a wise, informed, decision for the benefit of the community as a whole.

SUBMITTED AT THE  
MAY 08 2017  
REGULAR COUNCIL  
MEETING

**From:** [Barbara Eifler](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 7:18:17 AM

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If I wanted to live near barnyard animals, I would live next to a farm, NOT the District if North Vancouver.

Our daughter went through this phase, her family us On Bowen Island where there lots of room for hens to roam. They even built luxurious, heated accommodation for their hens. One year later, they had all died.

Keeping hens belongs on a farm, not the City, and this IS a city.

You cannot accommodate the whim of every citizen.

Yours truly,  
Barbara and Karl Eifler



Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Corrie Kost](#)  
**To:** [DNY Input](#)  
**Subject:** Keeping of Backyard Hens - Bylaw 8211  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 09, 2017 1:46:25 PM  
**Attachments:** [Urban chicken coops - considerations-b.pdf](#)

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Your Worship and Members of Council,

The attached is a summary of my input on this matter.

Yours truly,  
Corrie Kost

# Some Comments on Backyard Chicken and their Eggs

Corrie Kost, 2851 Colwood Dr. N. Vancouver

In 2015 Calgary councillors<sup>(1)</sup> expressed worry about nuisance noises, the risk of avian flu and other diseases, unwanted chickens overwhelming the humane society, the cost of enforcing the coops, and their many regulations, and more.

Eggs from backyard and small flocks are more likely to contain Salmonella Enteritidis (than commercially produced eggs) and thus the research highlights the potential risk posed by the consumption of eggs produced by backyard and small layer flocks.<sup>(2)</sup>

Backyard chickens can be a more potent attractant to wildlife than our regular garbage and thus undo much of the community efforts to be more wildlife friendly.

The backyard layout should ensure that chickens do not have access to fecal matter that may drop from birds flying overhead in order to protect chickens from diseases.

The DNV's urban location near our water reservoirs and creeks should be a factor in determining the allowed locations of backyard chickens.

The best defense against predators is an electric fence – which ironically is not required in the proposed bylaw. This (lack of an electric fence) implies that the Black Bear Society is opposed to this bylaw since this was a critical requirement in order to gain their support. **Concerns** about potential harm to children by such fences<sup>(3)</sup> can readily be addressed by turning them off when residents are outdoors. Worldwide no deaths have been reported from properly installed backyard electric fences.

Requirement to report sick or diseased chickens to a local veterinarian should also be included in the regulations.

Council should consider if prospective owners will be required to take a course as part of a possible permitting process. Registration and tagging of chickens should also be considered.<sup>(4)</sup>

Council should be aware that all eggs tasted the same in objectively conducted “blind” tests<sup>(5,6)</sup>. “The mindset of the taster has far more bearing on the flavor of the egg than the egg itself”<sup>(5)</sup>.

Any arguments using “education of our children” in support of this bylaw are made mute by the fact that both the Internet and our local Maplewood Farm already provide this “education”.

Since I recommend the general policy “Do No Harm” I conclude that the scales, for me, are somewhat tilted in **favour of rejecting a bylaw allowing backyard chickens**.

- (1) <http://calgaryherald.com/news/local-news/no-to-hen-raisers-council-votes-against-a-backyard-coop-pilot-program>
- (2) <http://news.psu.edu/story/425880/2016/09/14/eggs-small-flocks-more-likely-contain-salmonella-enteritidis>
- (3) <https://www.agrisellex.co.uk/blog/are-electric-fences-a-serious-safety-risk-to-humans/253>
- (4) <http://articles.extension.org/pages/70001/developing-regulations-for-keeping-urban-chickens>
- (5) <http://www.seriousseats.com/2010/08/what-are-the-best-eggs-cage-free-organic-omega-3s-grocery-store-brand-the-food-lab.html>
- (6) <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/06/01/AR2010060100792.html>
- (7) <http://globalnews.ca/news/2054762/what-you-need-to-know-about-backyard-chickens/>

## MISC. POINTS (some repeated from above text) to CONSIDER

- The proposal to restrict this to single family homes does not mean they cannot be next to commercial or especially, multi-family homes. Single family homes next to multi-family are especially problematic due to overviews and increased negative impact that have significant impacts on the peaceful enjoyment of properties.
- Regulation details matter. See for example those of City of Kingston at <https://www.cityofkingston.ca/documents/10180/26367/Backyard%20Hens%20Rules/2dcab1c0-d76f-4187-a15b-fa49bcd878b2>
- Once the sun goes down it appears the chickens go to sleep and there is no noise at night.
- Chickens carry salmonella, so people who have chickens need to clean and disinfect their hands, clothes and shoes after handling hens.
- The advantage of a permitting process is that “grandfathering” could take place should having chickens be banned in the future.
- From those with experience – you can expect a rodent increase in your yard/neighbourhood.
- “Humanely” produced eggs are now readily commercially available at a reasonable price, thus negating much of the reason for producing them in one’s backyard.
- Save money? Not really – the coop etc alone will set you back a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. Maintenance is not included. That buys you many years of eggs (each chicken lays about 15-25 dozen a year). Don’t forget chickens need proper food (scraps and grass etc. only go so far), and like all pets – medical attention.
- A dog is a far better pet for children, both from an educational and therapeutic point of view than almost any alternative, including a chicken.
- The Internet gives children a far better view of the animal world than has historically been the case. On the North Shore we are privileged to see an abundance of wild animals around us. Of course don’t forget about the DNV’s Maplewood Farm – a great place to take your kids & grandkids!
- Hens can live up to 10 years but stop laying eggs after about four. This has consequences.
- Chickens should be banded with owner contact information (should chickens get loose).
- Vancouver has some exhaustive public health analysis around avian flu and identify that this is not a worry. Nonetheless, the public perception on this issue could be problematic and negatively impact the peaceful enjoyment of their property for some of our residents.
- [The BC SPCA warns](#) that raising backyard chickens is not a “suitable practice for individuals with little to no knowledge or experience in chicken care” and recommends consumers looking for alternatives to store-bought eggs purchase them from an SPCA-certified farmer instead of raising their own chickens.<sup>(7)</sup>
- **The Black Bear Society endorses the raising of backyard chickens only if they are subject to a number of conditions – the main one being that an electric fence must surround the coop. Since the bylaw does not require an electric fence the Black Bear Society are opposed to the bylaw.**

**From:** [Lily Zandi](#)  
**To:** [DNY Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 8:29:28 AM

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I'm living at [REDACTED], North Vancouver. I'm in Support of keeping back yard hens.

Regards,  
Lily Zandi

**From:** [Chloe Legaspi](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Chickens  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:37:04 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the North Vancouver district, emailing in support of 'backyard chickens'. There are a multitude of reasons as to why they should continue to be permitted, some of which will be discussed here.

### 1) Pets

Why should residents be permitted to have household pets such as cats and dogs, but not chickens? They are arguably less disruptive noise-wise, and are useful. While cats and dogs (for example) may provide emotional/mental support - which chickens may do as well - chickens prove useful for food sourcing.

### 2) Sustainability & Food

One of the most obvious reasons for keeping chickens is for the resources, in the form of eggs, meat, and feathers. In a city/district that highly endorses healthy living, sustainability, and local produce, an act such as keeping chickens should be encouraged! How could one lecture on and say they support a local diet (ex. 100 mile diet), but oppose something as local as one's own yard? Rather than buying farmed chickens and eggs, why not raise them yourself? Mass produce farming and the ethics of it are an entire argument in and of itself, which can be helped by allowing the public to tend their own produce. Additionally, mass slaughters of chickens and genetic alterations are much less likely at a home farm, than at a government funded "farming" facility. Chickens are more likely to be free range, natural, unaltered, and brought up ethically (rather than mass produced) at a home farm.

### 3) Values

For households that tend chickens and also have children, valuable lessons may be taught/learned from the experience - though households without children may learn values as well. Tending chickens takes patience, responsibility, commitment, and effort. Those raising chickens will experience the hard work that it takes to produce food; gaining understanding, appreciation, awareness, and respect for the process and result. The act of hands-on learning is a great teaching tool, with lessons that may be applied to all aspects of life, rearing a more well-rounded person. Understanding the difficulties of tending chickens will make the reward after much more deserved.

Though there are many more arguments that could be made in support of 'backyard chickens', I will conclude here. Thank you for your time and consideration.



Regards,  
Chloe Legaspi

**From:** [Barbara Dougan](#)  
**To:** [DNY Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 3:51:13 PM

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I would love to have backyard hens. I do not see what all the clucking is about?

--

Barbara Dougan  
Office Manager

**From:** [Antje Wahl](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Keeping of Backyard Hens Bylaw 8211  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:28:38 PM

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While I support the keeping of backyard hens, I would like to see a requirement for electric fencing to keep bears away from chicken feed. Fencing part of a backyard doesn't cost much. My experience from rural areas is that either chicken coops have electric fencing or the owners shoot the bears that will eventually break into the coop.

Even in my neighbourhood away from the forest a cougar was spotted last summer. 4 years ago a black bear was killed a few blocks away in the City of North Vancouver. Almost every year I see a bear in residential lanes near Keith Road and Mountain Highway.

Improper garbage handling, unpicked fruit and bird feeders are to blame, but we shouldn't add new attractants when the District and residents haven't managed the existing attractants.

Without mandatory electric fencing I am opposed to the proposed bylaw.

Sincerely,

Antje Wahl

**From:** [JULIA SMITH](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Our Feathered Friends the Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 4:37:48 PM

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My name is Julia Smith & I live at [REDACTED] I support the proposed bylaw to allow the keeping of backyard hens. I cannot attend the meeting on May 16th so would like my letter of support here to carry the same weight as if I were in attendance.

With thanks,  
Julia

Julia Smith  
Resident  
[REDACTED]  
North Vancouver, BC

**From:** [Linda Henderson](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 6:43:57 PM

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Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Deb Cannon](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** I support backyard hens  
**Date:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 8:31:48 PM

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Dear Mayor and Councillors,

I Deborah Cannon, reside at [REDACTED] I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

Regards,

Deborah Cannon

**From:** [J.Brook](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard hens - DNV  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 10:12:52 AM  
**Importance:** High

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Hi,

I, Judith Brook, reside at [REDACTED]. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

Thank you  
Judith Brook

**From:** [Fariba Namazi](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 10:45:45 AM

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This is Fariba Namazi and I just want to support my neighbours to have their hens in their backyard.

Regards Fariba Namazi





**From:** [Rodney Brickell](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#); [Cristina Rucci](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard Hens - Public Hearing - May 16, 2017  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 12:28:59 PM

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Hello Team DNV,

I am Rodney Brickell and reside at [REDACTED], North Vancouver, [REDACTED].

I support backyard hens in the DNV, as per the draft bylaw tabled at the April 10, 2017, Council Meeting, along with the Black Bear Society's proposed amendment thereto, namely that coop registration (\$50) be mandatory and that a permit only be granted post a Bylaw Officer's site inspection of intended coop location. I deem this requirement to represent no hardship to anyone who is serious about the responsibility of keeping backyard hens and above all in a manner that is respectful of neighbours.

Likewise, the draft penalties for bylaw infractions should represent no concern to those who are committed to doing things right.

Concerns of the Black Bear Society have been addressed through the stringent requirements proposed. It is worth noting that the highest incidence of beekeeping in the DNV (with honey being a known attractant to bears) is in the Lynn Valley area and there being no stringent requirements/public hearing when that bylaw was passed.....nor subsequent DNV concerns of black bears attacking bee hives.

Through the North Vancouver chapter of CLUCK and the intended workshops to be held at Maplewood Farm, good support is available to backyard hen hobbyists.

That said, given the money, time and effort to maintain a coop, no proliferation of backyard hens is expected in the DNV. A number of coops already exist in the DNV and have done so for many years, without knowledge or concern to the DNV.....or the black bears.

It is not in my nature to fly under the radar hence my desire to legally keep backyard hens in a responsible way and to act as a good example to others who seek to do likewise.

Having waited five years for this opportunity, I am hopeful that you will see your way to allowing this bylaw to pass.

Regards,  
Rodney Brickell

**From:** [Kate Jadue](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** In support of a new backyard hen bylaw  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 12:45:24 PM

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To whom it may concern,  
My name is Kate Jadue and I live at [REDACTED]. I wholeheartedly support the proposed bylaw to allow the keeping of backyard hens. Unfortunately I am unable attend the upcoming meeting [on May 16th](#). If I were able I would not miss it as I have been an advocate for allowing backyards hens for many years. Please accept this letter of support in lieu of my presence on Tuesday.

Many thanks,  
Kate

Kate Jadue  
Resident  
District of North Vancouver

**From:** [catriona moore](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Support for backyard chickens bylaw  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 2:51:11 PM

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To the Honorable Mayor and Council,

I, Catriona Moore, reside at [REDACTED]. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

This is bylaw will help to strengthen our local food system, and improve the health of our community.

Thank you,  
Catriona Moore

**From:** [Caroline Hanson](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard Hens - I approve  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 3:18:56 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Caroline Hanson and I live at [REDACTED]. I am resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

Kind Regards, Caroline Hanson

>

**From:** [Dave Milner](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 3:56:37 PM

---

I am in full support of the backyard chicken initiative for residents of the District of North Vancouver.

David Milner  
[REDACTED] North Vancouver

**From:** [Greg Gooding](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Back yard Chickens  
**Date:** Friday, May 12, 2017 9:12:40 PM

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Dear City Councillors,

I Greg Gooding, reside at [REDACTED]. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

I hope that we are able to count upon your support!

Regards,  
Greg

**From:** [Arla Sargent](#)  
**To:** [DNL Input](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: BACKYARD HENS  
**Date:** Sunday, May 14, 2017 1:49:42 PM

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Re: PUBLIC HEARING - KEEPING OF BACKYARD HENS , MAY 16,2017

MUNICIPAL CLERK, AND COUNCIL,

This is my submission re the public hearing for By-law 8211. Please include the previous letter below. And I add the fact that in the last 2 weeks one neighbour discovered the grisly remains of ginger- coloured creature in her back-yard. Then a few days later another neighbour was knocking on our door hoping to find her missing cat. My point in telling this is that choosing to live in beautiful NVD requires a degree of common sense regarding our wild life- not blindly ignoring it or imagining a Disney World take on it. The DNV requires its citizens to follow all kinds of rules to avoid bad outcomes with bears, ( garbage rules, seasonal bird feeders, etc.). And most of us adhere to these responsibly.

I now ask the Council to act responsibly and vote "NO" on this By-Law proposal.

Arla Sargent

[REDACTED]

North Vancouver

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:**BACKYARD HENS

**Date:**Sun, 19 Mar 2017 08:58:16 -0700

**From:**Arla Sargent [REDACTED]

**To:**[ruccic@dnv.org](mailto:ruccic@dnv.org)

**CC:**[bearinfo@northshorebears.com](mailto:bearinfo@northshorebears.com), [jane.thornwaite.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:jane.thornwaite.mla@leg.bc.ca)

TO:

Cristina Ruccic/DNV

RE: Backyard Hen Comments

While reading today's North Shore News, I read on page A5, there's to be a " BEAR FORUM" and I'm invited to bring my ideas, concerns and discuss them.

Then on page A14 I read about "a proposal for backyard hens" and I'm invited to send my feedback on the topic.

IS THIS AN EARLY APRIL FOOL'S JOKE?? OR IS THE GOAL TO PERSUADE THE BEARS TO PURSUE CHICKENS RATHER THAN OUR BIRD-FEEDERS, & GARBAGE?

We have lived in this single family residential zone( only type of property where 2-6 hens allowed) since 1964. Like many north shore properties, ours borders a ravine with a stream.

Over this 53yr period we have witnessed the following wild-life in our backyard: bears, raccoon s, a mountain lion, a deer, a bobcat, tree-rats, and overhead- eagles. And what do all these creatures have in common on their menu? CHICKENS!

During the first 20 yrs. our dogs could safely roam about our fenced yard, however; in the last 20 it's been necessary to personally accompany our "grand-dogs" for their safety because of the ever increasing wild-life visitations.

About a decade ago a bear that frequented our little cul-de-sac was declared a nuisance bear and put down. Everyone was upset and one neighbour even chopped down an apple tree the bear liked. A decade before that those black composting bins were popular , so our young well-meaning neighbours installed one and composted. Result- both our homes became infested with rats! In our case they preferred the attic via our front tree . Until then we had lived rat free for over 30yrs.

And now someone has the insane idea to allow "2- 6 hens per property" .....but oh, NO ROOSTERS!

Let me tell you what life is like living beside chicken coops in an urban situation-----ABSOLUTE BEDLAM! As a child living in a commercial area of Toronto, our neighbour installed a chicken coop much to my mother's ( correct) horror. The constant clucking woke us up very early each AM and their presence brought the inevitable pests- even into our homes.

To conclude- for all the reasons given above I most certainly oppose allowing ANY CHICKENS in residential zones. The proposal disrespects all of our sincere attempts to keep bears and the other wildlife , which we enjoy as part of our chosen north shore lifestyle, away from our back-yards . The bears could smell those chickens miles away!

So, be kind to us all , ( including those poor captive chickens), JUST SAY NO!

Arla Sargent



N.Vancouver District



**From:** [Peter Chu](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Bylaw 8211 input from a concern citizen.  
**Date:** Sunday, May 14, 2017 9:20:31 PM

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I was living in Asia when the bird flu killed hundreds of innocent people, many of them seniors and children who had no idea what hit them. Our daily lives were turned upside down and the community I lived in became a terrifying place where people stayed in doors and stopped talking and interacting with people around them. I find it rather surprising that such a proposal is even on the agenda for council to consider here on the north shore.

How soon we forget how many innocent people were killed by the bird flu epidemic in Asia. I find it rather distributing that council would even consider such a silly request and ask for public input. Please go and do relevant research into this subject matter. I can't even begin to imagine the health and social ramifications of a potential "bird flu" like epidemic in our community

Next, and perhaps on a more practical note, does anyone know how much daily waste (poop) is produced by six chickens? Do we have any idea how we will dispose of such waste considering the pollution that will result if multiple homes start to domesticate chickens in their backyards. I would bet even the advocates themselves will be surprised what a monumental (and nasty) task it will be to dispose of the waste.

Next, the average life span of a chicken is 20-25 weeks. At the end of such time, we have two choices: cook them or bury them. If we dispose of them, we can either bury the remains in the backyard or depose the remains in a humane and safe manner. Using the backyard as burial grounds will surely attract unwanted wild life as the remains will take days to decompose. Leaving our waste management system for disposal would required them to develop safe and sanitary process to depose of dead chickens. I can think of a number of more pressing projects in need of our tax dollar.

Finally, chickens moved from homes to farms for many reasons. One of the main considerations is because it is more efficient to raise chickens on a farm if our intent is to farm them as a food source. Alternatively, if advocates are proposing chickens would be good pets, I would ask where and when was the last time we saw a vet at the strip mall advertising medial services for "sick chickens". The precedence created would be unthinkable as I am sure others would come forward with proposals to domesticate other farm animals. Soon we will have ducks, goats, and other farm animals in our backyards. Would we have an issue with our neighbors have six goats as pets...especially if the goats cockatoos every morning regardless of the day of the week and regardless of daylight savings.

For most parts, the OCP for north vancouver is residential, the domestication of chickens should not be allowed unless of course chickens are consider as domestic animals. I believe Health Canada may have a regulation or two around domestication of farm animals in an urban setting. I bet we would see some interesting court battles on this issue.

Regards  
Concerned North Shore Resident.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Penny Ly](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Sunday, May 14, 2017 10:43:32 PM

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I, Penny Hall, reside at [REDACTED] North Vancouver. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

**From:** [Jason Hall](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Fw: I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Sunday, May 14, 2017 10:50:36 PM

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I, Jason Hall, reside at [REDACTED] North Vancouver. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

**From:** [Stephen Harmer](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Please allow chickens  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 7:41:04 AM

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My name is Katrina Harmer and I am [REDACTED]

I live in North Vancouver district and I want chickens because I can get free eggs and the chickens will be happier because they have more space than in a egg factory.

Chickens can be like pets and by taking care of chickens I can be more responsible and caring when I spend time with chickens if I can get them.

If I get chickens then I can teach my friends about them and since I don't have any pets my parents might let me get some chickens.

In conclusion I think that the residents of the district of North Vancouver should have chickens because other urban municipalities have chickens without any problems so we should have chickens too.

Thanks,

Katrina Harmer

[REDACTED]

North

**From:** [Bob & Shirley Young](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 9:38:46 AM

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I, Shirley Young, of [REDACTED] North Vancouver, B.C. [REDACTED] support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

There are so many positive aspects of encouraging people to raise hens.

Thank you for ensuring this bylaw is approved.

Shirley Young

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Virus-free. [www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

**From:** [Brian Burtch](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Objections to proposed bylaw to allow backyard hens  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 10:16:45 AM  
**Attachments:** [Brian Burtch objections to backyard chickens proposal.docx](#)

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Please find attached my objections to the proposed Bylaw 8211, "to regulate and allow for the keeping of backyard hens".

Thank you for your consideration. I have pasted the contents of the attachment below for ease of access.

Sincerely,  
Brian Burtch

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May 15, 2017

I wish to comment on the District's consideration of a proposal for backyard hens in single family residential areas. I oppose this proposal.

I have accessed the [dnv.org/hens](http://dnv.org/hens) site and several other resource sites that address potential advantages of and concerns about permitting backyard hens in urban settings. It appears to me that there is a skew in the details of the proposed bylaw, with positive wordings of helping, empowering, minimizing, managing and such, and the wording of keeping chickens in *your* backyard is misplaced, as I see this as proposal for other residents keeping chickens in their backyards. I have no interest whatsoever in keeping chickens on our property or having them anywhere near our property. I had hoped that an outline of specific points of opposition might be highlighted in the dnv site to balance the very benign wording of managing noise, odours, rodents.

I will focus on several key points tied to my strong opposition to the proposal. I invite council to consider that there is no compelling need to pass this bylaw and in fact there are strong reasons to reject it.

Please understand that I have no objection to the keeping of hens or other appropriate creatures in more rural environments. In fact, my niece in Yorkshire keeps 11 hens, 2 pygmy goats, and other animals on their property. But they are flanked only by open fields, not by nearby neighbours.

1. No need for backyard hens

Eggs are found in abundance in the district. Free-range, brown, white, speckled, medium, extra-large, these are all readily available to us. For me, legitimate uses of an urban/suburban backyard include a safe space for children to play, adults to recreate, to plant gardens, and to secure a measure of one's quiet enjoyment of property.

2. Objectionable noises and quiet enjoyment of property

District Bylaw 7188 details "Objectionable Noises or Sounds" which are "...liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public and are prohibited." Reading on, 5(d) refers to noise or sound that "extends continuously or discontinuously for 15 minutes or more", with specific mention of noise or sound created by "(ii) a dog or any other animal or bird" (emphasis added).

Passing the proposed bylaw would certainly violate this safeguard for residents such as myself who do their best to avoid noxious sounds in violation of the bylaw, and who expect the same in return from our neighbours.

<!--[endif]-->

### 3. Arguments against keeping backyard hens

While there are many people who advocate for backyard hens as a boon to urban communities, there are counterarguments to consider. These include reserving such spaces for plant-based activities, waning production of hens (after approximately 2 years), abandonment of hens, predation (rats, racoons, bear, coyotes etc.), and increased costs related to municipal enforcement and complaints. Several of these concerns are set in James McWilliams' feature in Forbes magazine:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesmcwilliams/2013/11/21/five-reasons-why-owning-backyard-chickens-is-for-the-birds/#776e2b917f44>

In my research into pros and cons of the backyard chickens debate it is clear that proponents on holding chickens in urban areas have dominated the debate, consistently minimizing or dismissing every single point of concern while assuring everyone that this is a boon to neighbours and the community. I would like to emphasize that there are people who strongly oppose this bylaw and I am one of them. I am not convinced by the buoyant arguments brought forward by those lobbying for this bylaw.

4. Need for more comprehensive research This proposed bylaw must be considered in light of the best available evidence. This takes rigour and time to fully consider the merits and disadvantages of a proposal. For example, there are those who argue that keeping backyard chickens and other animals can lower adjacent property values. Some jurisdictions apparently require a declaration of having such animals before a home is sold (see, among others, <http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/story/opinion/2015/08/05/backyard-chickens-goats-will-affect-property-values/31197747/>). I am saying that this assertion, among others, is in dispute and needs to be carefully and objectively examined.

Thank you for considering my opposition to this proposal and the arguments underpinning it. I urge you to vote No to it.

Dr. Brian Burtch

[REDACTED]  
North Vancouver, B.C  
[REDACTED]

\*\*\*\*\*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



**From:** [John Hunter](#)  
**To:** [Cristina Rucci](#); [Corrie Kost](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [James Hanson](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's March 2016 Workshop  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 11:16:22 AM

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Some issues perhaps to keep in mind as we go through this issue again

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**From:** John Hunter [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** March 3, 2016 10:09 AM  
**To:** lchristensen@nsnews.com  
**Subject:** FW: Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's March 2016 Workshop  
The second as promised

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**From:** John Hunter [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** March 3, 2016 9:55 AM  
**To:** 'salmas@westvancouver.ca'  
**Subject:** FW: Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's Workshop  
Here is the second of two documents. Please circulate them to Council and senior staff  
John Hunter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** John Hunter [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** June 27, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'Brian Bydwell'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn ([dmackay-dunn@dnv.org](mailto:dmackay-dunn@dnv.org)); Councillor Mike Little ([mlittle@dnv.org](mailto:mlittle@dnv.org)); Councillor Robin Hicks ([rhicks@dnv.org](mailto:rhicks@dnv.org)); Councillor Roger Bassam ([rbassam@dnv.org](mailto:rbassam@dnv.org)); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV ([lmuri@dnv.org](mailto:lmuri@dnv.org))'; Mayor Richard Walton  
**Cc:** Corrie Kost; Peter Thompson DNV; 'Crown Mortgage'; Bill Tracey DNV; Peter Thompson DNV  
**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's Workshop

Hi all

I am pleased that this initiative was put on ice at Monday's workshop, and I hope it stays there. But in case this topic flies again, I have some thoughts on the Staff report and what, in my opinion, should be done differently next time the issue arises.

I was disappointed in the Staff report in that it seemed to rely so heavily on CLUCK and there is no indication that CLUCK's information was verified by Staff. For example, attachment A to the report on the benefits of backyard chickens appears to be a copy of CLUCK's package although this seems not to be acknowledged in Staff's report. I think in any future effort, CLUCK's information must be verified by Staff because, in my opinion and based on my April report below, CLUCK omitted important publicly available information (to give two examples) about bear attacks on coops and the loud noise from dominant hens.

I was also disappointed that some specifics of major concerns addressed in my "report" below were not addressed by Staff, and in fact statements were made contrary to the publicly available information I provided, without saying why such information was discarded or ignored. For example, my personal experience and the public information refute the CLUCK claim that noise problems are only caused by roosters; "dominant hens" also crow; yet Staff in their presentation (slide 3) repeated Cluck's "roosters are the only problem" claim with nothing said about the dominant hen issue. Why? Are they sure the complaints mentioned on page 16 about "rooster related noises" are not from

dominant hens?

Information as to why current bylaws prohibit fowl should be provided. Did we have a bad experience?

In my view, insufficient focus was placed on the CO's comment that chickens will attract the usual suspects **PLUS cougars** (Staff report page 15). I do not believe fruit tree and bird feeders or typical composts attract cougars as they do black bears, and cougars are more dangerous than black bears, particularly to children. Let's be clear – chickens will make a more dangerous environment for pets and humans. The CO wants effective and enforceable measures (page 15); yet no recommendation for mandatory standards for coops or electric fencing are made by Staff. In fact, Staff simply quote some sources regarding options but appear to make no recommendation to Council on this issue. In view of the Council's long term position on attractants, and the obvious increase in exposure with chickens, I find this omission very disappointing.

As for Salmonella being a relative non-issue, simply Google "salmonella from backyard chickens". Why were these outbreaks from chickens not mentioned?

Perhaps the most surprising omission from the report is the potential for increased legal liability to DNV if Council approves backyard chickens, **an event that clearly (see page 15, paragraph 2, CO's comments) increases risk to DNV pets and humans, regardless of mitigation measures.** Should legal counsel not be consulted and the insurance experts?

Lastly, I would hope if the issue arises again, Staff would address (with information from sources other than just CLUCK) the items highlighted in yellow in my April report below.

Sincerely

John Hunter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John Hunter [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** April 27, 2012 4:38 PM

**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'bydwellb@dnv.org'; Corrie Kost; 'Gavin Joyce'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn (dmackay-dunn@dnv.org); Councillor Mike Little (mlittle@dnv.org); Councillor Robin Hicks (rhicks@dnv.org); Councillor Roger Bassam (rbassam@dnv.org); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV (lmuri@dnv.org)'; Mayor Richard Walton

**Cc:** FONVCA (fonvca@fonvca.org); Mayor Darrell Mussatto CNV (dmussatto@cnv.org)

**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Research Information for Council and Staff 3545, 3538, 3541, 3542, 3543 attached

Hi all

This package is to give you more facts on the "Backyard Chickens" issue and the April 16 proposal to DNV Council to legalize backyard chickens under certain rules. It supplements the information I provided April 16 to Council in an e-mail. I have included that April 16 info below, with additions, to give a complete one-stop-shopping package. If anybody wants to read the proposal to Council, Google DNV's Council package of April 16 2012 and turn to page 15 of the report to Council at [http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council\\_Agendas\\_Minutes/rc120416.pdf](http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Agendas_Minutes/rc120416.pdf).

### **Recommendation**

I think the proposal is so highly ill-advised given where we live and bears etc., that Council should not spend their time nor staff time on it. We have more important challenges, like Lion's Gate and potential new drinking water facilities.

Part of the reason for dismissing the proposal is that, in my opinion, CLUCK'S presentation was not balanced and did not give Council the publicly available information that is unfavourable to their recommendations and information. More on that point later. Secondly, how can Council, who for years has argued for safety reasons that residents should avoid bear attractants, now agree with backyard chickens? This may imply a liability issue for the district. Thirdly, when you read their proposal and the Vancouver bylaw, you can see potential enforcement nightmares and incremental enforcement and permitting/inspection costs. Lastly, like barking dogs, it can lead to problems amongst neighbours. Why look for trouble? We have not had a huge call for backyard chickens to my knowledge.

In Council's shoes, I'd sit on this (sorry!) for five years and let Vancouver and perhaps CNV try it out. But in my opinion, they have fewer bears and hence fewer risks than DNV.

If people want fresher eggs, or better eggs, or eggs not from hens in small cages, buy coated eggs (seals the pores, keeps air out) and/or free range eggs.

### **Introduction**

Having worked a bit on a farm and with my wife Monica raised on one, we are somewhat familiar with chickens. A number of the statements (at least as I heard them) made by CLUCK at the April 16 DNV Council meeting did not match my chicken experience, so I have reviewed their entire package in detail, done some research.

## **ISSUES (in the order of Cluck's report to Council of April 16)**

### **Ugly Fences (page 18)**

The report contemplates not only chicken coops, but fenced ground areas where the chickens can walk, feed, etc. Although they have to be kept three feet from the property line, this will have to involve some sort of chicken wire or other sort of fence around an area up to 6.5 feet high and 10 feet by 10 feet across. They also recommend the walking area be covered with something like "corrugated fibreglass". Sure not bear proof. And super ugly.

### **Disposal of Chicken Manure (page 19)**

"Manure may be flushed down the toilet or composted." Does Metro Vancouver or DNV want that in the sewage system? As for composting, trust me – chicken manure STINKS.

### **Unenforceable Rules**

There are numerous rules proposed for the chicken bylaw – I counted 21 in the Executive Summary alone. Who is going to enforce these and at what cost?

### **Disposing of unwanted or non-productive chickens:**

It is contemplated that "confiscated chickens" will be taken to the Animal Shelter (page 20), and presumably abandoned chickens will need the same treatment. What is the cost and can the Animal Shelter handle them? CLUCK asked Maplewood Farm to take them but Maplewood is unwilling to do so.

The average lifespan of a chicken is seven to 10 years, although they can certainly live longer. However, hens lay eggs only until they're two or three. What will you do with your hens when they are no longer "productive"? Will they become someone else's problem (a shelter, a sanctuary, or simply left somewhere out in the bush to fend for themselves), or will we be talking about amateur backyard slaughtering too (which CLUCK says would be prohibited – page 19)?

I called Parkgate Bird Hospital regarding having a chicken euthanized. Yes, it is \$40 as CLUCK told you. What they did not tell you, to my knowledge, is that if the vet has not seen your chicken before,

it's \$60 to examine it, then \$40 to kill it, and if over 2.3 kilos (5.1 pounds), \$57 to cremate it or you have to sign an affidavit promising to bury it six feet deep (cremation free if under 2.3 kilos).

Message: non-productive or unwanted chickens will go in the stew pot or the garbage or be set free in the bush.

CLUCK say (page 19) that dead chickens cannot be put in the garbage, but given the disposal options above, my guess is that is where they will go.

### **Noise**

CLUCK implies that noise is not a real problem. I believe the noise referred to by CLUCK (page 20), in claiming hens are quieter than human conversation, is the gentle clucking of a hen as she feeds. However, a Google for "dominant hens" shows that in the absence of roosters (roosters will be prohibited in DNV), a hen may assume a "dominant hen" position and behave somewhat like a rooster, including crowing. They also make quite a bit of noise when laying eggs, at any hour of the day or night – the allowed six hens (while young) will lay six eggs a day with the accompanying racket for about 5 minutes each time, every day and night. From Google (Village Garden Web): "This morning I was woken up at 4.36 am by a croaky, rusty, "cwaaka-cwaka-waa" (as opposed to your textbook "cock-a-doodle-do"). My 70 year old aunt - born and raised in the country (though a city girl for the last 50 years) was here last weekend, when one of the black birds made a similar noise mid-afternoon. She said that a dominant chicken would make a noise like that..."

On page 24, CLUCK gives noise information from a California city, Pleasanton, implying that chicken sounds cannot be heard past nine feet. However, a check of the actual Pleasanton report shows that it is regarding "squawking" caused by handling the birds to induce them to make some noise, **not by crowing**. ("Although the chickens were not audible for most of the visit, they made a minimal level of noise when staff prodded them to obtain a recordable noise reading that exceeded the base readings. Prodding involved handling the chickens and causing them to be nervous, which resulted in a squawking of sorts.") The statement made to Council by CLUCK that you cannot hear a chicken beyond 9 feet is false for crowing, in my opinion. They will be heard in your neighbour's yards, and if their bedroom windows are open at night, may awake them.

Unlike chickens, dogs and cats are usually in the house at night, due to the risk of bear or coyote attack amongst other things. If the cat or dog makes noise inside at night, the neighbour probably won't hear it and the pet owner will normally act immediately to quiet the animal so they themselves can sleep.

### **Odour Control and Care of Chickens**

This may be a major problem. Page 37 of CLUCK's package indicates that an hour a day minimum is needed:

"1 hour per day minimum for cleaning, parasite control, grooming, physical exam, travel, time to purchase supplies, construction, repair, medication, feeding, supervise free time out of pen. Hens should be cared for twice daily. During the AM to ensure food, water, and cleaning for the day and again in the evening to ensure adequate supplies for the evening and that all birds are securely confined overnight. Think ahead for vacations and weekends away. Do you have someone is able to care for your birds while you are away and knows about your flock and chicken health in case something goes wrong?"

Particularly as the novelty wears off for the kids, and if both parents work outside the home, how well kept and "policed" will the birds be during the day and is the required cleaning going to happen to avoid odour and vermin?

### **Bear Attacks on Chickens**

I Goggled “bear attacks on chickens” during Council April 16 and got numerous hits instantly. So, I gather, did Gavin Joyce.

Bears do, as CLUCK admitted, like chickens, and judging by Google they certainly attack chicken coops.

I am astounded that in CLUCK’s report, no information on bear attacks was provided, although they do provide Vancouver’s “Basic Chicken Care” document (Page 37 of package). However, Vancouver does not even mention bears as a hazard: “Chickens will attract bird mites and lice, mice, yard birds, squirrels, raccoons, dogs, coyotes, rats, and humans.” It appears CLUCK may not understand the frequency of bears in DNV. On page 41, CLUCK again fails to point out the risk of bears in selecting types of fencing.

At the bottom of this e-mail are a few examples of bear attacks on chickens.

### ***Electric Fence as Bear Defence***

*This is a defence CLUCK mentioned April 16 – but might it kills birds, squirrels, and cats, or a child standing on wet ground? From Google: “Many fence owners, especially those in agriculture, are switching to electric fences to due to their low cost, easy maintenance and greater longevity. While electric fences do have plenty of benefits, they also carry some potentially deadly dangers that necessitate proper electric fence safety. A single shock from an electric fence is not lethal, so electric fences are quite safe in general. However, if a person or animal becomes entangled, the multiple shocks from an electric fence can build up in the body and turn deadly within minutes, reports Australia’s Office of the Technical Regulator.” (emphasis added)*

### **Maplewood Farm Experience**

CLUCK on April 16 stated, in my recollection, that Maplewood farm had not had bear problems despite its many chickens, with the apparent message that if Maplewood had no bear problems with all their critters, why would anyone else in DNV?

I toured Maplewood recently with Derek Palmer, Facility Manager of Maplewood. The farm has an eight foot high chain link fence around the entire perimeter, and at night all the animals are locked in reinforced pens or the barn. In addition, two German Sheppard dogs are turned loose in the farm at night. The pens and barn are heavily built and wired.

I would therefore suggest that Maplewood experience is not applicable to a typical residential yard. Please see attached photos which show the fence, the heavy wire on the cages, and the heavy barn door construction.

### **Miscellaneous**

- The Vancouver bylaw allows four hens (section 7.5(c)). Why do they suggest 6-8 for DNV?
- Why is DNV’s chicken registry voluntary and Vancouver’s mandatory (section 7.15) ?

I remain of the view, given our history of discouraging bear attractants, this proposal does not make sense and may expose the DNV to liability and the residents to risk. It is also a risk to be a noise and odour nuisance.

Lastly, given that hens live 7-10 years or longer, if Council permits backyard chickens, the exit strategy if backyard chickens prove untenable over time will be very difficult.

Regards

John Hunter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## Story 1 Bear attacks chicken coop in Wayne

Published: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 5:55 AM Updated: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 7:11 AM



By [The Star-Ledger Continuous News Desk](#) The Star-Ledger

A black bear attacked chickens in a coop Saturday in Wayne, according to [a report in The Record](#). The report said Hamid Haopshy came home around 6:15 p.m. to find a 250-pound black bear tearing into one of the chickens he keeps in his yard at 29 Church Lane. Capt. Paul Ireland, a department spokesman, said Patrolman Rick Hess was dispatched to the scene with a tranquilizer gun. But police could not locate the bear.

## Story 2 Bear Attacked Chickens

July 11, 2011

[Chicks to Chicken Dinners, Coops](#)



We butchered 7 meat chickens on Monday, June 20 and left the rest in their pen for our second butcher day on June 24. I knew that something had been prowling around them at night, so I was extra careful to make sure the bricks were in place to hold down the chicken wire. Nevertheless, something reached a paw in from the top and nabbed a chicken. I found the trampled down place where the chicken had been eaten. Every single bit was gone, with the exception of a few drops of blood and some feathers.

I fixed that hole, and the next day found that something had tried to bite its way through the wood roof. That night I covered the pen with additional hardware wire and chicken wire I had on hand, as well as an old plastic trellis. Though I didn't attach each piece, they were tangled enough that it would take a pretty strong and focused predator to get in. I figured I just had a couple more days to go, and once we'd finished the butchering, I would focus in on improving the chicken tractor.



*At first I thought a bomb had gone off on the chicken tractor.*

The chickens were just fine on Wednesday morning at 9:30. But when I went to check them again at 1:30 I was stunned. It looked like a bomb had gone off, destroying the roof of the chicken tractor. The wire I'd added to the top had been torn off, a big hole had been ripped in the wood roof, and parts of the roof were tossed 6 feet away. The remains of a dead chicken were strewn on the top of the roof where the predator had eaten it. Another dead chicken was laying in the front of the pen.



*The meat chickens behaved like refugees in the hens' and ducks' pen. They huddled together and wouldn't move very far.*

I carried the survivors up to the hen pen where they acted like true refugees, huddling in a corner away from the hens and ducks. Then I went to call Leah and the Division of Wildlife. Based on the destruction I was sure a bear had come and I wanted them to be aware of the change in wildlife behavior in the area. Then I went back to the pen to build an electric fence around it.

While I was making phone calls, the bear had returned, hauled the dead chicken out, and was eating it in the grass next to the pond. I chased it off, grabbed the chicken, threw it back in the bombed out chicken tractor, and built my fence. I was looking forward to hearing the sounds of bear screams, so I snuck back every few hours to see if the bear had returned. I heard it scream at about 11:30 pm, and then walked over with my headlamp to make sure that the fence was still intact. That was a scary walk for sure!

We left the dead chicken in the pen until we repaired it on Thursday evening. Now our chicken tractor has a metal roof, and we eliminated the slant to the roof to reduce the design weakness that might allow predators to try to reach in. The electric fence seems to have done the job, because nothing has attacked the growing meat birds since. But you never know when something very

determined might try again.

Here's something I've been thinking about since: My neighbor Meg says that every year she goes out to look at the choke cherries and says to herself "Just a couple more days an they'll be perfect for harvesting." Then, just before she can pick them, a bear comes and eats them all. She wondered out loud to me "How do they know to come get them every year, just before it's time to harvest?" Now I wonder, how did the bears know that it was time to get their chickens before we harvested them all?



*The hole in the roof and the dead chicken the bear hadn't eaten yet.*



*I ran water on the ground rods to make the soil more moist and help with putting a good charge on the fence.*



*At first we ran the fence tight around the chicken tractor so that I could teach the bear about electricity. I've made a larger fenced area now so that it is easy to move the tractor day to day.*



## Story 3 A shocking idea to deter bears in Alaska

### Livestock owners consider electric fences to protect chickens, livestock

BY CRAIG KEENER

[For the Star](#)

Wildlife experts are urging Eagle River chicken owners to safeguard their backyard coops against bears now instead of shooting marauding bruins later.

Last year, at least two bears were killed in Eagle River after the animals tried to raid chicken coops.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game held a workshop last weekend at the Eagle River Nature Center to encourage the use of electric perimeter fencing as a deterrent for intrusive bears.

So far this year, there have been only a few reported bear sightings, but the bruins are expected to become more active by mid-April, said Eagle River Nature Center manager Laura Kruger.

And they will be attracted to the usual smells – unsecured garbage, bird feeders, and now chicken coops, said Jessy Coltrane, wildlife biologist for Fish and Game, who lives in Eagle River.

Wildlife technician Tony Carnahan and education and outreach specialist Elizabeth Manning, both with Fish and Game, cited the rising popularity of keeping chickens throughout Anchorage and Eagle River. Imports of live chickens to Alaska increase by about 20 percent each year, according to the State Veterinarian's office, Manning said.

Most properties in Eagle River Valley are zoned to allow private coops, Coltrane said. While there is no definitive figure for how many Eagle River properties have chicken coops, Coltrane and staff at the Nature Center have received numerous calls from locals concerned with protecting their birds.

About 20 residents attended the presentation.

If managed properly, Coltrane said, those who want to keep chickens can do so without bear encounters.

"The solution is not to be shooting every bear that comes to get your chickens," she said.

"You have to be more proactive."

Electric fences, she said, are the ideal deterrent for black and brown bears. The shock is powerful enough to send a clear message to stay away, but will not harm the animal long term.

During the April 3 workshop, Manning and Carnahan detailed the best ways to build electric perimeter fencing.

The fences typically pack a punch ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 volts, with the shocks administered in pulses, Carnahan said.

"They are not designed to maim or injure; all are just charges designated for livestock use," Carnahan said.

A bear will most likely touch a live fence with its nose or the pads of its paws, sensitive areas that will deter the animal from getting any closer, he added.

The materials needed to create an enclosure include fence posts, 14-gauge wire, a charger and suitable grounding wire, Carnahan said. Chargers administer the electrical current, and vary in size and capacity. These essential units should be waterproof or stored indoors, he said.

Options abound for perimeter fencing, but setting up a basic enclosure ranges from \$150 to \$200, he said.

Ideally, a fence should be no less than five feet tall, with electrified wires running about a foot apart. Fences can also be set at a 45-degree angle facing outward from the enclosure to ensure contact near the head of larger bears, where a shock on the paw alone may prove ineffective.

Manning recommended clearing surrounding vegetation from chicken coops to prevent those plants from creating a short circuit.

Innovation is key in outwitting a hungry bear, Carnahan said. Bears will often dig up, or damage buried cables, which supply power to the electric grid, he said.

To withstand curious bears, the livestock structures themselves should be reinforced, too, Manning said. Barricading doors, and installing window shutters that close flush to the exterior of the building can prevent bears from prying a coop open.

"Just tacking plywood over windows is not enough," she said.

Particularly when salmon are running, Eagle River acts as a corridor for bears roaming down from the mountainsides of Chugach State Park and nearby. State biologists estimate that about 250 to 350 black bear and more than 65 brown bears populate an area from Girdwood to the Knik River, but much of that territory is alpine highland and unsuitable for bears.

Kruger said she has been raising chickens for about a year. Although she has not yet had problems with bears attacking her livestock, she opted this year to install an electrified enclosure for her chicken coops out of an existing dog kennel on her O'Riedner Road property, she said.

At a cost of about \$200, Kruger's six chickens are now safe from prowling bears. While she said she is content with her enclosure, she was intrigued by the different options highlighted at Sunday's presentation.

"It was definitely informative and cool to see other set-ups and know all the options out there," she said.

Eagle River resident Gregg Terry, an adjunct horticulture instructor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, recognized crossover potential in using electric fences to protect compost heaps. While not typically a target for browsing bears, compost that contains fish and meat byproducts could easily lure them in, Terry said. He recommended fast-acting, odor-reducing composts that do not use animal byproducts.

Carnahan encouraged residents raising livestock to be creative, and continue to improve their systems once they are in place.

"Curiosity is one thing you have to defend against, too," he said. "Sometimes you have to get creative and think the way the animal does."

For more information on electric fences, go to Fish and Game's Web site,  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences).

This article published in The Alaska Star on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

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**From:** [john hunter](#)  
**To:** [Cristina Rucci](#)  
**Cc:** ["Corrie Kost"](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some thoughts and info as we go at this issue again  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 11:16:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [April 2017 DNV Council Backyard Chickens.docx](#)

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This also seems to be missing from the public input info on the DNV site to date.

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**From:** john hunter [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** April 9, 2017 3:30 PM  
**To:** Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn; Councillor Lisa Muri DNV; Councillor Matthew Bond; Councillor Robin Hicks; Councillor Roger Bassam; 'Hanson'; Mayor Richard Walton  
**Cc:** 'David Stuart DNV CAO'; [ruccic@dnv.org](mailto:ruccic@dnv.org); 'Corrie Kost'; Lorraine Harvey; Bill Tracey DNV; Peter Thompson DNV; Gavin Joyce; FONVCA; [info@nvcn.ca](mailto:info@nvcn.ca)  
**Subject:** FW: Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some thoughts and info as we go at this issue again  
Hi all

I am submitting this package in response to the request for comments on the "proposal for backyard hens". Most of it is from our 2012 exercise. About the only thing that I know of that has changed since the 2012 exercise is more cougar sightings.

I also attach a WORD doc with some points.

There is a LOT of information on the internet which makes it clear that there are some serious potential risks with backyard chickens, particularly in our environment. I have added a few things to the previous document highlighted in red.

---

**From:** John Hunter [mailto: ]  
**Sent:** June 27, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'Brian Bydwell'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn ([dmackay-dunn@dnv.org](mailto:dmackay-dunn@dnv.org)); Councillor Mike Little ([mlittle@dnv.org](mailto:mlittle@dnv.org)); Councillor Robin Hicks ([rhicks@dnv.org](mailto:rhicks@dnv.org)); Councillor Roger Bassam ([rbassam@dnv.org](mailto:rbassam@dnv.org)); 'Councillor Lisa Muri DNV ([lmuri@dnv.org](mailto:lmuri@dnv.org))'; Mayor Richard Walton  
**Cc:** Corrie Kost; Peter Thompson DNV; 'Crown Mortgage'; Bill Tracey DNV; Peter Thompson DNV  
**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's Workshop  
Hi all

I am pleased that this initiative was put on ice at Monday's workshop, and I hope it stays there. But in case this topic flies again, I have some thoughts on the Staff report and what, in my opinion, should be done differently next time the issue arises.

I was disappointed in the Staff report in that it seemed to rely so heavily on CLUCK and there is no indication that CLUCK's information was verified by Staff. For example, attachment A to the report on the benefits of backyard chickens appears to be a copy of CLUCK's package although this seems not to be acknowledged in Staff's report. I think in any future effort, CLUCK's information must be verified by Staff because, in my opinion and based on my April report below, CLUCK omitted important publicly available information (to give two examples) about bear attacks on coops and the loud noise from dominant hens.

I was also disappointed that some specifics of major concerns addressed in my "report" below were not addressed by Staff, and in fact statements were made contrary to the publicly available information I provided, without saying why such information was discarded or ignored. For example, my personal experience and the public information refute the CLUCK claim that noise problems are only caused by roosters; "dominant hens" also crow; yet Staff in their presentation (slide 3) repeated Cluck's "roosters are the only problem" claim with nothing said about the dominant hen issue. Why?

Are they sure the complaints mentioned on page 16 about “rooster related noises” are not from dominant hens? **The internet has many hits re “do dominant hens crow”**.

Information as to why current bylaws prohibit fowl should be provided. Did we have a bad experience?

In my view, insufficient focus was placed on the CO’s comment that chickens will attract the usual suspects **PLUS cougars** (Staff report page 15). I do not believe fruit tree and bird feeders or typical composts attract cougars as they do black bears, and cougars are more dangerous than black bears, particularly to children. Let’s be clear – chickens will make a more dangerous environment for pets and humans. The CO wants effective and enforceable measures (page 15); yet no recommendation for mandatory standards for coops or electric fencing are made by Staff. In fact, Staff simply quote some sources regarding options, but appear to make no recommendation to Council on this issue. In view of the Council’s long term position on attractants, and the obvious increase in exposure with chickens, I find this omission very disappointing. **Please note the four media stories at the bottom of this e-mail re bears attacking chicken coops and a person.**

As for Salmonella being a relative non-issue, simply Google “salmonella from backyard chickens”. Why were these outbreaks from chickens not mentioned **in the CLUCK and Staff reports**?

Perhaps the most surprising omission from the report is the potential for increased legal liability to DNV if Council approves backyard chickens, **an event that clearly (see page 15, paragraph 2, CO’s comments) increases risk to DNV pets and humans, regardless of mitigation measures.** Should legal counsel not be consulted and the insurance experts?

Lastly, I would hope if the issue arises again, Staff would address (with information from sources other than just CLUCK) the items highlighted **in yellow** in my April report below.

Sincerely

John Hunter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** John Hunter [mailto:[REDACTED]]

**Sent:** April 27, 2012 4:38 PM

**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'bydwellb@dnv.org'; Corrie Kost; 'Gavin Joyce'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn (dmackay-dunn@dnv.org); Councillor Mike Little (mlittle@dnv.org); Councillor Robin Hicks (rhicks@dnv.org); Councillor Roger Bassam (rbassam@dnv.org); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV (lmuri@dnv.org)'; Mayor Richard Walton

**Cc:** FONVCA (fonvca@fonvca.org); Mayor Darrell Mussatto CNV (dmussatto@cnv.org)

**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Research Information for Council and Staff 3545, 3538, 3541, 3542, 3543 attached

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### **Recommendation**

I think the proposal is so highly ill-advised given where we live and bears etc., that Council should

not spend their time nor staff time on it. We have more important challenges, like Lion's Gate and potential new drinking water facilities.

Part of the reason for dismissing the proposal is that, in my opinion, CLUCK'S presentation was not balanced and did not give Council the publicly available information that is unfavourable to their recommendations and information. More on that point later. Secondly, how can Council, who for years has argued for safety reasons that residents should avoid bear attractants, now agree with backyard chickens? This may imply a liability issue for the district. Thirdly, when you read their proposal and the Vancouver bylaw, you can see potential enforcement nightmares and incremental enforcement and permitting/inspection costs. Lastly, like barking dogs, it can lead to problems amongst neighbours. Why look for trouble? We have not had a huge call for backyard chickens to my knowledge.

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If people want fresher eggs, or better eggs, or eggs not from hens in small cages, buy coated eggs (seals the pores, keeps air out) and/or free range eggs.

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Message: non-productive or unwanted chickens will go in the stew pot or the garbage or be set free in the bush.

CLUCK say (page 19) that dead chickens cannot be put in the garbage, but given the disposal options above, my guess is that is where they will go, **or let loose in the bush rather than killing a pet**. See <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/other/urban-hens-often-abandoned-once-they-stop-laying-eggs-f2D11607861>

### **Noise**

CLUCK implies that noise is not a real problem. I believe the noise referred to by CLUCK (page 20), in claiming hens are quieter than human conversation, is the gentle clucking of a hen as she feeds. However, a Google for "dominant hens" shows that in the absence of roosters (roosters will be prohibited in DNV), a hen may assume a "dominant hen" position and behave somewhat like a rooster, including crowing. They also make quite a bit of noise when laying eggs, at any hour of the day or night – the allowed six hens (while young) will lay six eggs a day with the accompanying racket for about 5 minutes each time, every day and night. From Google (Village Garden Web): "This morning I was woken up at 4.36 am by a croaky, rusty, "cwaaka-cwaka-waa" (as opposed to your textbook "cock-a-doodle-do"). My 70 year old aunt - born and raised in the country (though a city girl for the last 50 years) was here last weekend, when one of the black birds made a similar noise mid-afternoon. She said that a dominant chicken would make a noise like that..."

On page 24, CLUCK gives noise information from a California city, Pleasanton, implying that chicken sounds cannot be heard past nine feet. **However, a check of the actual Pleasanton report shows that it is regarding "squawking" caused by handling the birds to induce them to make some noise, not by crowing.** ("Although the chickens were not audible for most of the visit, they made a minimal level of noise when staff prodded them to obtain a recordable noise reading that exceeded the base readings. Prodding involved handling the chickens and causing them to be nervous, which resulted in a squawking of sorts.") The statement made to Council by CLUCK that you cannot hear a chicken beyond 9 feet is false for crowing, in my opinion. They will be heard in your neighbour's yards, and if their bedroom windows are open at night, may awake them.

Unlike chickens, dogs and cats are usually in the house at night, due to the risk of bear or coyote attack amongst other things. If the cat or dog makes noise inside at night, the neighbour probably won't hear it and the pet owner will normally act immediately to quiet the animal so they themselves can sleep.

### **Odour Control and Care of Chickens**

This may be a major problem. Page 37 of CLUCK's package indicates that an hour a day minimum is needed:

"1 hour per day minimum for cleaning, parasite control, grooming, physical exam, travel, time to purchase supplies, construction, repair, medication, feeding, supervise free time out of pen. Hens should be cared for twice daily. During the AM to ensure food, water, and cleaning for the day and again in the evening to ensure adequate supplies for the evening and that all birds are securely confined overnight. Think ahead for vacations and weekends away. Do you have someone is able to care for your birds while you are away and knows about your flock and chicken health in case something goes wrong?"

---

Particularly as the novelty wears off for the kids, and if both parents work outside the home, how well kept and “policed” will the birds be during the day and is the required cleaning going to happen to avoid odour and vermin?

### **Bear Attacks on Chickens**

I Goggled “bear attacks on chickens” during Council April 16 and got numerous hits instantly. So, I gather, did Gavin Joyce.

Bears do, as CLUCK admitted, like chickens, and judging by Google they certainly attack chicken coops.

I am astounded that in CLUCK’s report, no information on bear attacks was provided, although they do provide Vancouver’s “Basic Chicken Care” document (Page 37 of package). However, Vancouver does not even mention bears as a hazard: “Chickens will attract bird mites and lice, mice, yard birds, squirrels, raccoons, dogs, coyotes, rats, and humans.” It appears CLUCK may not understand the frequency of bears in DNV. On page 41, CLUCK again fails to point out the risk of bears in selecting types of fencing **nor did they provide the publicly available info I do below.**

At the bottom of this e-mail are a few examples of bear attacks on chickens.

### **Electric Fence as Bear Defence**

*This is a defence CLUCK mentioned April 16 – but might it kills birds, squirrels, and cats, or a child standing on wet ground? From Google: “Many fence owners, especially those in agriculture, are switching to electric fences to due to their low cost, easy maintenance and greater longevity. While electric fences do have plenty of benefits, they also carry some potentially deadly dangers that necessitate proper electric fence safety. A single shock from an electric fence is not lethal, so electric fences are quite safe in general. However, if a person or animal becomes entangled, the multiple shocks from an electric fence can build up in the body and turn deadly within minutes, reports Australia's Office of the Technical Regulator.” (emphasis added)*

### **Maplewood Farm Experience**

CLUCK on April 16 stated, in my recollection, that Maplewood farm had not had bear problems despite its many chickens, with the apparent message that if Maplewood had no bear problems with all their critters, why would anyone else in DNV?

I toured Maplewood recently with Derek Palmer, Facility Manager of Maplewood. The farm has an eight foot high chain link fence around the entire perimeter, and at night all the animals are locked in reinforced pens or the barn. In addition, two German Sheppard dogs are turned loose in the farm at night. The pens and barn are heavily built and wired.

I would therefore suggest that Maplewood experience is not applicable to a typical residential yard. Please see attached photos which show the fence, the heavy wire on the cages, and the heavy barn door construction. (Photos available if you wish them – e-mail me)

### **Miscellaneous**

- The Vancouver bylaw allows four hens (section 7.5(c)). Why do they suggest 6-8 for DNV?
- Why is DNV’s chicken registry voluntary and Vancouver’s mandatory (section 7.15) ?

I remain of the view, given our history of discouraging bear attractants, this proposal does not make sense, and may expose the DNV to liability and the residents to risk. It is also a risk to be a **vermin, cougar**, noise and odour nuisance.

Lastly, given that hens live 7-10 years or longer, if Council permits backyard chickens, the exit strategy if backyard chickens prove untenable over time will be very difficult.

Regards



John Hunter



### Story 1 Bear attacks chicken coop in Wayne

Published: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 5:55 AM Updated: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 7:11 AM



By [The Star-Ledger Continuous News Desk](#) The Star-Ledger

A black bear attacked chickens in a coop Saturday in Wayne, according to [a report in The Record](#). The report said Hamid Haopshy came home around 6:15 p.m. to find a 250-pound black bear tearing into one of the chickens he keeps in his yard at 29 Church Lane. Capt. Paul Ireland, a department spokesman, said Patrolman Rick Hess was dispatched to the scene with a tranquilizer gun. But police could not locate the bear.

## Story 2 Bear Attacked Chickens

July 11, 2011

[Chicks to Chicken Dinners, Coops](#)



**Note: DNV will not be allowing butchering, but this story shows what a bear can do.**

We butchered 7 meat chickens on Monday, June 20 and left the rest in their pen for our second butcher day on June 24. I knew that something had been prowling around them at night, so I was extra careful to make sure the bricks were in place to hold down the chicken wire. Nevertheless, something reached a paw in from the top and nabbed a chicken. I found the trampled down place where the chicken had been eaten. Every single bit was gone, with the exception of a few drops of blood and some feathers.

I fixed that hole, and the next day found that something had tried to bite its way through the wood roof. That night I covered the pen with additional hardware wire and chicken wire I had on hand, as well as an old plastic trellis. Though I didn't attach each piece, they were tangled enough that it would take a pretty strong and focused predator to get in. I figured I just had a couple more days to go, and once we'd finished the butchering, I would focus in on improving the chicken tractor.



*At first I thought a bomb had gone off on the chicken tractor.*

The chickens were just fine on Wednesday morning at 9:30. But when I went to check them again at 1:30 I was stunned. It looked like a bomb had gone off, destroying the roof of the chicken tractor. The wire I'd added to the top had been torn off, a big hole had been ripped in the wood roof, and parts of the roof were tossed 6 feet away. The remains of a dead chicken were strewn on the top of the roof where the predator had eaten it. Another dead chicken was laying in the front of the pen.



*The meat chickens behaved like refugees in the hens' and ducks' pen. They huddled together and wouldn't move very far.*

I carried the survivors up to the hen pen where they acted like true refugees, huddling in a corner away from the hens and ducks. Then I went to call Leah and the Division of Wildlife. Based on the destruction I was sure a bear had come and I wanted them to be aware of the change in wildlife behavior in the area. Then I went back to the pen to build an electric fence around it.

While I was making phone calls, the bear had returned, hauled the dead chicken out, and was eating it in the grass next to the pond. I chased it off, grabbed the chicken, threw it back in the bombed out chicken tractor, and built my fence. I was looking forward to hearing the sounds of bear screams, so I snuck back every few hours to see if the bear had returned. I heard it scream at about 11:30 pm, and then walked over with my headlamp to make sure that the fence was still intact. That was a scary walk for sure!

We left the dead chicken in the pen until we repaired it on Thursday evening. Now our chicken tractor has a metal roof, and we eliminated the slant to the roof to reduce the design weakness that might allow predators to try to reach in. The electric fence seems to have done the job, because nothing has attacked the growing meat birds since. But you never know when something very

determined might try again.

Here's something I've been thinking about since: My neighbor Meg says that every year she goes out to look at the choke cherries and says to herself "Just a couple more days an they'll be perfect for harvesting." Then, just before she can pick them, a bear comes and eats them all. She wondered out loud to me "How do they know to come get them every year, just before it's time to harvest?" Now I wonder, how did the bears know that it was time to get their chickens before we harvested them all?



*The hole in the roof and the dead chicken the bear hadn't eaten yet.*



*I ran water on the ground rods to make the soil more moist and help with putting a good charge on the fence.*



*At first we ran the fence tight around the chicken tractor so that I could teach the bear about electricity. I've made a larger fenced area now so that it is easy to move the tractor day to day.*

## Story 3 A shocking idea to deter bears in Alaska

### Livestock owners consider electric fences to protect chickens, livestock

BY CRAIG KEENER

[For the Star](#)

Wildlife experts are urging Eagle River chicken owners to safeguard their backyard coops against bears now instead of shooting marauding bruins later.

Last year, at least two bears were killed in Eagle River after the animals tried to raid chicken coops.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game held a workshop last weekend at the Eagle River Nature Center to encourage the use of electric perimeter fencing as a deterrent for intrusive bears.

So far this year, there have been only a few reported bear sightings, but the bruins are expected to become more active by mid-April, said Eagle River Nature Center manager Laura Kruger.

And they will be attracted to the usual smells – unsecured garbage, bird feeders, and now chicken coops, said Jessy Coltrane, wildlife biologist for Fish and Game, who lives in Eagle River.

Wildlife technician Tony Carnahan and education and outreach specialist Elizabeth Manning, both with Fish and Game, cited the rising popularity of keeping chickens throughout Anchorage and Eagle River. Imports of live chickens to Alaska increase by about 20 percent each year, according to the State Veterinarian's office, Manning said.

Most properties in Eagle River Valley are zoned to allow private coops, Coltrane said. While there is no definitive figure for how many Eagle River properties have chicken coops, Coltrane and staff at the Nature Center have received numerous calls from locals concerned with protecting their birds.

About 20 residents attended the presentation.

If managed properly, Coltrane said, those who want to keep chickens can do so without bear encounters.

"The solution is not to be shooting every bear that comes to get your chickens," she said.

"You have to be more proactive."

Electric fences, she said, are the ideal deterrent for black and brown bears. The shock is powerful enough to send a clear message to stay away, but will not harm the animal long term.

During the April 3 workshop, Manning and Carnahan detailed the best ways to build electric perimeter fencing.

The fences typically pack a punch ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 volts, with the shocks administered in pulses, Carnahan said.

"They are not designed to maim or injure; all are just charges designated for livestock use," Carnahan said.

A bear will most likely touch a live fence with its nose or the pads of its paws, sensitive areas that will deter the animal from getting any closer, he added.

The materials needed to create an enclosure include fence posts, 14-gauge wire, a charger and suitable grounding wire, Carnahan said. Chargers administer the electrical current, and vary in size and capacity. These essential units should be waterproof or stored indoors, he said.

Options abound for perimeter fencing, but setting up a basic enclosure ranges from \$150 to \$200, he said.

Ideally, a fence should be no less than five feet tall, with electrified wires running about a foot apart. Fences can also be set at a 45-degree angle facing outward from the enclosure to ensure contact near the head of larger bears, where a shock on the paw alone may prove ineffective.

Manning recommended clearing surrounding vegetation from chicken coops to prevent those plants from creating a short circuit.

Innovation is key in outwitting a hungry bear, Carnahan said. Bears will often dig up, or damage buried cables, which supply power to the electric grid, he said.

To withstand curious bears, the livestock structures themselves should be reinforced, too, Manning said. Barricading doors, and installing window shutters that close flush to the exterior of the building can prevent bears from prying a coop open.

"Just tacking plywood over windows is not enough," she said.

Particularly when salmon are running, Eagle River acts as a corridor for bears roaming down from the mountainsides of Chugach State Park and nearby. State biologists estimate that about 250 to 350 black bear and more than 65 brown bears populate an area from Girdwood to the Knik River, but much of that territory is alpine highland and unsuitable for bears.

Kruger said she has been raising chickens for about a year. Although she has not yet had problems with bears attacking her livestock, she opted this year to install an electrified enclosure for her chicken coops out of an existing dog kennel on her O'Riedner Road property, she said.

At a cost of about \$200, Kruger's six chickens are now safe from prowling bears. While she said she is content with her enclosure, she was intrigued by the different options highlighted at Sunday's presentation.

"It was definitely informative and cool to see other set-ups and know all the options out there," she said.

Eagle River resident Gregg Terry, an adjunct horticulture instructor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, recognized crossover potential in using electric fences to protect compost heaps. While not typically a target for browsing bears, compost that contains fish and meat byproducts could easily lure them in, Terry said. He recommended fast-acting, odor-reducing composts that do not use animal byproducts.

Carnahan encouraged residents raising livestock to be creative, and continue to improve their systems once they are in place.

"Curiosity is one thing you have to defend against, too," he said. "Sometimes you have to get creative and think the way the animal does."

For more information on electric fences, go to Fish and Game's Web site,

[www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences).

This article published in The Alaska Star on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

**Story 4** 63-year-old grandmother desperately calls 911 as bear attacks her

(the bear had previously attacked a chicken coop, apparently elsewhere)

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3079554/63-year-old-grandmother-desperately-calls-911-as-bear-attacks-her/>

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April 2017 DRAFT Presentation to DNV Council

Re: Backyard Hen Proposal

Good Evening. My name is John Hunter of [REDACTED]

I oppose the idea of backyard fowl in DNV.

My reasons are the following:

- For years we have been told to pick (or not grow) fruit, eliminate, or hang high, your bird feeders, and risk fines for putting garbage out early, all to avoid attracting bears.
- Now we are going to introduce a great bear and cougar attractant - chickens???
- Cougars are showing up more frequently. Someone will have to explain the logic of this to me.
- Building a bear and cougar proof chicken cage, absent an electrical shocking device, is extremely difficult.
- You also have a noise risk – I am advised that **both** hens and roosters make a lot of noise, and they do it early and often. Early morning dogs are bad enough; we do not need more noise. Hen groups produce a dominant hen that tends to behave, noise-wise, like a rooster. Google “do dominant hens crow” and you will get many hits.
- The 2012 CLUCK (Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub backyard chicken advocates) report claims that chickens are not as noisy as dogs. This is comfort?
- Most importantly, the CLUCK statement that hens only crow after laying an egg, and make less noise than dogs or humans, is in my opinion inaccurate, as is the inference that a well-built coop can exclude black bears.
- Anybody who lived on a farm knows chickens attract vermin, racoons, skunks, coyotes, bears, and rats. Cleanup to defeat these vermin is difficult and time consuming, and not everybody will clean up as needed to avoid this. Chicken manure stinks! Then the DNV will have to get involved in disputes about smell and vermin.
- If after our years of proving there is a bear risk (our anti-attractants campaigns) we allow chickens and someone is hurt or killed, DNV may be subject to liability.
- The CLUCK comments about “chickens will aerate gardens and lawns” suggests the plan is that they run free in daytime, with some form of ugly fence around the property and some form of anti-bear electric fence?
- Discarded chickens will become an issue. Hens only lay for a few years and then have to be disposed of. Most people will probably not kill them (and CLUCK suggested regulations would forbid that anyway) or pay a vet \$100+ to do it (which may also be prohibited), so they are turned loose to be killed by coyotes/off-leash dogs or to starve. CLUCK envisaged in 2012 that confiscated chickens would be housed short term at the Animal Shelter and then adopted out – good luck with that.

- CLUCK envisaged in 2012 that the animal control bylaw would be used to enforce a chicken bylaw. Cost? Practicality?
- Avian Influenza and Salmonella are a risk to animals and humans. There is considerable information on the Internet about outbreaks of both from chickens.
- Lastly, where is the need? Is DNV overrun by people demanding backyard chickens, but who cannot get most of the benefits by buying free-range eggs or coated eggs?

We have not the same circumstances as Vancouver or the City of North Vancouver. I do not think this proposal makes sense for our urban environment.

John Hunter April 7, 2017




**From:** [john hunter](#)  
**To:** [Cristina Rucci](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rent-a-chicken business hatches "laying guarantee" for backyard farmers  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 11:16:19 AM

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Hi Why is my input to Council not in the public input documents?

-----Original Message-----

From: john hunter [mailto:  
Sent: April 13, 2017 9:00 PM  
To: Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn; Councillor Lisa Muri DNV; Councillor Matthew Bond; Councillor Robin Hicks; Councillor Roger Bassam; 'Hanson'; Mayor Richard Walton  
Cc: 'Corrie Kost'; 'Brian Platts DNV'; FONVCA; info nvcan.ca; Cristina Rucci; brichter@nsnews.com  
Subject: FW: Rent-a-chicken business hatches 'laying guarantee' for backyard farmers

.Rent-a-hen? Coming to a backyard near you! Count me in!

Mind you, in the five years we lived in Calgary, we heard of bears NEAR Calgary but never IN Calgary. Not like North Van.

Look at that cage. A bear could trash that in seconds.

BTW, that person who stood up in Council last Monday and said she never heard of a bear attacking a chicken coop either is unaware of the internet or did not check it. Google "bear attacks on chicken coops". Not pretty. I trust Staff are better informed.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/backyard-chicken-rentals-millerville-business-1.4063868>  
Courtesy of Brian Platts.

Cheers

John Hunter,   
  


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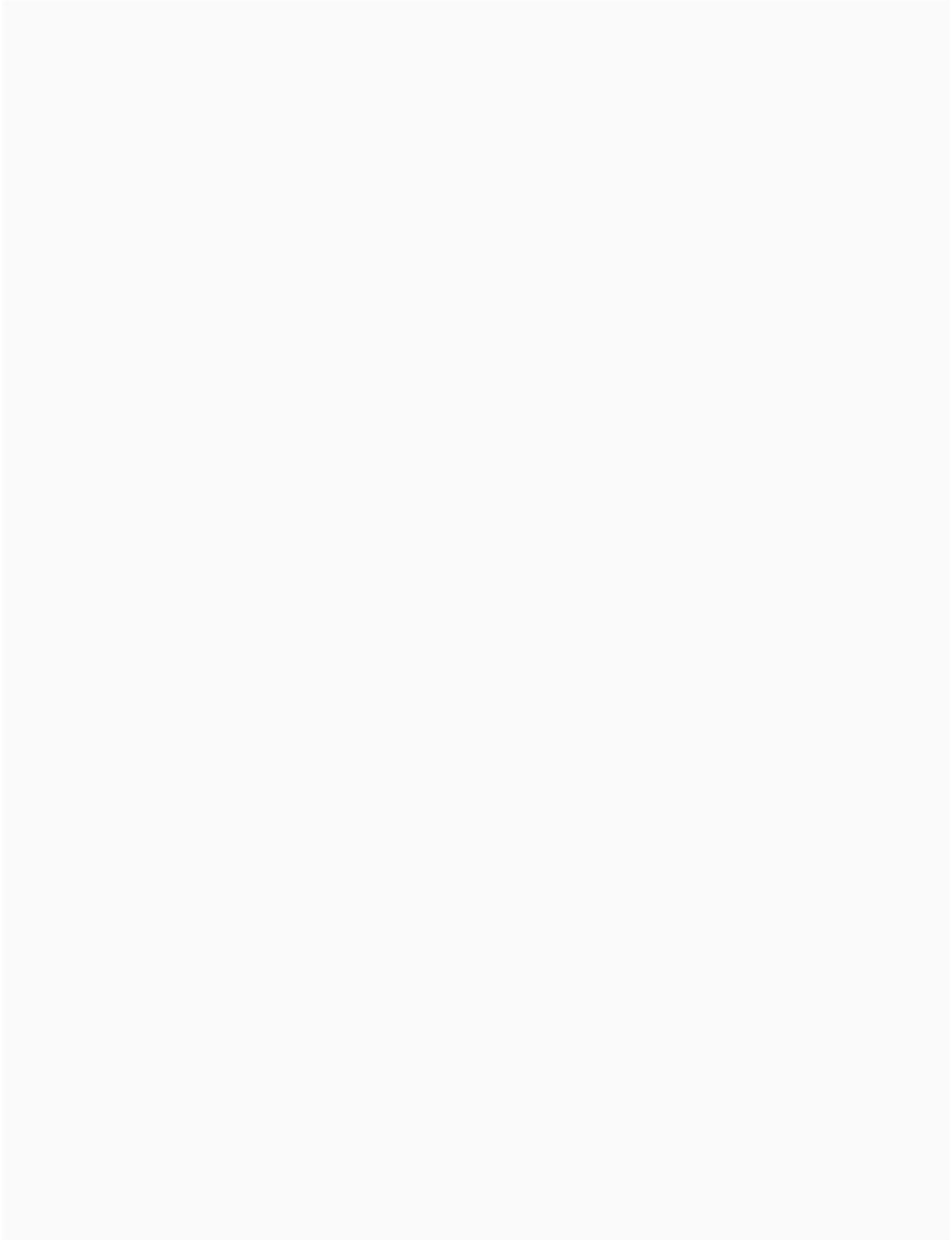
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**From:** [Joanne Treacy](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Chickens  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 11:25:14 AM

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My name is Joanne Treacy. I live at [REDACTED] and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens (as they are permitted to do in the city of North Vancouver, West Vancouver, and Vancouver).

Sincerely,  
Joanne Treacy



**From:** [Meagan Roberge](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** I support Backyard Chickens in DNV  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 1:27:43 PM

---

I, Meagan Roberge, residing at [REDACTED] North Vancouver BC am a member of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow the keeping of backyard chickens.

Meagan Roberge

**From:** [carolhird@telus.net](mailto:carolhird@telus.net)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to proposed Bylaw 8211 (Carol Hird)  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 2:00:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Carol Hird Objection to Backyard Hen Proposal.docx](#)

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Please find attached my reasons for objecting to the proposed bylaw to allow backyard hens in the District.

Carol Hird

[REDACTED]

North Vancouver, BC

[REDACTED]

I strongly object to the proposal to allow backyard hens in the District of North Vancouver.

Due to the availability of free range, organic eggs in our community I see no pressing need to introduce backyard hens. The presence of backyard hens will also increase predation in an area already at risk for black bears, racoons, rats etc.

Zoonotic infections feature in much of the research into risk factors associated with urban chickens. This includes publications by the Centre for Disease Control US and the Centre for Disease Control Canada. Zoonotic infection - transfer of infection due to direct contact with animals - is common in chicken contact. These infections, in particular salmonella, e-coli, and campylobacter, are dangerous to at-risk populations, especially young children. If the DNV goes ahead with this ill-advised scheme, would the DNV be liable for any illnesses or even deaths from these virulent diseases? Many studies confirm that chickens are reservoirs for such bacteria (Zoonoses Public Health Aug, 63 (5) doi 10 1111zph 12247. E.pub 2016 Jan. 11). The District would be negligent, in my view, if they ignore the evidence in the public health literature.

Inspection of the chicken coops to ensure maintenance of the standard recommended in the proposal will require a employee of the DNV to ensure compliance to the regulations etc. I assume that this person will be trained and fully occupied and remunerated to inspect premises that have registered with the DNV. There will obviously be citizens who do not register their chickens, so what jurisdiction will the DNV have in these situations?

In most of the literature and commentary there is reference to the stink of chicken manure. How will chicken manure be disposed of? No doubt the DNV will be responsible for the safe disposal of the manure to ensure that it is consistently and safely handled (see paragraph one) Chicken manure also attracts flies which carry bacteria. Neighbours will be at risk if food is unprotected, for instance, during the summer months when many citizens enjoy al fresco dining.

There is also the issue of property values. Some neighbours may not complain, but if a neighbour chooses to sell their home the stink will be obvious and disclosure of backyard chickens by neighbours will possibly affect house prices. Speaking for myself, neither I nor my husband would purchase or rent a property with backyard chickens in the immediate vicinity.

The inspection and disposal issues will carry budgetary implications. I anticipate the DNV will include these costs in our ever-increasing taxes. I strongly object to subsidizing the costs of citizens choosing to have backyard chickens.

Many DNV residents do not receive the "North Shore News" or read it in its entirety. To my knowledge, the proposal for backyard chickens and soliciting input has not been widely circulated. The lobby group CLUCK is a small but very vocal group. Are we to be bullied into an undemocratic decision-making process?

Disposal of non-laying chickens is a factor that has no solution in an urban, residential environment. Abandoned chickens will become commonplace or may be found in our forests and on trails once the chicken stops laying. The average laying term is only 2-3 years. The SPCA and other rescue organizations do not have any facility for caring for chickens for their non-laying lifespan of 5-7 years (chickens live on average 10 years).

Noise from chickens is minimized in the proposal as roosters are banned. The literature identifies the development of the Alpha chicken that "rules the roost" The Alpha chicken can mimic the sounds of a rooster. A quiet neighbourhood is the expectation of most citizens. Farmyard noises are not conducive to a quiet neighbourhood.

In summary, my main concerns are:

- Predation
- Zoonotic infections that lead to diarrhea, vomiting, etc.
- Inspection and regulation
- Chicken manure "stink" and disposal
- Potential lowering of house prices for neighbours next to backyard chickens
- Budgetary implications for funding inspection and disposal of manure
- Non democratic process for input to this proposed Bylaw
- Care of non-laying chickens
- Noise from chickens that adopt the alpha role in the roost.

I appreciate your serious consideration of these objections to this proposal.  
I urge you to vote No to it.

Carol Hird, R.N. (retired), M.A.

**From:** [Doreen Marbry](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Hen Keeping bylaw  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 3:27:02 PM

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"I Doreen Marbry, own property at [REDACTED] in the District of North Vancouver. I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens." Please record my 'YES Vote' at tomorrow's public hearing on the proposed Hen Keeping Bylaw.  
Thank You

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Igor Jadue-Lillo](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [James Hanson](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#)  
**Subject:** Time for the hens to sing!  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 3:41:46 PM

---

My name is Igor Jadue-Lillo and I've been a North Shore resident for more than 10 years at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
It's time to give a chance to the chickens, let the chicken lovers love their chickens.  
It will only make our community richer in spirit and soul.

Thanks,

Igor Jadue-Lillo.



**From:** [Max Jadue](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [James Hanson](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#)  
**Subject:** Time for the hens to populate the North Shore  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 3:47:41 PM

---

My name is Max Jadue and I've been a North Shore resident for more than 10 years at

[REDACTED]

I believe it's time to give a chance to the chickens, let the chicken lovers love their chickens.

It will only make our community richer in spirit and soul.

Thanks,  
Max Jadue

**From:** [Deb](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard Hen Keeping Bylaw  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 6:00:19 PM

---

Hello,

My name is Deb Fayle, and reside at [REDACTED] North Vancouver, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the  
keeping of backyard hens.

Thank you,

Deb Fayle

**From:** [Behzad Arasteh](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 8:03:07 PM

---

Hi there,  
My name is Behzad arasteh and I reside at [REDACTED] in the district of North Vancouver. I a, in support of resident having backyard hens.  
Thanks,

Behzad  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Bruno Kieffer](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard Hen Keeping  
**Date:** Monday, May 15, 2017 10:31:27 PM

---

I Bruno Kieffer, reside at [REDACTED], North Vancouver. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

Sincerely,

Bruno Kieffer

**From:** [Michele Romano](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** In support of backyard hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 7:02:49 AM

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I Michele Romano, reside at [REDACTED] North Vancouver. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens."

Thanks so much,

Michele

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kathy Moradian](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#)  
**Subject:** chickens in yards  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 7:13:02 AM

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I Kathy Moradian reside at [REDACTED] I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

Thanks very much.

**From:** [Jikky Middleton](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:08:09 AM

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I am in full support and think it is a wonderful idea especially for families and encourages children to play outside and enjoy our beautiful province.

Sincerely  
Jikky Middleton

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [thys armstrong](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:19:40 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I think it is a wonderful idea and it encourages families to enjoy the outdoors more often. I strongly support the initiative to change the bylaw regarding backyard hens.

Sincerely,  
Thys Armstrong

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Sharon Brain](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** I am in support of Backyard Hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 8:30:14 AM

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I live at [REDACTED] North Vancouver. I am in support of allowing backyard hens in the District.  
Sharon Brain  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Toby Barazzuol](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Support for the keeping of backyard hens in DNV  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 9:45:22 AM

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Hello, I understand that there is a hearing today in regards to keeping chickens in the District of North Vancouver.

My name is Toby Barazzuol and reside at [REDACTED], North Vancouver. I am a homeowner and resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

The benefits of allowing urban chickens far outweigh the negatives. I trust you will vote in favour of this bylaw to allow chickens. Thank you for your consideration.

Toby Barazzuol



**From:** [Felipe Lozano](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Cc:** [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** backyard hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:12:30 AM

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I Felipe Lozano, reside at [REDACTED], I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

**From:** [Stephanie Imhoff](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Public Hearing on Hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 10:33:17 AM

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My name is Stephanie Imhoff. I reside at [REDACTED] and am a resident of the City of North Vancouver. I would like to express my support for a bylaw allowing for the keeping of hens.

Cheers,  
Stephanie

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Stephanie Imhoff

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Erin Marbry](#)  
**To:** [DNL Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of Backyard Hen Keeping  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 11:08:38 AM

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**This letter is to voice my support for the keeping of back yard hens.**

My name is Erin Marbry I am a resident of the DNV residing at [REDACTED].

There have been many hours put into this initiative by both DNV staff and CLUCK community members to ensure this is a positive, well-thought out change, and where all stakeholders have had a chance to give their input.

I hope that our council will see the following points and support this change that their community wants to see:

- **Your community wants this** - on-line community survey conducted by DNV shows support from the community 226 in support and 63 against
- **A through bylaw has been created** - there has been a bylaw created that will satisfy all interested parties (North Shore Black Bear Society/CLUCK/DNV community)
- **An opportunity for education** - CLUCK community group will work to educate it's members by holding hen keeping workshops in conjunction with NSBBS at Maplewood Farm to properly educate the interested community

Kind Regards,

--

*Erin Marbry*

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Louise Simkin](#) on behalf of [Infoweb](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Share your thoughts with Mayor and Council  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 11:29:22 AM

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-----Original Message-----

From: infoweb@dnv.org [<mailto:infoweb@dnv.org>] On Behalf Of District of North Vancouver  
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 11:02 AM  
To: Infoweb <infoweb@dnv.org>  
Subject: Share your thoughts with Mayor and Council

Submitted on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 - 11:02 Submitted by user: Anonymous Submitted values are:

Your name: Penelope

Your email address: Whittam

Your phone number: XXXXXXXXXX

What would you like to tell Mayor and Council?

I am in favour of allowing backyard hens. I understand that you are voting on this tonight. Thank you.

Penny Whittam

Add additional information:

**From:** [Dr. Leopold](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** backyard hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:27:30 PM

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I am strobly supporting backyard hens.  
Thank You.

Wolf F Leopold

[REDACTED]  
North Vancouver, BC. [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Louise Simkin](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: May 16, 2017 Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Comments on the backyard hens proposal by John Hunter  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:45:15 PM

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**From:** john hunter [mailto: [REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 12:14 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>; David Stuart <StuartD@dnv.org>; Cristina Rucci <RucciC@dnv.org>  
**Cc:** Lorraine Harvey [REDACTED]; Peter Thompson DNV [REDACTED]; 'Corrie Kost' [REDACTED]; info nvcan.ca <info@nvcan.ca>; Bill Tracey DNV [REDACTED]; Peter Thompson DNV [REDACTED]; info nvcan.ca <info@nvcan.ca>  
**Subject:** May 16, 2017 Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Comments on the backyard hens proposal by John Hunter

Hi all

I am submitting this package in response to the request for comments on the “proposal for backyard hens”. Much of it is from our 2012 exercise. About the only significant thing that I know of that has changed since the 2012 exercise is more cougar sightings. There have been several 2017 cougar sightings on the North shore including an attack injuring a dog in April. There is also a 2017 DNV “survey” of DNV ratepayers on the issue.

There is a LOT of information on the internet which makes it clear that there are some serious potential risks with backyard chickens (even with only hens), particularly in our DNV environment.

I have added quite a few things (highlighted in **red**) to my previous 2012 document below. Little has changed since the 2012 chickens initiative, in my view, so the slightly updated 2010 reports are still relevant.

### **Problems with the Survey**

The above mentioned survey is essentially useless in determining how many people in DNV are open to or opposed to backyard hens. I have learned that the survey was a self-selection (vs. random) type and of only about 250 people from a DNV population of over 85,000. For any reasonable degree of reliability in determining public opinion, a survey cannot be of the self-selection type (where only those interested respond), and typically sample sizes would be over 500.

While efforts to delete duplicate surveys were made, surveys from people not living in the DNV were counted – about a dozen I understand. I also suspect that many people without internet access would not take the trouble to reply (many seniors do not use internet, and would only be aware of the survey if they read the North Shore News). I doubt any professional planner would view the survey results as a reliable barometer of public opinion.



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**From:** John Hunter [REDACTED]

**Sent:** June 27, 2012 12:41 PM

**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'Brian Bydwell'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn ([dmackay-dunn@dnv.org](mailto:dmackay-dunn@dnv.org)); Councillor Mike Little ([mlittle@dnv.org](mailto:mlittle@dnv.org)); Councillor Robin Hicks ([rhicks@dnv.org](mailto:rhicks@dnv.org)); Councillor Roger Bassam ([rbassam@dnv.org](mailto:rbassam@dnv.org)); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV ([lmuri@dnv.org](mailto:lmuri@dnv.org))'; Mayor Richard Walton

**Cc:** Corrie Kost; Peter Thompson DNV; 'Crown Mortgage'; Bill Tracey DNV; Peter Thompson DNV

**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's Workshop

Hi all

I am pleased that this initiative was put on ice at Monday's workshop, and I hope it stays there. But in case this topic flies again, I have some thoughts on the Staff report and what, in my opinion, should be done differently next time the issue arises.

I was disappointed in the Staff report in that it seemed to rely so heavily on CLUCK, and there is no indication that CLUCK's information was verified by Staff. For example, attachment A to the report on the benefits of backyard chickens appears to be a copy of CLUCK's package, although this seems not to be acknowledged in Staff's report. I think in any future effort, CLUCK's information must be verified by Staff because, in my opinion and based on my April report below, CLUCK omitted important publicly available information (to give two examples) about bear attacks on coops and the loud noise from dominant hens.

I was also disappointed that some specifics of major concerns addressed in my "report" below were not addressed by Staff, and in fact statements were made contrary to the publicly available information I provided, without saying why such information was discarded or ignored. For example, my personal experience and the public information refute the CLUCK claim that noise problems are only caused by roosters; "dominant hens" also crow; yet Staff in their presentation (slide 3) repeated Cluck's "roosters are the only problem" claim with nothing said about the dominant hen issue. Why? Are they sure the complaints mentioned on page 16 about "rooster related noises" are not from dominant hens? **[The internet has many hits re "do hens crow?" – e.g. http://www.backyardchickens.com/t/661708/why-do-hens-crow.](http://www.backyardchickens.com/t/661708/why-do-hens-crow/)**

Information as to why current bylaws prohibit fowl should be provided. Did we have a bad experience?

In my view, insufficient focus was placed on the Conservation Officer's comment that chickens will attract the usual suspects **PLUS cougars** (Staff report page 15). I do not believe fruit tree and bird feeders or typical composts attract cougars as they do black bears, and cougars are more dangerous than black bears, particularly to children. Let's be clear – chickens will make a more dangerous environment for pets and humans. The Conservation Officer wants effective and enforceable measures (page 15); yet no recommendation for mandatory standards for coops or electric fencing are made by Staff. In fact, Staff simply quote some sources regarding options, but appear to make no recommendation to Council on this issue. In view of the Council's long term position on attractants, and the obvious increase in exposure with chickens, I find this omission very disappointing. **Please note the four media stories at the bottom of this May 2017 e-mail re bears**

**attacking chicken coops and a person.**

As for Salmonella being a relative non-issue, simply Google "salmonella from backyard chickens" – e.g. - <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/10/08/497068269/backyard-chickens-linked-to-record-high-in-salmonella-infections-cdc-says>. Why were these outbreaks from chickens not mentioned **in the CLUCK and Staff reports?**

-  
Perhaps the most surprising omission from the report is the potential for increased legal liability to DNV if Council approves backyard chickens, **an event that clearly (see page 15, paragraph 2, CO's comments) increases risk to DNV pets and humans, regardless of mitigation measures.** Should legal counsel not be consulted and the insurance experts?

Lastly, I would hope if the issue arises again, Staff would address (with information from sources other than just CLUCK) concern items in my April 2012 report below.

Sincerely

John Hunter  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** John Hunter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 27, 2012 4:38 PM  
**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; '[bydwellb@dnv.org](mailto:bydwellb@dnv.org)'; Corrie Kost; 'Gavin Joyce'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn ([dmackay-dunn@dnv.org](mailto:dmackay-dunn@dnv.org)); Councillor Mike Little ([mittle@dnv.org](mailto:mittle@dnv.org)); Councillor Robin Hicks ([rhicks@dnv.org](mailto:rhicks@dnv.org)); Councillor Roger Bassam ([rbassam@dnv.org](mailto:rbassam@dnv.org)); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV ([lmuri@dnv.org](mailto:lmuri@dnv.org)); Mayor Richard Walton  
**Cc:** FONVCA ([fonvca@fonvca.org](mailto:fonvca@fonvca.org)); Mayor Darrell Mussatto CNV ([dmussatto@cnv.org](mailto:dmussatto@cnv.org))  
**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Research Information for Council and Staff 3545, 3538, 3541, 3542, 3543 attached re security at Maplewood Farm

Hi all

This package is to give you more facts on the "Backyard Chickens" issue and the April 16 proposal to DNV Council to legalize backyard chickens under certain rules. It supplements the information I provided April 16 to Council in an e-mail. I have included that April 16 info below, with additions, to give a complete one-stop-shopping package. If anybody wants to read the proposal to Council, Google DNV's Council package of April 16 2012 and turn to page 15 of the report to Council at [http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council\\_Agendas\\_Minutes/rc120416.pdf](http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Agendas_Minutes/rc120416.pdf).

**Recommendation**

I think the proposal is so highly ill-advised given where we live and bears etc., that Council should not spend their time nor staff time on it. We have more important challenges, like Lion's Gate and

potential new drinking water facilities.

Part of the reason for dismissing the proposal is that, in my opinion, CLUCK'S presentation was not balanced and did not give Council the publicly available information that is unfavourable to their recommendations and information. More on that point later. Secondly, how can Council, who for years has argued for safety reasons that residents should avoid bear attractants, now agree with backyard chickens? This may imply a liability issue for the district. Thirdly, when you read their proposal and the Vancouver bylaw, you can see potential enforcement nightmares and incremental enforcement and permitting/inspection costs. Lastly, like barking dogs, it can lead to problems amongst neighbours. Why look for trouble? We have not had a huge call for backyard chickens to my knowledge.

In Council's shoes, I'd sit on this (sorry!) for five years and let Vancouver and perhaps CNV try it out. But in my opinion, they have fewer bears **and cougars** and hence fewer risks than DNV.

If people want fresher eggs, or better eggs, or eggs not from hens in small cages, buy coated eggs (seals the pores, keeps air out) and/or free range eggs.

### **Introduction**

Having worked a bit on a farm and with my wife Monica raised on one, we are somewhat familiar with chickens. A number of the statements (at least as I heard them) made by CLUCK at the April 16 DNV Council meeting did not match my chicken experience, so I have reviewed their entire package in detail, and done some research.

## **ISSUES (in the order of CLUCK's report to Council of April 16, 2012)**

### **Ugly Fences (page 18)**

The report contemplates not only chicken coops, but fenced ground areas where the chickens can walk, feed, etc. Although they have to be kept three feet from the property line, this will have to involve some sort of chicken wire or other sort of fence around an area up to 6.5 feet high and 10 feet by 10 feet across. They also recommend the walking area be covered with something like "corrugated fibreglass". Sure not bear proof. And super ugly.

### **Disposal of Chicken Manure (page 19)**

"Manure may be flushed down the toilet or composted." Does Metro Vancouver or DNV want that in the sewage system? As for composting, trust me – chicken manure **can** STINK.

### **Unenforceable Rules**

There are numerous rules proposed for the chicken bylaw – I counted 21 in the Executive Summary alone. Who is going to enforce these and at what cost?

### **Disposing of unwanted or non-productive chickens:**

It is contemplated that “confiscated chickens” will be taken to the Animal Shelter (page 20), and presumably abandoned chickens will need the same treatment. What is the cost and can the Animal Shelter handle them? CLUCK asked Maplewood Farm to take them but Maplewood is unwilling to do so.

The average lifespan of a chicken is seven to 10 years, although they can certainly live longer. However, hens lay eggs only until they’re two or three. What will you do with your hens when they are no longer “productive”? Will they become someone else’s problem (a shelter, a sanctuary, or simply left somewhere out in the bush to fend for themselves), or will we be talking about amateur backyard slaughtering too (which CLUCK says would be prohibited – page 19)?

I called Parkgate Bird Hospital regarding having a chicken euthanized. Yes, it is \$40 as CLUCK told you. What they did not tell you, to my knowledge, is that if the vet has not seen your chicken before, it’s \$60 to examine it, then \$40 to kill it, and if over 2.3 kilos (5.1 pounds), \$57 to cremate it or you have to sign an affidavit promising to bury it six feet deep (cremation free if under 2.3 kilos).

Message: non-productive or unwanted chickens will go in the stew pot or the garbage or be set free in the bush. **This latter experience can be found on the internet.- e.g. -**  
[http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/.](http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/)

CLUCK say (page 19) that dead chickens cannot be put in the garbage, but given the disposal options above, my guess is that is where they will go, **or let loose in the bush rather than killing a pet. See**  
<http://www.nbcnews.com/news/other/urban-hens-often-abandoned-once-they-stop-laying-eggs-f2D11607861>

### **Noise**

CLUCK implies that noise is not a real problem. I believe the noise referred to by CLUCK (page 20), in claiming hens are quieter than human conversation, is the gentle clucking of a hen as she feeds. However, a Google for “dominant hens” shows that in the absence of roosters (roosters will be prohibited in DNV), a hen may assume a “dominant hen” position and behave somewhat like a rooster, including crowing. They also make quite a bit of noise when laying eggs, at any hour of the day or night – the allowed six hens (while young) will lay six eggs a day with the accompanying racket for about 5 minutes each time, every day. From Google (Village Garden Web): “This morning I was woken up at 4.36 am by a croaky, rusty, "cwaaka-cwaka-waa" (as opposed to your textbook "cock-a-doodle-do"). My 70 year old aunt - born and raised in the country (though a city girl for the last 50 years) was here last weekend, when one of the black birds made a similar noise mid-afternoon. She said that a dominant chicken would make a noise like that...”.

On page 24, CLUCK gives noise information from a California city, Pleasanton, implying that chicken sounds cannot be heard past nine feet. **However, a check of the actual Pleasanton report shows that it is regarding “squawking” caused by handling the birds to induce them to make some noise, not by crowing.** (“Although the chickens were not audible for most of the visit, they made a minimal level of noise when staff prodded them to obtain a recordable noise reading that exceeded the base readings. Prodding involved handling the chickens and causing them to be nervous, which resulted in a squawking of sorts.”) The statement made to Council by CLUCK that you cannot hear a

chicken beyond 9 feet is false for crowing, in my opinion. They will be heard in your neighbour's yards, and if their bedroom windows are open at night, may awake them.

Unlike chickens, dogs and cats are usually in the house at night, due to the risk of bear or coyote attack amongst other things. If the cat or dog makes noise inside at night, the neighbour probably won't hear it and the pet owner will normally act immediately to quiet the animal so they themselves can sleep.

### **Odour Control and Care of Chickens**

This may be a major problem. Page 37 of CLUCK's package indicates that an hour a day minimum is needed:

"1 hour per day minimum for cleaning, parasite control, grooming, physical exam, travel, time to purchase supplies, construction, repair, medication, feeding, supervise free time out of pen. Hens should be cared for twice daily. During the AM to ensure food, water, and cleaning for the day and again in the evening to ensure adequate supplies for the evening and that all birds are securely confined overnight. Think ahead for vacations and weekends away. Do you have someone is able to care for your birds while you are away and knows about your flock and chicken health in case something goes wrong?"

Particularly as the novelty wears off for the kids, and if both parents work outside the home, how well kept and "policed" will the birds be during the day and is the required cleaning going to happen to avoid odour and vermin?

### **Bear Attacks on Chickens**

I Goggled "bear attacks on chickens" during Council April 16 and got numerous hits instantly. So, I gather, did Gavin Joyce.

Bears do, as CLUCK admitted, like chickens, and judging by Google they certainly attack chicken coops. **Please see photos below.**

I am astounded that in CLUCK's report, no information on bear attacks was provided, although they do provide Vancouver's "Basic Chicken Care" document (Page 37 of package). However, Vancouver does not even mention bears as a hazard: "Chickens will attract bird mites and lice, mice, yard birds, squirrels, raccoons, dogs, coyotes, rats, and humans." It appears CLUCK may not understand the frequency of bears in DNV. On page 41, CLUCK again fails to point out the risk of bears in selecting types of fencing **nor did they provide the publicly available info I do below.**

At the bottom of this e-mail are a few examples of bear attacks on chickens.

### **Electric Fence as Bear Defence**

This is a defence CLUCK mentioned April 16 – but might it kills birds, squirrels, and cats, or a child standing on wet ground? From Google: "Many fence owners, especially those in agriculture, are switching to electric fences to due to their low cost, easy maintenance and greater longevity. While electric fences do have plenty of benefits, they also carry some potentially deadly dangers that

necessitate proper electric fence safety. *A single shock from an electric fence is not lethal, so electric fences are quite safe in general. However, if a person or animal becomes entangled, the multiple shocks from an electric fence can build up in the body and turn deadly within minutes, reports Australia's Office of the Technical Regulator.*" (emphasis added)

### **Maplewood Farm Experience**

CLUCK on April 16 stated, in my recollection, that Maplewood farm had not had bear problems despite its many chickens, with the apparent message that if Maplewood had no bear problems with all their critters, why would anyone else in DNV?

I toured Maplewood recently with Derek Palmer, Facility Manager of Maplewood. The farm has an eight foot high chain link fence around the entire perimeter, and at night all the animals are locked in reinforced pens or the barn. In addition, two German Sheppard dogs are turned loose in the farm at night **and Staff is present all night**. The pens and barn are heavily built and wired. I would therefore suggest that Maplewood experience is not applicable to a typical residential yard.

Please see attached photos which show the fence, the heavy wire on the cages, and the heavy barn door construction. (**Photos available if you wish them – e-mail me**)

### **Miscellaneous**

- The Vancouver bylaw allows four hens (section 7.5(c)). Why do they suggest 6-8 for DNV?
- Why is DNV's chicken registry voluntary and Vancouver's mandatory (section 7.15) ?

I remain of the view, given our history of discouraging bear **and cougar** attractants, this proposal does not make sense, and may expose the DNV to liability and the residents to risk. It is also at risk to be a **vermin, cougar**, noise and odour nuisance.

Lastly, given that hens live 7-10 years or longer, if Council permits backyard chickens, the exit strategy if backyard chickens prove untenable over time will be very difficult.

Regards

John Hunter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

**1 Bear attacks chicken coop in Wayne (New Jersey)**

Published: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 5:55 AM Updated: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 7:11 AM



By [The Star-Ledger Continuous News Desk](#) The Star-Ledger

A black bear attacked chickens in a coop Saturday in Wayne, according to [a report in The Record](#).

The report said Hamid Haopshy came home around 6:15 p.m. to find a 250-pound black bear tearing into one of the chickens he keeps in his yard at 29 Church Lane. Capt. Paul Ireland, a department spokesman, said Patrolman Rick Hess was dispatched to the scene with a tranquilizer gun. But police could not locate the bear.

## Story 2 Bear Attacked Chickens

July 11, 2011

[Chicks to Chicken Dinners, Coops](#)



**Note:** DNV will not be allowing butchering, but this story shows what a bear can do.

We butchered 7 meat chickens on Monday, June 20 and left the rest in their pen for our second butcher day on June 24. I knew that something had been prowling around them at night, so I was extra careful to make sure the bricks were in place to hold down the chicken wire. Nevertheless, something reached a paw in from the top and nabbed a chicken. I found the trampled down place where the chicken had been eaten. Every single bit was gone, with the exception of a few drops of blood and some feathers.

I fixed that hole, and the next day found that something had tried to bite its way through the wood roof. That night I covered the pen with additional hardware wire and chicken wire I had on hand, as well as an old plastic trellis. Though I didn't attach each piece, they were tangled enough that it would take a pretty strong and focused predator to get in. I figured I just had a couple more days to go, and once we'd finished the butchering, I would focus in on improving the chicken tractor.



*At first I thought a bomb had gone off on the chicken tractor.*

The chickens were just fine on Wednesday morning at 9:30. But when I went to check them again at 1:30 I was stunned. It looked like a bomb had gone off, destroying the roof of the chicken tractor. The wire I'd added to the top had been torn off, a big hole had been ripped in the wood roof, and parts of the roof were tossed 6 feet away. The remains of a dead chicken were strewn on the top of the roof where the predator had eaten it. Another dead chicken was laying in the front of the pen.



*The meat chickens behaved like refugees in the hens' and ducks' pen. They huddled together and wouldn't move very far.*

I carried the survivors up to the hen pen where they acted like true refugees, huddling in a corner away from the hens and ducks. Then I went to call Leah and the Division of Wildlife. Based on the destruction I was sure a bear had come and I wanted them to be aware of the change in wildlife behavior in the area. Then I went back to the pen to build an electric fence around it.

While I was making phone calls, the bear had returned, hauled the dead chicken out, and was eating it in the grass next to the pond. I chased it off, grabbed the chicken, threw it back in the bombed out chicken tractor, and built my fence. I was looking forward to hearing the sounds of bear screams, so I snuck back every few hours to see if the bear had returned. I heard it scream at about 11:30 pm, and then walked over with my headlamp to make sure that the fence was still intact. That was a scary walk for sure!

We left the dead chicken in the pen until we repaired it on Thursday evening. Now our chicken tractor has a metal roof, and we eliminated the slant to the roof to reduce the design weakness that might allow predators to try to reach in. The electric fence seems to have done the job, because nothing has attacked the growing meat birds since. But you never know when something very



determined might try again.

Here's something I've been thinking about since: My neighbor Meg says that every year she goes out to look at the choke cherries and says to herself "Just a couple more days an they'll be perfect for harvesting." Then, just before she can pick them, a bear comes and eats them all. She wondered out loud to me "How do they know to come get them every year, just before it's time to harvest?" Now I wonder, how did the bears know that it was time to get their chickens before we harvested them all?



*The hole in the roof and the dead chicken the bear hadn't eaten yet.*



*I ran water on the ground rods to make the soil more moist and help with putting a good charge on the fence.*



*At first we ran the fence tight around the chicken tractor so that I could teach the bear*

*about electricity. I've made a larger fenced area now so that it is easy to move the tractor day to day.*

## **Story 3 A shocking idea to deter bears in Alaska**

### **Livestock owners consider electric fences to protect chickens, livestock**

**BY CRAIG KEENER**

**For the Star**

Wildlife experts are urging Eagle River chicken owners to safeguard their backyard coops against bears now instead of shooting marauding bruins later.

**Last year, at least two bears were killed in Eagle River after the animals tried to raid chicken coops.**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game held a workshop last weekend at the Eagle River Nature Center to encourage the use of electric perimeter fencing as a deterrent for intrusive bears.

So far this year, there have been only a few reported bear sightings, but the bruins are expected to become more active by mid-April, said Eagle River Nature Center manager Laura Kruger.

And they will be attracted to the usual smells – unsecured garbage, bird feeders, **and now chicken coops**, said Jessy Coltrane, wildlife biologist for Fish and Game, who lives in Eagle River.

Wildlife technician Tony Carnahan and education and outreach specialist Elizabeth Manning, both with Fish and Game, cited the rising popularity of keeping chickens throughout Anchorage and Eagle River. Imports of live chickens to Alaska increase by about 20 percent each year, according to the State Veterinarian's office, Manning said.

Most properties in Eagle River Valley are zoned to allow private coops, Coltrane said. While there is no definitive figure for how many Eagle River properties have chicken coops, Coltrane and staff at the Nature Center have received numerous calls from locals concerned with protecting their birds.

About 20 residents attended the presentation.

If managed properly, Coltrane said, those who want to keep chickens can do so without bear encounters.

"The solution is not to be shooting every bear that comes to get your chickens," she said. "You have to be more proactive."

Electric fences, she said, are the ideal deterrent for black and brown bears. The shock is powerful enough to send a clear message to stay away, but will not harm the animal long term.

During the April 3 workshop, Manning and Carnahan detailed the best ways to build electric perimeter fencing.

The fences typically pack a punch ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 volts, with the shocks administered in pulses, Carnahan said.

"They are not designed to maim or injure; all are just charges designated for livestock use," Carnahan said.

A bear will most likely touch a live fence with its nose or the pads of its paws, sensitive areas that will deter the animal from getting any closer, he added.

The materials needed to create an enclosure include fence posts, 14-gauge wire, a charger and suitable grounding wire, Carnahan said. Chargers administer the electrical current, and vary in size and capacity. These essential units should be waterproof or stored indoors, he said. Options abound for perimeter fencing, but setting up a basic enclosure ranges from \$150 to \$200, he said.

Ideally, a fence should be no less than five feet tall, with electrified wires running about a foot apart. Fences can also be set at a 45-degree angle facing outward from the enclosure to ensure contact near the head of larger bears, where a shock on the paw alone may prove ineffective. Manning recommended clearing surrounding vegetation from chicken coops to prevent those plants from creating a short circuit.

Innovation is key in outwitting a hungry bear, Carnahan said. Bears will often dig up, or damage buried cables, which supply power to the electric grid, he said.

To withstand curious bears, the livestock structures themselves should be reinforced, too, Manning said. Barricading doors, and installing window shutters that close flush to the exterior of the building can prevent bears from prying a coop open.

"Just tacking plywood over windows is not enough," she said.

Particularly when salmon are running, Eagle River acts as a corridor for bears roaming down from the mountainsides of Chugach State Park and nearby. State biologists estimate that about 250 to 350 black bear and more than 65 brown bears populate an area from Girdwood to the Knik River, but much of that territory is alpine highland and unsuitable for bears.

Kruger said she has been raising chickens for about a year. Although she has not yet had problems with bears attacking her livestock, she opted this year to install an electrified enclosure for her chicken coops out of an existing dog kennel on her O'Riedner Road property, she said.

At a cost of about \$200, Kruger's six chickens are now safe from prowling bears. While she said she is content with her enclosure, she was intrigued by the different options highlighted at Sunday's presentation.

"It was definitely informative and cool to see other set-ups and know all the options out there," she said.

Eagle River resident Gregg Terry, an adjunct horticulture instructor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, recognized crossover potential in using electric fences to protect compost heaps. While not typically a target for browsing bears, compost that contains fish and meat byproducts could easily lure them in, Terry said. He recommended fast-acting, odor-reducing composts that do not use animal byproducts.

Carnahan encouraged residents raising livestock to be creative, and continue to improve their systems once they are in place.

"Curiosity is one thing you have to defend against, too," he said.  
"Sometimes you have to get creative and think the way the animal does."  
For more information on electric fences, go to Fish and Game's Web site,  
[www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences).  
This article published in The Alaska Star on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

**Story 4** 63-year-old grandmother desperately calls 911 as bear attacks  
her (the bear had previously attacked a chicken coop, apparently elsewhere)  
[http://globalnews.ca/news/3079554/63-year-old-grandmother-  
desperately-calls-911-as-bear-attacks-her/](http://globalnews.ca/news/3079554/63-year-old-grandmother-desperately-calls-911-as-bear-attacks-her/)

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**From:** [Alex Nelson](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Input - Backyard Hens: District of North Vancouver  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 1:56:17 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I Alex Nelson, a resident of [REDACTED] and of the District of North Vancouver support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

Sincerely,  
Alex Nelson

**From:** [Lori K](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Back yard hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:21:18 PM

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I Lori a Kornafel, reside at [REDACTED] I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens."

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mary Apps](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard hen keeping  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 2:57:02 PM

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I, Mary Apps, reside at [REDACTED], North Vancouver, [REDACTED]. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

**From:** [Louise Simkin](#) on behalf of [Infoweb](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: backyard hens bylaw  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 3:52:06 PM

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**From:** Meredith Anderson [mailto:[\[REDACTED\]](#)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 3:17 PM  
**To:** Infoweb <[infoweb@dnv.org](mailto:infoweb@dnv.org)>  
**Subject:** backyard hens bylaw

To the District Clerk,

I cannot attend the hearing this evening, but wanted to voice my support for the backyard hens bylaw. I think it would be fantastic for homeowners to have the option of keeping hens on their property. I hope that council will support this bylaw, which responsibly handles the challenges to allow the safe and clean keeping of hens.

Sincerely,  
Meredith Anderson  
[\[REDACTED\]](#) North Vancouver



**From:** [Marc Ledwon](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Backyard hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 4:10:35 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I, Marc Ledwon, reside at [REDACTED] in North Vancouver. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

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Marc Ledwon, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Louise Simkin](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Backyard chicken bylaw  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 4:45:27 PM

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**From:** Alissa Rouben [mailto:████████████████████]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 4:44 PM  
**To:** Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@dnv.org>  
**Subject:** Backyard chicken bylaw

Dear Sir/Madam,

Due to having young children, I am unable to attend the public meeting Re: Bylaw allowing chickens in the backyards in the District of North Vancouver.

Please accept this email as my voice AGAINST the bylaw as a homeowner in the District.

The following are the reasons behind my stand on the issue.

1. Attraction of more wildlife. There are numerous sightings of bears in the area, not to mention raccoons and cougars. We lock away our garbage, and having farm animals on properties will only act as bait.
2. It is unsanitary. Farm animals, especially poultry have been linked to cases of salmonella and avian flu. Who will be responsible for making sure that the chickens are being cared for properly in order to avoid such issues.
3. Animal abandonment. What will happen when people realize that having a chicken is not for them? Such issues can lead to animal cruelty and further strain on the SPCA.
4. Rodents. Farm animals and their feed attract rodents. I for one, already spend numerous amount of money on rodent control in the past few years. I later found out that my neighbors at ██████████ have chickens in the coup. I have reported this to the bylaw, but not sure if anything has been done.
5. There are plenty of farm markets in the area that sell fresh, antibiotic free eggs. Having people raise their own will take away from the farmers that produce eggs professionally and rely on the income to live.

Thank you,

Alissa Rouben

May 15, 2017

TO: Council Members: Mayor Richard Walton Councillor Roger Bassam Councillor Mathew Bond Councillor Jim Hanson Councillor Robin Hicks Councillor Doug MacKay-Dunn Councillor Lisa Muri

RE: Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211

Dear Council Members,

My name is Betty Forbes and I reside at [REDACTED], North Vancouver. I am adamantly **opposed** to the keeping of hens in the District of North Vancouver. This activity should be strictly confined to agricultural or rural land.

Below I have listed some of my concerns, observations, and requests of Council.

Some Concerns:

- The downward impact on neighbouring residential properties because of what their neighbours have decided. The BC Assessment Authority will not consider if there is a coup in your neighbour's yard when assessing your property and you will pay taxes on their assessment. However, according to some real estate professionals I have talked with a coup in a neighbour's property **will impact buyers offer**. Why am I going to pay financially for the choice my neighbours make? Ask yourself if people really pay the extremely high housing prices in the DNV to live next to farm animals.
- I have had a large black bear on my property in the middle of the day. How safe are my grandchildren or my pets if we add an attractant for bears such as chickens and their feed? I have lived in my home for over 39 years and almost every year there are "Bear Sighting" warnings posted in my neighbourhood, including around Eastview Elementary School. The food will attract them and depending on how hungry they are, they will be attracted to the chickens. Bears do not go from A to B. They will meander and therefore surrounding properties to a coup could experience physical damage and personal damage. Who will pay for any damages to my person or property by bears etc.
- Other wildlife will be attracted such as rats, racoons, cougars, etc. Just recently a cougar attacked a dog on its own property in West Vancouver. How many residential owners are having to reseed or replace their lawns this year because of racoon and crow damage? Three of my neighbours are

having to totally replace their lawns. This is expensive. I have spoken to DNV staff in the past week and been told that they are receiving many many calls about problems with rats. What will adding chicken coups do for this problem? Another neighbour's dog has lost its leg because of a racoon attack in the middle of the day in their backyard. These are consequential results of living in the DNV prior to any coups being added.

- The residents of DNV have been required to keep their garbage inside a building and not put it out for pickup until the morning of pickup. To some elderly, retired, or shift workers this has been an inconvenience but worth the knowledge that this will save the need to kill as many bears as in the past. So now why are we tempting bears back into our neighbourhoods?

#### Some Observations:

- The "C.L.U.C.K." organization (Canadian Liberation of Chickens Klub) has lobbied very extensively across Canada for "backyard chickens" in urban areas since 2011. Sometimes successful and sometimes not. Their mandate is making "villages" sustainable. The word sustainable also means maintainable, bearable, viable, balanced. I have no objection to lobbying but there needs to be some consideration to any statistics received by the DNV regarding the survey of DNV residents. All statistics can be made to express a particular point of view. For example, the on-line DNV survey or presentations can be skewed to appear to favour the keeping of chickens when this is not the majority wish of DNV residences.
  - Has the DNV checked that all respondents/presenters are residential homeowners as opposed to non-residents or apartment/townhouse/condominium owners?
  - The C.L.U.C.K. organization has its own web site to rally many supporters from its members as compared to individual residential Owners. This can skew responses in favour of the wishes of the lobbying group both on-line and at presentations.
  - C.L.U.C.K. is also supported by an even larger organization called Village Vancouver Transition Society. This "Society" has its own website that advertises, supports, and celebrates the aims and "wins" of C.L.U.C.K. It has over 3,000 members.
  - They link to Chickens in North Vancouver web site. This is another lobbying membership group. This site advertises pot luck dinner gatherings among other events to rally support to lobby for and celebrate the passing of bylaws to enable keeping chickens in urban backyards.
  - Organization, memberships, web sites, money and numbers can skew numbers and presentations which do not necessarily represent most individuals.

- The proposed bylaw for backyard chicken's states that only one coup is allowed per residence.

**This bylaw should also state that only one coup of any kind is allowed per residence.** This is required because currently the DNV allows pigeon coups as well.

- There is no detail of what will happen to chickens who are alive and no longer wanted by the Owner. Chickens have an 8 to 10-year life span but only a 2-year laying period. If Owners wish to relinquish hens where, how, to who do they take them? Who bears the cost of this? Vancouver gave \$20,000 to Animal Control to handle all complaints and issues. Is the DNV setting aside funds for this issue?
- Along these lines, chickens have a "pecking order". Older chickens who are part of the original group will peck and beat-up new chickens. They will isolate, maim, and cause the death of new chickens. Does an Owner then get an entirely new batch of hens every 2 years? What happens to the old group?
- Other Canadian municipalities such as Ottawa and Hamilton only allow chickens to be kept on rural or agricultural premises. DNV should do the same, we do not have to have a "pack" mentality that because 2 of the 3 Northshore municipalities have passed bylaws accepting chickens the DNV needs to do the same.
- I have a neighbour who has a pigeon coup. It was installed without a registration, not built to specification etc. etc. How is the DNV going to enforce this bylaw? Will enforcement be after-the-fact and dependant on complaints?
- Will the DNV on a regular basis go and count the # of chickens?
- The premise of teaching children where their food comes from is unfounded as children learn this in school, from parents, and can go to Maplewood Farms to see for themselves.
- The need to teach children "responsibility" again is unfounded as accountability, responsibility can be taught in many ways and with animals already accepted in the DNV.
- The idea of giving urban areas sustainability is confusing to say the least. If this bylaw passes what is next as 6 chickens will not keep the average family of 4 in eggs weekly or supersede the cost of a coup (possibly \$3,000), cost of food, time, training, etc.
- There is an assumption these eggs would be healthier. Not necessarily. It would depend on the type of feed, and maintenance of the living conditions.
- There are plenty of eggs of all kinds and at sustainable prices available to be purchased locally and thereby support local businesses already established.

## Some Requests of Council

- Do not pass Bylaw 8211. Refer to above notes.
- Amend this bylaw to state “Only one coup of ANY kind” is allowed per residential lot. This is necessary because currently Pigeon coups are allowed in the DNV.
- The Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw #4078 is currently almost 50 years old and considering that and the current proposed chicken bylaw, it should be reviewed by council and the public regarding possible amendments, or revocation etc.
- Add to any accepted chicken bylaw how, when, where live unwanted chickens are to be disposed of by Owners. They only lay eggs for 2 years. New birds in most cases cannot be added to a current group without isolation, injury, and possible death.
- Do not simply feel the need to do what 2 of 3 municipalities on the Northshore have done. Do what is in the best interest of the DNV residential property Owners.
- Consider the financial impact of this bylaw on neighbouring properties.
- How and by who is this potential bylaw going to be enforced?
- Put in bylaw,
  - Step 1: Register & pay fees re coup before getting chickens
  - Step 2: Mandatory inspection of coup after registration.
  - Step 3: Once coup has been approved, 2-4 chickens can be placed in coup.
  - Step 4: Follow-up annual inspections (if not more) mandatory.
- Have funds be set aside for enforcement and voluntary surrender of unwanted chickens.
- One premise of some lobbying done before you are to facilitate the DNV idea of sustainability. Consider that 6 chickens do not sustain an average family of 4 nor the entire community and Council should encourage the support of current local businesses.
- Examine the statistics from the online survey conducted in March/April 2017 with the consideration that statistics can be skewed by lobby groups that do not necessarily represent most DNV residences.
- The current proposed chicken bylaw is worded with a slant implying any issues are minor.

Betty Forbes

**From:** [Gord Green](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** supporty of backyard hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:34:07 PM

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To whom it may concern,  
My name is Gordon Green, I live at [REDACTED] and I support the proposed bylaw for the keeping of hens in your backyard.  
Thanks.

**From:** [Denise Brackstone](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#)  
**Subject:** Chickens in the DNV  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 5:46:31 PM

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Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my disapproval of keeping backyard hens.

I believe the main drawbacks of allowing hens in the district include the attraction of rodents, bears, and birds of prey. Other concerns I have are the potential of odour, unsanitary conditions for the hens, little to no monitoring of the upkeep of the living conditions of the hens, neighbourly discord, heartache for families after losing hens to predators, excess hens after they stop producing eggs, where shall families properly discard deceased hens?

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Kind regards,

Denise Brackstone





**From:** [Diane Mat](#)  
**To:** [DNV Input](#); [Richard Walton, Mayor](#); [Roger Bassam](#); [Robin Hicks](#); [Doug MacKay-Dunn](#); [Lisa Muri](#); [Mathew Bond](#); [James Hanson](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Hens  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 16, 2017 6:27:36 PM

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"I Diane Materi, reside at [REDACTED], N. Van [REDACTED]. I am a resident of the DNV and I support the proposed bylaw to allow for the keeping of backyard hens."

**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: May 16, 2017 Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV proposal by John Hunter

**SUBMITTED AT THE**  
MAY 16 2017  
**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Importance:** High

I am submitting this package in response to the request for comments on the "proposal for backyard hens". Much of it is from our 2012 exercise. About the only significant thing that I know of that has changed since the 2012 exercise is more cougar sightings. There have been several 2017 cougar sightings on the North shore including an attack injuring a dog in April. There is also a 2017 DNV "survey" of DNV ratepayers on the issue.

There is a LOT of information on the internet which makes it clear that there are some serious potential risks with backyard chickens (even with only hens), particularly in our DNV environment.

I have added quite a few things (highlighted in red) to my previous 2012 document below. Little has changed since the 2012 chickens initiative, in my view, so the slightly updated 2010 reports are still relevant.

**Problems with the Survey**

The above mentioned survey is essentially useless in determining how many people in DNV are open to or opposed to backyard hens. I have learned that the survey was a self-selection (vs. random) type and of only about 250 people from a DNV population of over 85,000. For any reasonable degree of reliability in determining public opinion, a survey cannot be of the self-selection type (where only those interested respond), and typically sample sizes would be over 500.

While efforts to delete duplicate surveys were made, surveys from people not living in the DNV were counted – about a dozen I understand. I also suspect that many people without internet access would not take the trouble to reply (many seniors do not use internet, and would only be aware of the survey if they read the North Shore News). I doubt any professional planner would view the survey results as a reliable barometer of public opinion.

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**From:** John Hunter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** June 27, 2012 12:41 PM  
**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'Brian Bydwell'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn ([dmackay-dunn@dnv.org](mailto:dmackay-dunn@dnv.org)); Councillor Mike Little ([mlittle@dnv.org](mailto:mlittle@dnv.org)); Councillor Robin Hicks ([rhicks@dnv.org](mailto:rhicks@dnv.org)); Councillor Roger Bassam ([rbassam@dnv.org](mailto:rbassam@dnv.org)); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV ([lmuri@dnv.org](mailto:lmuri@dnv.org))'; Mayor Richard Walton  
**Cc:** Corrie Kost; Peter Thompson DNV; 'Crown Mortgage'; Bill Tracey DNV; Peter Thompson DNV  
**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's Workshop

Hi all

I am pleased that this initiative was put on ice at Monday's workshop, and I hope it stays there. But in case this topic flies again, I have some thoughts on the Staff report and what, in my opinion, should be done differently next time the issue arises.

I was disappointed in the Staff report in that it seemed to rely so heavily on CLUCK, and there is no indication that CLUCK's information was verified by Staff. For example, attachment A to the report on the benefits of backyard chickens appears to be a copy of CLUCK's package, although this seems not to be acknowledged in Staff's report. I think in any future effort, CLUCK's information must be verified by Staff because, in my opinion and based on my April report

below, CLUCK omitted important publicly available information (to give two examples) about bear attacks on coops and the loud noise from dominant hens.

I was also disappointed that some specifics of major concerns addressed in my "report" below were not addressed by Staff, and in fact statements were made contrary to the publicly available information I provided, without saying why such information was discarded or ignored. For example, my personal experience and the public information refute the CLUCK claim that noise problems are only caused by roosters; "dominant hens" also crow; yet Staff in their presentation (slide 3) repeated Cluck's "roosters are the only problem" claim with nothing said about the dominant hen issue. Why? Are they sure the complaints mentioned on page 16 about "rooster related noises" are not from dominant hens? **The internet has many hits re "do hens crow?" – e.g. <http://www.backyardchickens.com/t/661708/why-do-hens-crow>.**

Information as to why current bylaws prohibit fowl should be provided. Did we have a bad experience?

In my view, insufficient focus was placed on the Conservation Officer's comment that chickens will attract the usual suspects **PLUS cougars** (Staff report page 15). I do not believe fruit tree and bird feeders or typical composts attract cougars as they do black bears, and cougars are more dangerous than black bears, particularly to children. Let's be clear – **chickens will make a more dangerous environment for pets and humans.** The Conservation Officer wants effective and enforceable measures (page 15); yet no recommendation for mandatory standards for coops or electric fencing are made by Staff. In fact, Staff simply quote some sources regarding options, but appear to make no recommendation to Council on this issue. In view of the Council's long term position on attractants, and the obvious increase in exposure with chickens, I find this omission very disappointing. **Please note the four media stories at the bottom of this May 2017 e-mail re bears attacking chicken coops and a person.**

As for Salmonella being a relative non-issue, simply Google "salmonella from backyard chickens" – e.g. - <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/10/08/497068269/backyard-chickens-linked-to-record-high-in-salmonella-infections-cdc-says>. Why were these outbreaks from chickens not mentioned **in the CLUCK and Staff reports?**

Perhaps the most surprising omission from the report is the potential for increased legal liability to DNV if Council approves backyard chickens, **an event that clearly (see page 15, paragraph 2, CO's comments) increases risk to DNV pets and humans, regardless of mitigation measures.** Should legal counsel not be consulted and the insurance experts?

Lastly, I would hope if the issue arises again, Staff would address (with information from sources other than just CLUCK) concern items in my April 2012 report below.

Sincerely

John Hunter  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** John Hunter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 27, 2012 4:38 PM  
**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'bydwellb@dnv.org'; Corrie Kost; 'Gavin Joyce'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn (dmackay-dunn@dnv.org); Councillor Mike Little (mlittle@dnv.org); Councillor Robin Hicks (rhicks@dnv.org); Councillor Roger Bassam (rbassam@dnv.org); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV (lmuri@dnv.org)'; Mayor Richard Walton  
**Cc:** FONVCA (fonvca@fonvca.org); Mayor Darrell Mussatto CNV (dmussatto@cnv.org)

**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Research Information for Council and Staff 3545, 3538, 3541, 3542, 3543 attached re security at Maplewood Farm

Hi all

This package is to give you more facts on the “Backyard Chickens” issue and the April 16 proposal to DNV Council to legalize backyard chickens under certain rules. It supplements the information I provided April 16 to Council in an e-mail. I have included that April 16 info below, with additions, to give a complete one-stop- shopping package. If anybody wants to read the proposal to Council, Google DNV’s Council package of April 16 2012 and turn to page 15 of the report to Council at [http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council\\_Agendas\\_Minutes/rc120416.pdf](http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Agendas_Minutes/rc120416.pdf).

### **Recommendation**

I think the proposal is so highly ill-advised given where we live and bears etc., that Council should not spend their time nor staff time on it. We have more important challenges, like Lion’s Gate and potential new drinking water facilities.

Part of the reason for dismissing the proposal is that, in my opinion, CLUCK’S presentation was not balanced and did not give Council the publicly available information that is unfavourable to their recommendations and information. More on that point later. Secondly, how can Council, who for years has argued for safety reasons that residents should avoid bear attractants, now agree with backyard chickens? This may imply a liability issue for the district. Thirdly, when you read their proposal and the Vancouver bylaw, you can see potential enforcement nightmares and incremental enforcement and permitting/inspection costs. Lastly, like barking dogs, it can lead to problems amongst neighbours. Why look for trouble? We have not had a huge call for backyard chickens to my knowledge.

In Council’s shoes, I’d sit on this (sorry!) for five years and let Vancouver and perhaps CNV try it out. But in my opinion, they have fewer bears **and cougars** and hence fewer risks than DNV.

If people want fresher eggs, or better eggs, or eggs not from hens in small cages, buy coated eggs (seals the pores, keeps air out) and/or free range eggs.

### **Introduction**

Having worked a bit on a farm and with my wife Monica raised on one, we are somewhat familiar with chickens. A number of the statements (at least as I heard them) made by CLUCK at the April 16 DNV Council meeting did not match my chicken experience, so I have reviewed their entire package in detail, and done some research.

## **Issues (in the order of CLUCK’s report to Council of April 16, 2012)**

### **Ugly Fences (page 18)**

The report contemplates not only chicken coops, but fenced ground areas where the chickens can walk, feed, etc. Although they have to be kept three feet from the property line, this will have to involve some sort of chicken wire or other sort of fence around an area up to 6.5 feet high and 10 feet by 10 feet across. They also recommend the walking area be covered with something like “corrugated fibreglass”. Sure not bear proof. And super ugly.

### **Disposal of Chicken Manure (page 19)**

“Manure may be flushed down the toilet or composted.” Does Metro Vancouver or DNV want that in the sewage system? As for composting, trust me – chicken manure **can** STINK.

### **Unenforceable Rules**

There are numerous rules proposed for the chicken bylaw – I counted 21 in the Executive Summary alone. Who is going to enforce these and at what cost?

#### **Disposing of unwanted or non-productive chickens:**

It is contemplated that “confiscated chickens” will be taken to the Animal Shelter (page 20), and presumably abandoned chickens will need the same treatment. What is the cost and can the Animal Shelter handle them? CLUCK asked Maplewood Farm to take them but Maplewood is unwilling to do so.

The average lifespan of a chicken is seven to 10 years, although they can certainly live longer. However, hens lay eggs only until they’re two or three. What will you do with your hens when they are no longer “productive”? Will they become someone else’s problem (a shelter, a sanctuary, or simply left somewhere out in the bush to fend for themselves), or will we be talking about amateur backyard slaughtering too (which CLUCK says would be prohibited – page 19)?

I called Parkgate Bird Hospital regarding having a chicken euthanized. Yes, it is \$40 as CLUCK told you. What they did not tell you, to my knowledge, is that if the vet has not seen your chicken before, it’s \$60 to examine it, then \$40 to kill it, and if over 2.3 kilos (5.1 pounds), \$57 to cremate it *or* you have to sign an affidavit promising to bury it six feet deep (cremation free if under 2.3 kilos). Message: non-productive or unwanted chickens will go in the stew pot or the garbage or be set free in the bush. **This latter experience can be found on the internet.- e.g. -**  
<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/>.

CLUCK say (page 19) that dead chickens cannot be put in the garbage, but given the disposal options above, my guess is that is where they will go, **or let loose in the bush rather than killing a pet.** See <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/other/urban-hens-often-abandoned-once-they-stop-laying-eggs-f2D11607861>

#### **Noise**

CLUCK implies that noise is not a real problem. I believe the noise referred to by CLUCK (page 20), in claiming hens are quieter than human conversation, is the gentle clucking of a hen as she feeds. However, a Google for “dominant hens” shows that in the absence of roosters (roosters will be prohibited in DNV), a hen may assume a “dominant hen” position and behave somewhat like a rooster, including crowing. They also make quite a bit of noise when laying eggs, at any hour of the day or night – the allowed six hens (while young) will lay six eggs a day with the accompanying racket for about 5 minutes each time, every day. From Google (Village Garden Web): “This morning I was woken up at 4.36 am by a croaky, rusty, “cwaaka-cwaka-waa” (as opposed to your textbook “cock-a-doodle-do”). My 70 year old aunt - born and raised in the country (though a city girl for the last 50 years) was here last weekend, when one of the black birds made a similar noise mid-afternoon. She said that a dominant chicken would make a noise like that...”.

On page 24, CLUCK gives noise information from a California city, Pleasanton, implying that chicken sounds cannot be heard past nine feet. **However, a check of the actual Pleasanton report shows that it is regarding “squawking” caused by handling the birds to induce them to make some noise, not by crowing.** (“Although the chickens were not audible for most of the visit, they made a minimal level of noise when staff prodded them to obtain a recordable noise reading that exceeded the base readings. Prodding involved handling the chickens and causing them to be nervous, which resulted in a squawking of sorts.”) The statement made to Council by CLUCK that you cannot hear a chicken beyond 9 feet is false for crowing, in my opinion. They will be heard in your neighbour’s yards, and if their bedroom windows are open at night, may awake them.

Unlike chickens, dogs and cats are usually in the house at night, due to the risk of bear or coyote attack amongst other things. If the cat or dog makes noise inside at night, the neighbour probably won’t hear it and the pet owner will normally act immediately to quiet the animal so they themselves can sleep.

#### **Odour Control and Care of Chickens**

This may be a major problem. Page 37 of CLUCK’s package indicates that an hour a day *minimum* is needed:

"1 hour per day minimum for cleaning, parasite control, grooming, physical exam, travel, time to purchase supplies, construction, repair, medication, feeding, supervise free time out of pen. Hens should be cared for twice daily. During the AM to ensure food, water, and cleaning for the day and again in the evening to ensure adequate supplies for the evening and that all birds are securely confined overnight. Think ahead for vacations and weekends away. Do you have someone is able to care for your birds while you are away and knows about your flock and chicken health in case something goes wrong?"

Particularly as the novelty wears off for the kids, and if both parents work outside the home, how well kept and "policed" will the birds be during the day and is the required cleaning going to happen to avoid odour and vermin?

### Bear Attacks on Chickens

I Goggled "bear attacks on chickens" during Council April 16 and got numerous hits instantly. So, I gather, did Gavin Joyce.

Bears do, as CLUCK admitted, like chickens, and judging by Google they certainly attack chicken coops. [Please see photos below.](#)

I am astounded that in CLUCK's report, no information on bear attacks was provided, although they do provide Vancouver's "Basic Chicken Care" document (Page 37 of package). However, Vancouver does not even mention bears as a hazard: "Chickens will attract bird mites and lice, mice, yard birds, squirrels, raccoons, dogs, coyotes, rats, and humans." It appears CLUCK may not understand the frequency of bears in DNV. On page 41, CLUCK again fails to point out the risk of bears in selecting types of fencing **nor did they provide the publicly available info I do below.**

At the bottom of this e-mail are a few examples of bear attacks on chickens.

### Electric Fence as Bear Defence

This is a defence CLUCK mentioned April 16 – but might it kills birds, squirrels, and cats, or a child standing on wet ground? From Google: "Many fence owners, especially those in agriculture, are switching to electric fences to due to their low cost, easy maintenance and greater longevity. While electric fences do have plenty of benefits, they also carry some potentially deadly dangers that necessitate proper electric fence safety. *A single shock from an electric fence is not lethal, so electric fences are quite safe in general. However, if a person or animal becomes entangled, the multiple shocks from an electric fence can build up in the body and turn deadly within minutes, reports Australia's Office of the Technical Regulator.*" (emphasis added)

### Maplewood Farm Experience

CLUCK on April 16 stated, in my recollection, that Maplewood farm had not had bear problems despite its many chickens, with the apparent message that if Maplewood had no bear problems with all their critters, why would anyone else in DNV?

I toured Maplewood recently with Derek Palmer, Facility Manager of Maplewood. The farm has an eight foot high chain link fence around the entire perimeter, and at night all the animals are locked in reinforced pens or the barn. In addition, two German Sheppard dogs are turned loose in the farm at night **and Staff is present all night.** The pens and barn are heavily built and wired. I would therefore suggest that Maplewood experience is not applicable to a typical residential yard.

Please see attached photos which show the fence, the heavy wire on the cages, and the heavy barn door construction. **(Photos available if you wish them – e-mail me)**

### Miscellaneous

- The Vancouver bylaw allows four hens (section 7.5(c)). Why do they suggest 6-8 for DNV?
- Why is DNV's chicken registry voluntary and Vancouver's mandatory (section 7.15) ?

I remain of the view, given our history of discouraging bear **and cougar** attractants, this proposal does not make sense, and may expose the DNV to liability and the residents to risk. It is also at risk to be a **vermin, cougar**, noise and odour nuisance.

Lastly, given that hens live 7-10 years or longer, if Council permits backyard chickens, the exit strategy if backyard chickens prove untenable over time will be very difficult.

Regards

John Hunter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

## Story 1 Bear attacks chicken coop in Wayne (New Jersey)

Published: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 5:55 AM Updated: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 7:11 AM

By **The Star-Ledger Continuous News Desk** The Star-Ledger

A black bear attacked chickens in a coop Saturday in Wayne, according to **a report in The Record**.

The report said Hamid Haopshy came home around 6:15 p.m. to find a 250-pound black bear tearing into one of the chickens he keeps in his yard at 29 Church Lane. Capt. Paul Ireland, a department spokesman, said Patrolman Rick Hess was dispatched to the scene with a tranquilizer gun. But police could not locate the bear.

## Story 2 Bear Attacked Chickens

July 11, 2011

[Chicks to Chicken Dinners, Coops](#)



Note: DNV will not be allowing butchering, but this story shows what a bear can do.

We butchered 7 meat chickens on Monday, June 20 and left the rest in their pen for our second butcher day on June 24. I knew that something had been prowling around them at night, so I was extra careful to make sure the bricks were in place to hold down the chicken wire. Nevertheless, something reached a paw in from the top and nabbed a chicken. I found the trampled down place where the chicken had been eaten. Every single bit was gone, with the exception of a few drops of blood and some feathers.

I fixed that hole, and the next day found that something had tried to bite its way through the wood roof. That night I covered the pen with additional hardware wire and chicken wire I had on hand, as well as an old plastic trellis. Though I didn't attach each piece, they were tangled enough that it would take a pretty strong and focused predator to get in. I figured I just had a couple more days to go, and once we'd finished the butchering, I would focus in on improving the chicken tractor.



The chickens were just fine on Wednesday morning at 9:30. But when I went to check them again at 1:30 I was stunned. It looked like a bomb had gone off, destroying the roof of the chicken tractor. The wire I'd added to the top had been torn off, a big hole had been ripped in the wood roof, and parts of the roof were tossed 6 feet away. The remains of a dead chicken were strewn on the top of the roof where the predator had eaten it. Another dead chicken was laying in the front of the pen.





I carried the survivors up to the hen pen where they acted like true refugees, huddling in a corner away from the hens and ducks. Then I went to call Leah and the Division of Wildlife. Based on the destruction I was sure a bear had come and I wanted them to be aware of the change in wildlife behavior in the area. Then I went back to the pen to build an electric fence around it.

While I was making phone calls, the bear had returned, hauled the dead chicken out, and was eating it in the grass next to the pond. I chased it off, grabbed the chicken, threw it back in the bombed out chicken tractor, and built my fence. I was looking forward to hearing the sounds of bear screams, so I snuck back every few hours to see if the bear had returned. I heard it scream at about 11:30 pm, and then walked over with my headlamp to make sure that the fence was still intact. That was a scary walk for sure!

We left the dead chicken in the pen until we repaired it on Thursday evening. Now our chicken tractor has a metal roof, and we eliminated the slant to the roof to reduce the design weakness that might allow predators to try to reach in. The electric fence seems to have done the job, because nothing has attacked the growing meat birds since. But you never know when something very determined might try again.

Here's something I've been thinking about since: My neighbor Meg says that every year she goes out to look at the choke cherries and says to herself "Just a couple more days and they'll be perfect for harvesting." Then, just before she can pick them, a bear comes and eats them all. She wondered out loud to me "How do they know to come get them every year, just before it's time to harvest?" Now I wonder, how did the bears know that it was time to get their chickens before we harvested them all?





### **Story 3 A shocking idea to deter bears in Alaska Livestock owners consider electric fences to protect chickens, livestock**

**BY CRAIG KEENER**  
**[For the Star](#)**

Wildlife experts are urging Eagle River chicken owners to safeguard their backyard coops against bears now instead of shooting marauding bruins later.

**Last year, at least two bears were killed in Eagle River after the animals tried to raid chicken coops.**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game held a workshop last weekend at the Eagle River Nature Center to encourage the use of electric perimeter fencing as a deterrent for intrusive bears.

So far this year, there have been only a few reported bear sightings, but the bruins are expected to become more active by mid-April, said Eagle River Nature Center manager Laura Kruger.

And they will be attracted to the usual smells – unsecured garbage, bird feeders, and now chicken coops, said Jessy Coltrane, wildlife biologist for Fish and Game, who lives in Eagle River.

Wildlife technician Tony Carnahan and education and outreach specialist Elizabeth Manning, both with Fish and Game, cited the rising popularity of keeping chickens throughout Anchorage and Eagle River. Imports of live chickens to Alaska increase by about 20 percent each year, according to the State Veterinarian's office, Manning said.

Most properties in Eagle River Valley are zoned to allow private coops, Coltrane said. While there is no definitive figure for how many Eagle River properties have chicken coops, Coltrane and staff at the Nature Center have received numerous calls from locals concerned with protecting their birds.

About 20 residents attended the presentation.

If managed properly, Coltrane said, those who want to keep chickens can do so without bear encounters.

"The solution is not to be shooting every bear that comes to get your chickens," she said. "You have to be more proactive."

Electric fences, she said, are the ideal deterrent for black and brown bears. The shock is powerful enough to send a clear message to stay away, but will not harm the animal long term.

During the April 3 workshop, Manning and Carnahan detailed the best ways to build electric perimeter fencing.

The fences typically pack a punch ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 volts, with the shocks administered in pulses, Carnahan said.

"They are not designed to maim or injure; all are just charges designated for livestock use," Carnahan said.

A bear will most likely touch a live fence with its nose or the pads of its paws, sensitive areas that will deter the animal from getting any closer, he added.

The materials needed to create an enclosure include fence posts, 14-gauge wire, a charger and suitable grounding wire, Carnahan said. Chargers administer the electrical current, and vary in size and capacity. These essential units should be waterproof or stored indoors, he said.

Options abound for perimeter fencing, but setting up a basic enclosure ranges from \$150 to \$200, he said.

Ideally, a fence should be no less than five feet tall, with electrified wires running about a foot apart. Fences can also be set at a 45-degree angle facing outward from the enclosure to ensure contact near the head of larger bears, where a shock on the paw alone may prove ineffective.

Manning recommended clearing surrounding vegetation from chicken coops to prevent those plants from creating a short circuit.

Innovation is key in outwitting a hungry bear, Carnahan said. Bears will often dig up, or damage buried cables, which supply power to the electric grid, he said.

To withstand curious bears, the livestock structures themselves should be reinforced, too, Manning said. Barricading doors, and installing window shutters that close flush to the exterior of the building can prevent bears from prying a coop open.

"Just tacking plywood over windows is not enough," she said.

Particularly when salmon are running, Eagle River acts as a corridor for bears roaming down from the mountainsides of Chugach State Park and nearby. State biologists estimate that about 250 to 350 black bear and more than 65 brown bears populate an area from Girdwood to the Knik River, but much of that territory is alpine highland and unsuitable for bears.

Kruger said she has been raising chickens for about a year. Although she has not yet had problems with bears attacking her livestock, she opted this year to install an electrified enclosure for her chicken coops out of an existing dog kennel on her O'Riedner Road property, she said.

At a cost of about \$200, Kruger's six chickens are now safe from prowling bears. While she said she is content with her enclosure, she was intrigued by the different options highlighted at Sunday's presentation.

"It was definitely informative and cool to see other set-ups and know all the options out there," she said.

Eagle River resident Gregg Terry, an adjunct horticulture instructor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, recognized crossover potential in using electric fences to protect compost heaps. While not typically a target for browsing bears, compost that contains fish and meat byproducts could easily lure them in, Terry said. He recommended fast-acting, odor-reducing composts that do not use animal byproducts.

Carnahan encouraged residents raising livestock to be creative, and continue to improve their systems once they are in place.

"Curiosity is one thing you have to defend against, too," he said. "Sometimes you have to get creative and think the way the animal does."

For more information on electric fences, go to Fish and Game's Web site, [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences).

This article published in The Alaska Star on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

**Story 4** 63-year-old grandmother desperately calls 911 as bear attacks her (the bear had previously attacked a chicken coop, apparently elsewhere)

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3079554/63-year-old-grandmother-desperately-calls-911-as-bear-attacks-her/>

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I am submitting this package in response to the request for comments on the "proposal for backyard hens". Much of it is from our 2012 exercise. About the only significant thing that I know of that has changed since the 2012 exercise is more cougar sightings. There have been several 2017 cougar sightings on the North shore including an attack injuring a dog in April. There is also a 2017 DNV "survey" of DNV ratepayers on the issue.

There is a LOT of information on the internet which makes it clear that there are some serious potential risks with backyard chickens (even with only hens), particularly in our DNV environment.

I have added quite a few things (highlighted in **red**) to my previous 2012 document below. Little has changed since the 2012 chickens initiative, in my view, so the slightly updated 2010 reports are still relevant.

### Problems with the Survey

The above mentioned survey is essentially useless in determining how many people in DNV are open to or opposed to backyard hens. I have learned that the survey was a self-selection (vs. random) type and of only about 250 people from a DNV population of over 85,000. For any reasonable degree of reliability in determining public opinion, a survey cannot be of the self-selection type (where only those interested respond), and typically sample sizes would be over 500.

While efforts to delete duplicate surveys were made, surveys from people not living in the DNV were counted – about a dozen I understand. I also suspect that many people without internet access would not take the trouble to reply (many seniors do not use internet, and would only be aware of the survey if they read the North Shore News). I doubt any professional planner would view the survey results as a reliable barometer of public opinion.

**From:** John Hunter [REDACTED]

**Sent:** June 27, 2012 12:41 PM

**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'Brian Bydwell'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn ([dmackay-dunn@dnv.org](mailto:dmackay-dunn@dnv.org)); Councillor Mike Little ([mlittle@dnv.org](mailto:mlittle@dnv.org)); Councillor Robin Hicks ([rhicks@dnv.org](mailto:rhicks@dnv.org)); Councillor Roger Bassam ([rbassam@dnv.org](mailto:rbassam@dnv.org)); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV ([lmuri@dnv.org](mailto:lmuri@dnv.org))'; Mayor Richard Walton

**Cc:** Corrie Kost; Peter Thompson DNV; 'Crown Mortgage'; Bill Tracey DNV; Peter Thompson DNV

**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Final Thoughts After Monday's Workshop

Hi all

I am pleased that this initiative was put on ice at Monday's workshop, and I hope it stays there. But in case this topic flares again, I have some thoughts on the Staff report and what, in my opinion, should be done differently next time the issue arises.

I was disappointed in the Staff report in that it seemed to rely so heavily on CLUCK, and there is no indication that CLUCK's information was verified by Staff. For example, attachment A to the report on the benefits of backyard chickens appears to be a copy of CLUCK's package, although this seems not to be acknowledged in Staff's report. I think in any future effort, CLUCK's information must be verified by Staff because, in my opinion and based on my April report below, CLUCK omitted important publicly available information (to give two examples) about bear attacks on coops and the loss of chickens from dominant hens.

**SUBMITTED AT THE**

MAY 16 2017

**PUBLIC HEARING**

I was also disappointed that some specifics of major concerns addressed in my "report" below were not addressed by Staff, and in fact statements were made contrary to the publicly available information I provided, without saying why such information was discarded or ignored. For example, my personal experience and the public information refute the CLUCK claim that noise problems are only caused by roosters; "dominant hens" also crow; yet Staff in their presentation (slide 3) repeated Cluck's "roosters are the only problem" claim with nothing said about the dominant hen issue. Why? Are they sure the complaints mentioned on page 16 about "rooster related noises" are not from dominant hens? **The internet has many hits re "do hens crow?" – e.g. <http://www.backyardchickens.com/t/661708/why-do-hens-crow>.**

Information as to why current bylaws prohibit fowl should be provided. Did we have a bad experience?

In my view, insufficient focus was placed on the Conservation Officer's comment that chickens will attract the usual suspects **PLUS cougars** (Staff report page 15). I do not believe fruit tree and bird feeders or typical composts attract cougars as they do black bears, and cougars are more dangerous than black bears, particularly to children. Let's be clear – **chickens will make a more dangerous environment for pets and humans.** The Conservation Officer wants effective and enforceable measures (page 15); yet no recommendation for mandatory standards for coops or electric fencing are made by Staff. In fact, Staff simply quote some sources regarding options, but appear to make no recommendation to Council on this issue. In view of the Council's long term position on attractants, and the obvious increase in exposure with chickens, I find this omission very disappointing. **Please note the four media stories at the bottom of this May 2017 e-mail re bears attacking chicken coops and a person.**

As for Salmonella being a relative non-issue, simply Google "salmonella from backyard chickens" – e.g. - <http://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2016/10/08/497068269/backyard-chickens-linked-to-record-high-in-salmonella-infections-cdc-says>. Why were these outbreaks from chickens not mentioned **in the CLUCK and Staff reports?**

Perhaps the most surprising omission from the report is the potential for increased legal liability to DNV if Council approves backyard chickens, **an event that clearly (see page 15, paragraph 2, CO's comments) increases risk to DNV pets and humans, regardless of mitigation measures.** Should legal counsel not be consulted and the insurance experts?

Lastly, I would hope if the issue arises again, Staff would address (with information from sources other than just CLUCK) concern items in my April 2012 report below.

Sincerely

John Hunter

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** John Hunter [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** April 27, 2012 4:38 PM  
**To:** David Stuart DNV CAO; 'bydwellb@dnv.org'; Corrie Kost; 'Gavin Joyce'; 'Councillor Alan Nixon DNV'; Councillor Doug Mackay-Dunn (dmackay-dunn@dnv.org); Councillor Mike Little (mlittle@dnv.org); Councillor Robin Hicks (rhicks@dnv.org); Councillor Roger Bassam (rbassam@dnv.org); 'Councilor Lisa Muri DNV (lmuri@dnv.org); Mayor Richard Walton  
**Cc:** FONVCA (fonvca@fonvca.org); Mayor Darrell Mussatto CNV (dmussatto@cnv.org)  
**Subject:** Keeping Backyard Hens in DNV Some Research Information for Council and Staff 3545, 3538, 3541, 3542, 3543 attached re security at Maplewood Farm

Hi all

This package is to give you more facts on the "Backyard Chickens" issue and the April 16 proposal to DNV Council to legalize backyard chickens under certain rules. It supplements the information I provided April 16 to Council in an e-mail. I have included that April 16 info below, with additions, to give a complete one-stop- shopping package. If anybody wants to read the proposal to Council, Google DNV's Council package of April 16 2012 and turn to page 15 of the report to Council at [http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council\\_Agendas\\_Minutes/rc120416.pdf](http://www.dnv.org/upload/documents/Council_Agendas_Minutes/rc120416.pdf).

#### **Recommendation**

I think the proposal is so highly ill-advised given where we live and bears etc., that Council should not spend their time nor staff time on it. We have more important challenges, like Lion's Gate and potential new drinking water facilities.

Part of the reason for dismissing the proposal is that, in my opinion, CLUCK'S presentation was not balanced and did not give Council the publicly available information that is unfavourable to their recommendations and information. More on that point later. Secondly, how can Council, who for years has argued for safety reasons that residents should avoid bear attractants, now agree with backyard chickens? This may imply a liability issue for the district. Thirdly, when you read their proposal and the Vancouver bylaw, you can see potential enforcement nightmares and incremental enforcement and permitting/inspection costs. Lastly, like barking dogs, it can lead to problems amongst neighbours. Why look for trouble? We have not had a huge call for backyard chickens to my knowledge.

In Council's shoes, I'd sit on this (sorry!) for five years and let Vancouver and perhaps CNV try it out. But in my opinion, they have fewer bears **and cougars** and hence fewer risks than DNV.

If people want fresher eggs, or better eggs, or eggs not from hens in small cages, buy coated eggs (seals the pores, keeps air out) and/or free range eggs.

#### **Introduction**

Having worked a bit on a farm and with my wife Monica raised on one, we are somewhat familiar with chickens. A number of the statements (at least as I heard them) made by CLUCK at the April 16 DNV Council meeting did not match my chicken experience, so I have reviewed their entire package in detail, and done some research.



## **Issues (in the order of CLUCK's report to Council of April 16, 2012)**

### **Ugly Fences (page 18)**

The report contemplates not only chicken coops, but fenced ground areas where the chickens can walk, feed, etc. Although they have to be kept three feet from the property line, this will have to involve some sort of chicken wire or other sort of fence around an area up to 6.5 feet high and 10 feet by 10 feet across. They also recommend the walking area be covered with something like "corrugated fibreglass". Sure not bear proof. And super ugly.

### **Disposal of Chicken Manure (page 19)**

"Manure may be flushed down the toilet or composted." Does Metro Vancouver or DNV want that in the sewage system? As for composting, trust me – chicken manure can STINK.

### **Unenforceable Rules**

There are numerous rules proposed for the chicken bylaw – I counted 21 in the Executive Summary alone. Who is going to enforce these and at what cost?

### **Disposing of unwanted or non-productive chickens:**

It is contemplated that "confiscated chickens" will be taken to the Animal Shelter (page 20), and presumably abandoned chickens will need the same treatment. What is the cost and can the Animal Shelter handle them? CLUCK asked Maplewood Farm to take them but Maplewood is unwilling to do so.

The average lifespan of a chicken is seven to 10 years, although they can certainly live longer. However, hens lay eggs only until they're two or three. What will you do with your hens when they are no longer "productive"? Will they become someone else's problem (a shelter, a sanctuary, or simply left somewhere out in the bush to fend for themselves), or will we be talking about amateur backyard slaughtering too (which CLUCK says would be prohibited – page 19)?

I called Parkgate Bird Hospital regarding having a chicken euthanized. Yes, it is \$40 as CLUCK told you. What they did not tell you, to my knowledge, is that if the vet has not seen your chicken before, it's \$60 to examine it, then \$40 to kill it, and if over 2.3 kilos (5.1 pounds), \$57 to cremate it or you have to sign an affidavit promising to bury it six feet deep (cremation free if under 2.3 kilos). Message: non-productive or unwanted chickens will go in the stew pot or the garbage or be set free in the bush. **This latter experience can be found on the internet.- e.g. - <http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/>.**

CLUCK say (page 19) that dead chickens cannot be put in the garbage, but given the disposal options above, my guess is that is where they will go, or let loose in the bush rather than killing a pet. See <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/other/urban-hens-often-abandoned-once-they-stop-laying-eggs-f2D11607861>

### **Noise**

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– the allowed six hens (while young) will lay six eggs a day with the accompanying racket for about 5 minutes each time, every day. From Google (Village Garden Web): “This morning I was woken up at 4.36 am by a croaky, rusty, “cwaaka-cwaka-waa” (as opposed to your textbook “cock-a-doodle-do”). My 70 year old aunt - born and raised in the country (though a city girl for the last 50 years) was here last weekend, when one of the black birds made a similar noise mid-afternoon. She said that a dominant chicken would make a noise like that...”.

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frequency of bears in DNV. On page 41, CLUCK again fails to point out the risk of bears in selecting types of fencing **nor did they provide the publicly available info I do below.**

At the bottom of this e-mail are a few examples of bear attacks on chickens.

### Electric Fence as Bear Defence

This is a defence CLUCK mentioned April 16 – but might it kills birds, squirrels, and cats, or a child standing on wet ground? From Google: “Many fence owners, especially those in agriculture, are switching to electric fences to due to their low cost, easy maintenance and greater longevity. While electric fences do have plenty of benefits, they also carry some potentially deadly dangers that necessitate proper electric fence safety. *A single shock from an electric fence is not lethal, so electric fences are quite safe in general. However, if a person or animal becomes entangled, the multiple shocks from an electric fence can build up in the body and turn deadly within minutes, reports Australia’s Office of the Technical Regulator.*” (emphasis added)

### Maplewood Farm Experience

CLUCK on April 16 stated, in my recollection, that Maplewood farm had not had bear problems despite its many chickens, with the apparent message that if Maplewood had no bear problems with all their critters, why would anyone else in DNV?

I toured Maplewood recently with Derek Palmer, Facility Manager of Maplewood. The farm has an eight foot high chain link fence around the entire perimeter, and at night all the animals are locked in reinforced pens or the barn. In addition, two German Sheppard dogs are turned loose in the farm at night **and Staff is present all night**. The pens and barn are heavily built and wired. I would therefore suggest that Maplewood experience is not applicable to a typical residential yard.

Please see attached photos which show the fence, the heavy wire on the cages, and the heavy barn door construction. (**Photos available if you wish them – e-mail me**)

### Miscellaneous

- The Vancouver bylaw allows four hens (section 7.5(c)). Why do they suggest 6-8 for DNV?
- Why is DNV’s chicken registry voluntary and Vancouver’s mandatory (section 7.15) ?

I remain of the view, given our history of discouraging bear **and cougar** attractants, this proposal does not make sense, and may expose the DNV to liability and the residents to risk. It is also at risk to be a **vermin, cougar**, noise and odour nuisance.

Lastly, given that hens live 7-10 years or longer, if Council permits backyard chickens, the exit strategy if backyard chickens prove untenable over time will be very difficult.

Regards

John Hunter  


## Story 1 Bear attacks chicken coop in Wayne (New Jersey)

Published: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 5:55 AM Updated: Tuesday, October 07, 2008, 7:11 AM

By [The Star-Ledger Continuous News Desk](#) The Star-Ledger

A black bear attacked chickens in a coop Saturday in Wayne, according to [a report in The Record](#).

The report said Hamid Haopshy came home around 6:15 p.m. to find a 250-pound black bear tearing into one of the chickens he keeps in his yard at 29 Church Lane. Capt. Paul Ireland, a department spokesman, said Patrolman Rick Hess was dispatched to the scene with a tranquilizer gun. But police could not locate the bear.

## Story 2 Bear Attacked Chickens

July 11, 2011

[Chicks to Chicken Dinners, Coops](#)



Note: DNV will not be allowing butchering, but this story shows what a bear can do.

We butchered 7 meat chickens on Monday, June 20 and left the rest in their pen for our second butcher day on June 24. I knew that something had been prowling around them at night, so I was extra careful to make sure the bricks were in place to hold down the chicken wire. Nevertheless, something reached a paw in from the top and nabbed a chicken. I found the trampled down place where the chicken had been eaten. Every single bit was gone, with the exception of a few drops of blood and some feathers.

I fixed that hole, and the next day found that something had tried to bite its way through the wood roof. That night I covered the pen with additional hardware wire and chicken wire I had on hand, as well as an old plastic trellis. Though I didn't attach each piece, they were tangled enough that it would take a pretty strong and focused predator to get in. I figured I just had a couple more days to go, and once we'd finished the butchering, I would focus in on improving the chicken tractor.



*Photo of the chicken tractor with the dead chicken on the roof.*

The chickens were just fine on Wednesday morning at 9:30. But when I went to check them again at 1:30 I was stunned. It looked like a bomb had gone off, destroying the roof of the chicken tractor. The wire I'd added to the top had been torn off, a big hole had been ripped in the wood roof, and parts of the roof were tossed 6 feet away. The remains of a dead chicken were strewn on the top of the roof where the predator had eaten it. Another dead chicken was laying in the front of the pen.



*Photo of the chicken tractor with the dead chicken on the ground in front of the pen.*

I carried the survivors up to the hen pen where they acted like true refugees, huddling in a corner away from the hens and ducks. Then I went to call Leah and the Division of Wildlife. Based on the destruction I was sure a bear had come and I wanted them to be aware of the change in wildlife behavior in the area. Then I went back to the pen to build an electric fence around it.

While I was making phone calls, the bear had returned, hauled the dead chicken out, and was eating it in the grass next to the pond. I chased it off, grabbed the chicken, threw it back in the bombed out chicken tractor, and built my fence. I was looking forward to hearing the sounds of bear screams, so I snuck back every few hours to see if the bear had returned. I heard it scream at about 11:30 pm, and then walked over with my headlamp to make sure that the fence was still intact. That was a scary walk for sure!

We left the dead chicken in the pen until we repaired it on Thursday evening. Now our chicken tractor has a metal roof, and we eliminated the slant to the roof to reduce the design weakness that might allow predators to try to reach in. The electric fence seems to have done the job, because nothing has attacked the growing meat birds since. But you never know when something very determined might try again.

Here's something I've been thinking about since: My neighbor Meg says that every year she goes out to look at the choke cherries and says to herself "Just a couple more days and they'll be perfect for harvesting." Then, just before she can pick them, a bear comes and eats them all. She wondered out loud to me "How do they know to come get them every year, just before it's time to harvest?" Now I wonder, how did the bears know that it was time to get their chickens before we harvested them all?

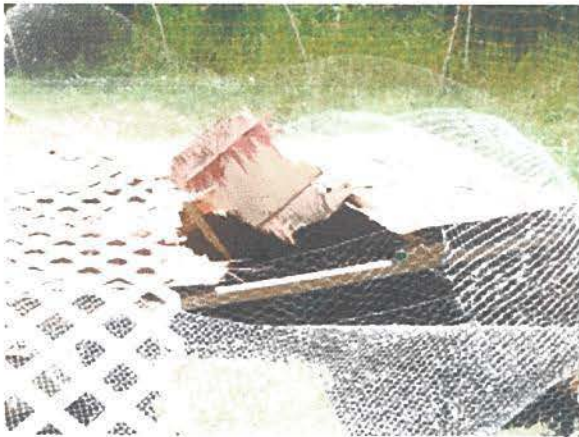


Photo of fence and chicken tractor before we added a metal roof to the tractor.



A new wave of killer, brown bears is making the Alaska Peninsula including the town of Eagle River, and  
change on the scene.



Wildlife experts are urging Eagle River chicken owners to safeguard their backyard coops against bears now instead of shooting marauding bruins later.

## Story 3 A shocking idea to deter bears in Alaska

### Livestock owners consider electric fences to protect chickens, livestock

BY CRAIG KEENER  
[For the Star](#)

Wildlife experts are urging Eagle River chicken owners to safeguard their backyard coops against bears now instead of shooting marauding bruins later.

Last year, at least two bears were killed in Eagle River after the animals tried to raid chicken coops.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game held a workshop last weekend at the Eagle River Nature Center to encourage the use of electric perimeter fencing as a deterrent for intrusive bears.

So far this year, there have been only a few reported bear sightings, but the bruins are expected to become more active by mid-April, said Eagle River Nature Center manager Laura Kruger.

And they will be attracted to the usual smells – unsecured garbage, bird feeders, and now chicken coops, said Jessy Coltrane, wildlife biologist for Fish and Game, who lives in Eagle River.

Wildlife technician Tony Carnahan and education and outreach specialist Elizabeth Manning, both with Fish and Game, cited the rising popularity of keeping chickens throughout Anchorage and Eagle River. Imports of live chickens to Alaska increase by about 20 percent each year, according to the State Veterinarian's office, Manning said.

Most properties in Eagle River Valley are zoned to allow private coops, Coltrane said. While there is no definitive figure for how many Eagle River properties have chicken coops, Coltrane and staff at the Nature Center have received numerous calls from locals concerned with protecting their birds.

About 20 residents attended the presentation.

If managed properly, Coltrane said, those who want to keep chickens can do so without bear encounters.

"The solution is not to be shooting every bear that comes to get your chickens," she said. "You have to be more proactive."

Electric fences, she said, are the ideal deterrent for black and brown bears. The shock is powerful enough to send a clear message to stay away, but will not harm the animal long term.

During the April 3 workshop, Manning and Carnahan detailed the best ways to build electric perimeter fencing.

The fences typically pack a punch ranging from 5,000 to 7,000 volts, with the shocks administered in pulses, Carnahan said.

"They are not designed to maim or injure; all are just charges designated for livestock use," Carnahan said.

A bear will most likely touch a live fence with its nose or the pads of its paws, sensitive areas that will deter the animal from getting any closer, he added.

The materials needed to create an enclosure include fence posts, 14-gauge wire, a charger and suitable grounding wire, Carnahan said. Chargers administer the electrical current, and vary in size and capacity. These essential units should be waterproof or stored indoors, he said.



Options abound for perimeter fencing, but setting up a basic enclosure ranges from \$150 to \$200, he said.

Ideally, a fence should be no less than five feet tall, with electrified wires running about a foot apart. Fences can also be set at a 45-degree angle facing outward from the enclosure to ensure contact near the head of larger bears, where a shock on the paw alone may prove ineffective.

Manning recommended clearing surrounding vegetation from chicken coops to prevent those plants from creating a short circuit.

Innovation is key in outwitting a hungry bear, Carnahan said. Bears will often dig up, or damage buried cables, which supply power to the electric grid, he said.

To withstand curious bears, the livestock structures themselves should be reinforced, too, Manning said. Barricading doors, and installing window shutters that close flush to the exterior of the building can prevent bears from prying a coop open.

"Just tacking plywood over windows is not enough," she said.

Particularly when salmon are running, Eagle River acts as a corridor for bears roaming down from the mountainsides of Chugach State Park and nearby. State biologists estimate that about 250 to 350 black bear and more than 65 brown bears populate an area from Girdwood to the Knik River, but much of that territory is alpine highland and unsuitable for bears.

Kruger said she has been raising chickens for about a year. Although she has not yet had problems with bears attacking her livestock, she opted this year to install an electrified enclosure for her chicken coops out of an existing dog kennel on her O'Riedner Road property, she said.

At a cost of about \$200, Kruger's six chickens are now safe from prowling bears. While she said she is content with her enclosure, she was intrigued by the different options highlighted at Sunday's presentation.

"It was definitely informative and cool to see other set-ups and know all the options out there," she said.

Eagle River resident Gregg Terry, an adjunct horticulture instructor at the University of Alaska Anchorage, recognized crossover potential in using electric fences to protect compost heaps. While not typically a target for browsing bears, compost that contains fish and meat byproducts could easily

lure them in, Terry said. He recommended fast-acting, odor-reducing composts that do not use animal byproducts.

Carnahan encouraged residents raising livestock to be creative, and continue to improve their systems once they are in place.

"Curiosity is one thing you have to defend against, too," he said.  
"Sometimes you have to get creative and think the way the animal does."

For more information on electric fences, go to Fish and Game's Web site, [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=livingwithbears.bearfences).

This article published in The Alaska Star on Wednesday, April 6, 2011.

**Story 4** 63-year-old grandmother desperately calls 911 as bear attacks her (the bear had previously attacked a chicken coop, apparently elsewhere)

<http://globalnews.ca/news/3079554/63-year-old-grandmother-desperately-calls-911-as-bear-attacks-her/>

SUBMITTED AT THE

May 16, 2017 Presentation to DNV Council, by John Hunter, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] North Vancouver, at the public hearing on Backyard Hens.

MAY 16 2017

PUBLIC HEARING

Re: Backyard Hen Proposal

Good Evening. My name is John Hunter of [REDACTED] [REDACTED].

I have e-mailed to Council and Staff today a more detailed submission on the risks of backyard chickens. It contains information and/or photos regarding bear attacks on chickens and chicken coops, Salmonella outbreaks from chickens, noise from hens, killing or other unpleasant disposal of non-productive hens, and other risks often downplayed or ignored by chicken proponents.

I oppose the idea of backyard fowl in DNV. My reasons are the following:

- For years we have been told to pick early (or not grow) fruit, eliminate, or hang high, bird feeders, and risk fines for putting garbage out early, all to avoid attracting bears and perhaps cougars. Backyard chickens are a 24 hour/365 day risk at ground level; the other attractants are not.
- Now, we are going to introduce a great bear and cougar attractant – backyard chickens? Cougars are showing up more frequently - a dog in West Van. was badly injured by a cougar last month. Kids and pets frequent back yards. Someone will hopefully explain the logic of this potentially dangerous proposal.
- Building a bear and cougar proof chicken cage, absent an electrical shocking device, is extremely difficult. Google “bear attacks on chickens”.
- You also have a noise risk – I learned that **both** hens and roosters can make a lot of noise. Hen groups often produce a dominant hen that tends to behave, noise-wise, like a rooster – they do not just make noise when laying. Google “do hens crow” and you will get many hits. Early morning dogs are bad enough; we do not need more noise from hens that are out all day.
- Anybody who lived on a farm knows chickens attract vermin, racoons, skunks, coyotes, bears, and rats. Cleanup to defeat these vermin is difficult and time consuming, and not everybody will clean up as needed to avoid this. Chicken manure can stink! Then the DNV will have to get involved in disputes about smell and vermin.
- After DNV’s years of proving there is a bear risk (our anti-attractants campaigns, and killing some bears), if we allow chickens and someone is hurt or killed, DNV may be subject to liability.
- Non-productive hens will become an issue. Hens only lay for a few years and then have to be replaced to maintain egg production. Most people will probably not kill them (and regulations may forbid that) or pay a vet \$100+ to do it (which may also be prohibited), so they are turned loose to be killed by coyotes/off-leash dogs or to starve. My e-mail submission has examples of where abandoned chickens has become a problem.

- Avian Influenza and Salmonella are a risk to animals and humans. There is considerable information on the Internet about outbreaks of both (Salmonella seems riskier) from chickens.
- The 2017 DNV survey of regarding backyard hens is essentially useless in determining how many people in DNV oppose or support backyard hens. I have learned that the survey was a self-selection (vs. random) type including about 250 people from a DNV population of over 85,000. For any reasonable degree of reliability in determining public opinion, a survey cannot be of the self-selection type (where only those interested respond), and typically sample sizes would be over 500. Surveys from people not living in the DNV were counted – about a dozen I understand. I doubt any professional planner would view the survey results as a reliable barometer of public opinion.
- **Lastly, where is the need to take this risk?** Is DNV overrun by people demanding backyard chickens, but who cannot get most of any purported benefits by buying free-range eggs or coated eggs?

We have not the same circumstances as Vancouver or the City of North Vancouver. I do not think this proposal makes sense for our urban environment, where we have far more bears and coyotes, and some cougars.

John Hunter May 16, 2017

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John Hunter May 16, 2017



May 15, 2017

TO: Council Members: Mayor Richard Walton Councillor Roger Bassam Councillor Mathew Bond Councillor Jim Hanson Councillor Robin Hicks Councillor Doug MacKay-Dunn Councillor Lisa Muri

RE: Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211

Dear Council Members,

SUBMITTED AT THE  
MAY 16 2017  
PUBLIC HEARING

My name is Betty Forbes and I reside at [REDACTED] North Vancouver. I am adamantly **opposed** to the keeping of hens in the District of North Vancouver. This activity should be strictly confined to agricultural or rural land.

Below I have listed some of my concerns, observations, and requests of Council.

Some Concerns:

- The downward impact on neighbouring residential properties because of what their neighbours have decided. The BC Assessment Authority will not consider if there is a coup in your neighbour's yard when assessing your property and you will pay taxes on their assessment. However, according to some real estate professionals I have talked with a coup in a neighbour's property **will impact buyers offer**. Why am I going to pay financially for the choice my neighbours make? Ask yourself if people really pay the extremely high housing prices in the DNV to live next to farm animals.
- I have had a large black bear on my property in the middle of the day. How safe are my grandchildren or my pets if we add an attractant for bears such as chickens and their feed? I have lived in my home for over 39 years and almost every year there are "Bear Sighting" warnings posted in my neighbourhood, including around Eastview Elementary School. The food will attract them and depending on how hungry they are, they will be attracted to the chickens. Bears do not go from A to B. They will meander and therefore surrounding properties to a coup could experience physical damage and personal damage. Who will pay for any damages to my person or property by bears etc.
- Other wildlife will be attracted such as rats, racoons, cougars, etc. Just recently a cougar attacked a dog on its own property in West Vancouver. How many residential owners are having to reseed or replace their lawns this year because of racoon and crow damage? Three of my neighbours are

having to totally replace their lawns. This is expensive. I have spoken to DNV staff in the past week and been told that they are receiving many many calls about problems with rats. What will adding chicken coups do for this problem? Another neighbour's dog has lost its leg because of a racoon attack in the middle of the day in their backyard. These are consequential results of living in the DNV prior to any coups being added.

- The residents of DNV have been required to keep their garbage inside a building and not put it out for pickup until the morning of pickup. To some elderly, retired, or shift workers this has been an inconvenience but worth the knowledge that this will save the need to kill as many bears as in the past. So now why are we tempting bears back into our neighbourhoods?

#### Some Observations:

- The "C.L.U.C.K." organization (Canadian Liberation of Chickens Klub) has lobbied very extensively across Canada for "backyard chickens" in urban areas since 2011. Sometimes successful and sometimes not. Their mandate is making "villages" sustainable. The word sustainable also means maintainable, bearable, viable, balanced. I have no objection to lobbying but there needs to be some consideration to any statistics received by the DNV regarding the survey of DNV residents. All statistics can be made to express a particular point of view. For example, the on-line DNV survey or presentations can be skewed to appear to favour the keeping of chickens when this is not the majority wish of DNV residences.
  - Has the DNV checked that all respondents/presenters are residential homeowners as opposed to non-residents or apartment/townhouse/condominium owners?
  - The C.L.U.C.K. organization has its own web site to rally many supporters from its members as compared to individual residential Owners. This can skew responses in favour of the wishes of the lobbying group both on-line and at presentations.
  - C.L.U.C.K. is also supported by an even larger organization called Village Vancouver Transition Society. This "Society" has its own website that advertises, supports, and celebrates the aims and "wins" of C.L.U.C.K. It has over 3,000 members.
  - They link to Chickens in North Vancouver web site. This is another lobbying membership group. This site advertises pot luck dinner gatherings among other events to rally support to lobby for and celebrate the passing of bylaws to enable keeping chickens in urban backyards.
  - Organization, memberships, web sites, money and numbers can skew numbers and presentations which do not necessarily represent most individuals.



- The proposed bylaw for backyard chicken's states that only one coup is allowed per residence.

**This bylaw should also state that only one coup of any kind is allowed per residence.** This is required because currently the DNV allows pigeon coups as well.

- There is no detail of what will happen to chickens who are alive and no longer wanted by the Owner. Chickens have an 8 to 10-year life span but only a 2-year laying period. If Owners wish to relinquish hens where, how, to who do they take them? Who bears the cost of this? Vancouver gave \$20,000 to Animal Control to handle all complaints and issues. Is the DNV setting aside funds for this issue?
- Along these lines, chickens have a "pecking order". Older chickens who are part of the original group will peck and beat-up new chickens. They will isolate, maim, and cause the death of new chickens. Does an Owner then get an entirely new batch of hens every 2 years? What happens to the old group?
- Other Canadian municipalities such as Ottawa and Hamilton only allow chickens to be kept on rural or agricultural premises. DNV should do the same, we do not have to have a "pack" mentality that because 2 of the 3 Northshore municipalities have passed bylaws accepting chickens the DNV needs to do the same.
- I have a neighbour who has a pigeon coup. It was installed without a registration, not built to specification etc. etc. How is the DNV going to enforce this bylaw? Will enforcement be after-the-fact and dependant on complaints?
- Will the DNV on a regular basis go and count the # of chickens?
- The premise of teaching children where their food comes from is unfounded as children learn this in school, from parents, and can go to Maplewood Farms to see for themselves.
- The need to teach children "responsibility" again is unfounded as accountability, responsibility can be taught in many ways and with animals already accepted in the DNV.
- The idea of giving urban areas sustainability is confusing to say the least. If this bylaw passes what is next as 6 chickens will not keep the average family of 4 in eggs weekly or supersede the cost of a coup (possibly \$3,000), cost of food, time, training, etc.
- There is an assumption these eggs would be healthier. Not necessarily. It would depend on the type of feed, and maintenance of the living conditions.
- There are plenty of eggs of all kinds and at sustainable prices available to be purchased locally and thereby support local businesses already established.

## Some Requests of Council

- Do not pass Bylaw 8211. Refer to above notes.
- Amend this bylaw to state "Only one coup of ANY kind" is allowed per residential lot. This is necessary because currently Pigeon coups are allowed in the DNV.
- The Keeping of Pigeons Bylaw #4078 is currently almost 50 years old and considering that and the current proposed chicken bylaw, it should be reviewed by council and the public regarding possible amendments, or revocation etc.
- Add to any accepted chicken bylaw how, when, where live unwanted chickens are to be ~~disposed of~~<sup>disposed</sup> by Owners. They only lay eggs for 2 years. New birds in most cases cannot be added to a current group without isolation, injury, and possible death.
- Do not simply feel the need to do what 2 of 3 municipalities on the Northshore have done. Do what is in the best interest of the DNV residential property Owners.
- Consider the financial impact of this bylaw on neighbouring properties.
- How and by who is this potential bylaw going to be enforced?
- Put in bylaw,
  - Step 1: Register & pay fees re coup before getting chickens
  - Step 2: Mandatory inspection of coup after registration.
  - Step 3: Once coup has been approved, 2-4 chickens can be placed in coup.
  - Step 4: Follow-up annual inspections (if not more) mandatory.
- Have funds be set aside for enforcement and voluntary surrender of unwanted chickens.
- One premise of some lobbying done before you are to facilitate the DNV idea of sustainability. Consider that 6 chickens do not sustain an average family of 4 nor the entire community and Council should encourage the support of current local businesses.
- Examine the statistics from the online survey conducted in March/April 2017 with the consideration that statistics can be skewed by lobby groups that do not necessarily represent most DNV residences.
- The current proposed chicken bylaw is worded with a slant implying any issues are minor, re-word bylaw if premise is accepted.

Betty Forbes

SUBMITTED AT THE

MAY 16 2017

PUBLIC HEARING

May 16/2017

Re: Backyard Chickens in DNV

What I am about to say has been told by many others a countless number of times.

We have not only a right to our opinions but the right to express them to those that govern us. We all need to respect our differences and trust that those who govern us will do what is right for the public. However, government leaders seem to be talking less and less to those they govern. The result is clear. People begin to question the acts of government. The solution is also clear. Talk to us. When bylaws are enacted – tell us why you supported or voted against it. It is important that this is done. In fact it is written in legislation that those that govern must do this.

Although I have long promoted the concept of “do no harm” I have come to realize more and more that this concept is too simplistic. Sometimes actions for the common good are appropriate – even if it appears to harm some. The trick is to have the appropriate and just balance between good and harm. To paraphrase Skakespeare – therein lies the rub.

So, when you ultimately consider the issue of allowing backyard chickens, I urge all council members to talk to us. Explain to us why, despite the negatives, we need this bylaw. Explain to us your concept of the common good and how the passage, or not, of such a bylaw is a just balance between good and bad. Include not only those neighbours who may be directly impacted, but also those who just fear they may be negatively impacted in the future, and balance this against the few who would benefit. Please consider unintended consequences of your decision in this matter – especially as it relates to wildlife. These steps will go a long way to strengthen public confidence in local governance.

Thank you.

Yours truly,

Corrie Kost