

AGENDA

PUBLIC HEARING

**Tuesday, May 16, 2017
7:00 p.m.**

**Council Chamber, Municipal Hall
355 West Queens Road,
North Vancouver, BC**

Council Members:

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



NORTH VANCOUVER
DISTRICT

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PUBLIC HEARING

**7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver**

Keeping of Backyard Hens

- 1. OPENING BY THE MAYOR**
- 2. INTRODUCTION OF BYLAW BY CLERK**

Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016

Purpose of Bylaw:

Bylaw 8211 proposes to regulate and allow for the keeping of backyard hens in a safe, humane, and sanitary manner that is sensitive to the needs of neighbouring properties and the environment. The bylaw will permit from two up to six hens in the District of North Vancouver in any of the Single-Family Residential Zones (RS), subject to compliance with the bylaw.

- 3. PRESENTATION BY STAFF**

Presentation: Cristina Rucci, Social Planner
- 4. REPRESENTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**
- 5. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL**
- 6. COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

Recommendation:

THAT the May 16, 2017 Public Hearing be closed;

AND THAT "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016" be returned to Council for further consideration.

- 7. CLOSING**

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The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver

Bylaw 8211

A bylaw to regulate the keeping of domestic *hens*

The Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver enacts as follows:

1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited as “Keeping of Domestic *Hens* Bylaw 8211, 2016”.

2. Definitions

In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) “*chicken*” means a domesticated *chicken*;
- b) “*coop*” means that part of an *enclosure* that is constructed of solid walls on all sides and covered with a solid roof, with a wood or concrete floor;
- c) “*enclosure*” means an enclosed structure designed for the keeping of *chickens*, and consists of a *run* and a *coop*;
- d) “*hen*” means a female *chicken*;
- e) “*rooster*” means a male *chicken*; and
- f) “*run*” means the outdoor part of an *enclosure* that is fully enclosed by wire or mesh on all sides and covered with a solid roof.

3. Applicability

The keeping of *hens* is permitted on properties located in any of the single family residential (RS) zones defined in the District of North Vancouver Zoning Bylaw 3210, subject to compliance with this Bylaw.

4. General Regulations

No person shall keep *hens* unless they:

- a) register the *hens* with the District of North Vancouver by filling out all fields of the *hen* registration form and submitting it with the appropriate registration fee set out in the Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, if any, along with any additional information required by the District of North Vancouver General Manager –

Planning, Properties and Permits, or his or her designate;

- b) construct and maintain an *enclosure*, including a *coop* and a *run*, which *enclosure* shall:
 - (i) be at least two metres in height;
 - (ii) be constructed only in a rear yard;
 - (iii) comply with the following property setbacks:
 - a) From a rear lot line 1.2 metres (3.9 feet) minimum
 - b) From an interior side lot line 1.5 metres (4.9 feet) minimum
 - c) From a dwelling unit 1.2 metres (3.9 feet) minimum
 - (iv) include a *coop* having:
 - A. a floor area of at least 0.4 square metres per *hen*, provided that no *coop* floor area shall exceed 5 square metres;
 - B. an inclined roof constructed of a material that does not collect and hold heat, which roof shall be covered with waterproof material (but tarps shall not be permitted);
 - C. a wooden floor at least 0.3 metres above grade, or a concrete floor;
 - D. at least one nest box; and
 - E. for each *hen*, a minimum of one perch at least 0.25 metres in length;
 - (v) include a *run* with a floor consisting of any combination of vegetated or bare earth, with at least 1 square metre of floor area per *hen*;
 - (vi) be constructed so as to prevent the escape of *hens* and access by other animals; and
 - (vii) be located in an area that provides shade, direct sunlight, good drainage, and protection from wind;
- c) maintain the *enclosure* and all parts thereof in good and sanitary condition and repair;
- d) construct and maintain the *enclosure* so as to prevent any vermin from harbouring beneath the *enclosure* or within it or its walls, and to prevent entrance

by vermin, other wildlife or pets;

- e) secure all food and water containers in a *coop*, or otherwise in a manner to prevent access by vermin, wildlife and other animals;
- f) remove leftover feed, trash, and manure in a timely manner so as to prevent obnoxious odours, attraction of pests and wildlife, or conditions that could interfere with the health or well-being of a *hen*;
- g) follow bio-security procedures recommended by the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*;
- h) keep *hens* for personal use only, and not sell, trade or barter eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from the *hens*;
- i) ensure that all *hens* are kept within a secure and locked *coop* from dusk until dawn or from 9:00 p.m. where dusk falls later than 9:00 p.m. and until 7:00 a.m. where dawn occurs earlier than 7:00 a.m.; and
- j) ensure that each *hen* remains at all other times in the *enclosure*.

5. Prohibited Uses

No person shall:

- a) keep or permit to be kept any *rooster* on property that they own or occupy;
- b) keep or permit to be kept any *chicken* younger than 4 months on property that they own or occupy;
- c) keep or permit to be kept more than 6 *hens* on any single family residential lot;
- d) keep fewer than 2 *hens*, if *hens* are kept;
- e) have or permit more than one *enclosure* per single family residential lot;
- f) keep a *chicken* in a cage, other than an *enclosure*, unless for the purpose of transport;
- g) slaughter, euthanize, or attempt to euthanize a *chicken*, provided that this will not apply to veterinary clinics or abattoirs that are legally permitted to slaughter or euthanize *chickens*;
- h) bury a *chicken*;

- i) leave a dead *chicken* for more than one day on a property that they own or occupy;
- j) dispose of a dead *chicken* except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian or other facility that is legally permitted and able to dispose of *chicken* carcasses;
- k) construct or permit to be constructed an *enclosure* in the front yard or side yard of a property that they own or occupy, or otherwise keep or permit to be kept any *hens* in any such front yard or side yard; or
- l) deposit manure in the municipal sewage or storm drain system, or compost manure in such a way as to allow manure to enter the municipal sewage or storm drain system.

6. Enforcement

The Animal Welfare Officer, Bylaw Enforcement Officer and Medical Health Officer are authorized to enforce this Bylaw and for that purpose may enter at all reasonable times upon any property to ascertain whether or not the provision of this bylaw is being obeyed.

7. Obstruction

No person shall interfere with, delay, obstruct or impede a Bylaw Enforcement Officer or other person lawfully authorized to enforce this Bylaw in the performance of duties under this Bylaw.

8. Seizure and Disposition

The Animal Welfare Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer reserves the right (but is not in way obligated) to seize and impound any *chicken* running astray. If any impounded *chicken* is not claimed within 24 hours, the Animal Welfare Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer, or the designate of either of them, may donate, euthanize or otherwise dispose of the *chicken* in any manner he or she sees fit. To claim an impounded *chicken*, the owner shall pay the fees set out in the Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481.

9. Offence and Penalties

Any person:

- a) who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this bylaw, or who causes or suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of, or in violation of, any provision of this bylaw; or
- b) who neglects or refrains from acting in accordance with this bylaw and as

directed by the Animal Welfare Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer;

is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable for a fine of at least \$25 and not more than \$10,000, and for continuing offences, the fine for each day that an offence continues shall be at least \$25 and not more than \$10,000.

10. Designation of Bylaw

This bylaw is designated pursuant to section 264 of the *Community Charter* as a bylaw that may be enforced by means of a ticket in the form prescribed, and may be enforced by any person listed in section 6 of this bylaw.

11. Municipal Ticket Enforcement

The words or expressions listed below in the Designated Expression column are authorized to be used on a ticket issued pursuant to 264 of the *Community Charter* to designate a violation of the corresponding section of the bylaw appearing in the Section column. The amounts appearing in the Fine column and the Late Penalty column are the fines set pursuant to section 265 of the *Community Charter* for contravention of the corresponding section of the bylaw set out in the Section column.

| Section number | Designated Expression (Short-Form Description) | MTI Fine (\$) | Late Penalty Fine (if Fine unpaid after 30 days) (\$) |
|----------------|--|---------------|---|
| 4(a) | Failure to register | 150 | 190 |
| 4(b) | Improper <i>enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(c) | Failure to maintain <i>enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(d) | Failure to exclude other animals | 150 | 190 |
| 4(e) | Failure to properly secure food and water containers | 150 | 190 |
| 4(f) | Failure to prevent obnoxious, unsafe or unhealthy conditions | 150 | 190 |
| 4(g) | Failure to follow bio-security procedures | 150 | 190 |
| 4(h) | Commercial use of <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(i) | Failure to secure <i>chickens</i> in <i>coop</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(j) | Failure to secure <i>chickens</i> in <i>enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(a) | Keeping <i>roosters</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(b) | Keeping juvenile <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(c) | Keep more than six <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(d) | Keep fewer than two <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(e) | More than one <i>chicken enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(f) | Keep <i>chicken</i> in cage except for transport | 150 | 190 |
| 5(g) | Killing a <i>chicken</i> | 200 | 250 |
| 5(h) | Burying a <i>chicken</i> | 175 | 220 |
| 5(i) | Failure to dispose of dead <i>chicken</i> within one | 150 | 200 |

| | | | |
|------|---|-----|-----|
| | day | | |
| 5(j) | Improper disposal of dead <i>chicken</i> | 200 | 250 |
| 5(k) | Keep <i>chickens</i> or construct <i>enclosure</i> in front yard or side yard | 250 | 300 |

READ a first time April 10th, 2017.

PUBLIC HEARING held

READ a second time

READ a third time

ADOPTED

Mayor


Municipal Clerk

Certified a true copy

Municipal Clerk

| AGENDA INFORMATION | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting | Date: <u>APRIL 10, 2017</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | Date: _____ |


Dept.
Manager


GM/
Director


CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

March 31, 2017
File: 10.4900.30/002

AUTHOR: Cristina Rucci, Social Planner

SUBJECT: Proposed Bylaw and Amendments for the Keeping of Backyard Hens

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016" is given FIRST, SECOND and THIRD Readings;

AND THAT "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004, Amendment Bylaw 8222, 2017 (Amendment 31)" is given FIRST, SECOND and THIRD Readings;

AND THAT "The District of North Vancouver Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, 1992, Amendment Bylaw 8224, 2017 (Amendment 52)" is given FIRST, SECOND and THIRD Readings.

REASON FOR REPORT:

At the regular meeting on November 21, 2016, Council directed staff to proceed with a Bylaw regarding the keeping of domestic hens for Council consideration. This report introduces the Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw (Hen Bylaw) to regulate and allow for the keeping of backyard hens in a safe, humane, and sanitary manner that is sensitive to the needs of neighbouring properties and environment. Accompanying the Hen Bylaw (Attachment A) would be amendments to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw (Attachment B) to establish penalties associated with the regulations and the Fees and Charges Bylaw (Attachment C) to establish an impound fee. This report also provides a summary of the public input that has been received to date regarding the above Bylaws.

SUMMARY:

This report provides recommendations for the humane and sanitary keeping of backyard hens in the District of North Vancouver. These recommendations include the introduction of a "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016", amendments to the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw and the Fees and Charges Bylaw. As the Zoning Bylaw does not need to be amended, a Public Hearing is not required. Staff has been soliciting public feedback through an online survey over the past month. To date, staff has received 167 comments in

favour of the bylaw and 49 comments against. A summary of these comments is included in Attachment D.

BACKGROUND:

The Canadian Liberated Chicken Klub (CLUCK) has been actively involved in advocating for the keeping of backyard chickens across the North Shore over the past 6 years and made presentations to District Council in both 2012 and 2016, to the City of North Vancouver in 2012, and to the District of West Vancouver in 2015.

Following the delegation by CLUCK in 2012, District Council directed staff to provide clarification regarding issues such as increased bear activity, the risk of Avian Influenza and Salmonella, odour control, noise, increased staff costs associated with bylaw enforcement, as well as the humane treatment and disposal of chickens. A Council workshop was held on June 25, 2012 to discuss these issues and Council's direction was to not take further action at that time.

In July of 2016 a delegation by CLUCK reported that bylaws for enabling backyard chickens had been successfully adopted and implemented in a number of municipalities including the City of North Vancouver (2012), District of West Vancouver (2016), District of Squamish (2014), and the City of Vancouver (2008). Following this delegation, Council directed staff to prepare a draft bylaw for the District of North Vancouver. A draft bylaw was received by Council for information at the regular meeting on November 21, 2016 and Council directed staff to proceed with a bylaw for consideration. Background reports are included in Attachments E, F, and G.

EXISTING POLICY:

The following policies in the District's OCP support the District's involvement in food security and urban agricultural initiatives:

- 6.3.12 Encourage sustainable, local food systems through initiatives such as promotion of healthy, local foods and food production, and the facilitation of community gardens, farmers markets, urban agriculture initiatives in appropriate locations.
- 6.3.14 Collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health and other community partners in their efforts to provide increased access for all members of the community to safe, nutritious food.
- 6.3.15 Develop a food policy that defines the District's vision and commitment to facilitating a food system that supports long-term community and environmental issues.

The North Shore Food Charter was endorsed by Council in July 2013. The Food Charter provides a framework for North Shore governments, organizations, communities, and stakeholders to guide innovative work, and to encourage cohesion around issues such as food production and access to safe and healthy food. The Charter links policy and community action and provides a reference for managing food issues on a system-wide basis.

The Regional Food System Strategy was adopted in 2011 by the Metro Vancouver Board. This strategy encourages a collaborative approach to a sustainable, resilient, and healthy food system that will contribute to the well-being of all residents and the economic prosperity of the region while conserving our ecological legacy. A number of goals are outlined in the strategy that relate to the keeping of backyard hens: Goal 1: Increased Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home; Goal 2: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices; and Goal 3: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food.

Council endorsed the 2016 Regional Food System Action Plan on October 3, 2016. This Plan summarizes the actions that local governments have indicated they are planning to undertake in the next 3-5 years to advance a regional sustainable food system. Allowing the keeping of backyard hens would fall under Goal 4 "Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse & Affordable Food".

In addition to the requirements in the proposed Hen Bylaw, the District's Nuisance Abatement Bylaw, Noise Bylaw, Rodent Control Bylaw, and Solid Waste Bylaw provide tools to deal with problems.

ANALYSIS:

The District's Zoning Bylaw No. 3210, currently prohibits the keeping of poultry, unless specifically permitted in any other bylaw. The Hen Bylaw will permit hens in the District in any of the single family residential (RS) zones.

The keeping of backyard hens is a subject which has been contemplated by Council since 2012. Although Council made the decision not to take further action at that time, a number of changes have occurred in the region that have created an opportunity for the issue to be reconsidered by Council. These changes include:

- 2012 - The City of North Vancouver permitted up to 8 hens in one-unit residential zones. They estimate that there are approximately 20 coops in the municipality. The City of North Vancouver receives approximately 1-3 complaints a year, mainly relating to the maintenance of coops. Staff also noted that there has been no increase in staff time related to the keeping of backyard chickens.
- 2013 – North Shore Food Charter was endorsed by Council. The Charter provides a framework to encourage cohesion around issues such as food production and access to safe, healthy food.
- 2014 – The District of Squamish permitted up to 5 backyard hens in residential zones. Since the implementation of the bylaw, only one application has been received. Staff believes that many residents are not registering their chicken coops due to costs associated with getting a Land Title Certificate as well as the costs associated with the installation of an electric fence.
- 2015 – Metro Vancouver placed a ban on food scrap waste. The District of North Vancouver had been collecting food scraps since the end of 2013/early 2014. The observations from Bylaw staff as well as the Black Bear Society indicate there has not been a rise in conflict with wildlife as a result of this.

- 2016 – The District of West Vancouver permitted up to 6 chickens in residential zones. They required that coops be registered as this allows staff to monitor the number of properties with backyard chickens and to track potential issues and complaints.
- 2016 – The Regional Food System Action Plan was adopted by Metro Vancouver and was endorsed by District Council.

In addition to these changes there continues to be a growing interest from District residents for the keeping of backyard hens mainly for reasons associated with health, education, community building, and environmental responsibility.

Many municipalities, including the City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, District of Squamish, City of Vancouver, New Westminster, as well as Victoria, Nanaimo, Oak Bay, Saanich, and Esquimalt have responded to this growing public interest and have allowed backyard hens. How hens are regulated by our neighbouring municipalities does vary however. For example the City of North Vancouver, which has allowed hens since 2012, does not require registration of coops and specific requirements related to coop and run construction and design are not included in a Bylaw, but rather in a set of Guidelines (the City's Zoning Bylaw and Small Creatures Bylaw were amended and contain general regulations around the keeping of hens). The District of West Vancouver recently amended its Zoning Bylaw and Animal Control Bylaw in February 2016 in order to allow hens. These Bylaws outline very specific requirements related to hen care and coop siting, design, and construction. West Vancouver does require that coops are registered (one-time fee of \$50) and that all coops are inspected. In the City of Vancouver, hens have been permitted in single family zones since 2008. Although registration is voluntary, the City has received 233 registrations. The City does have Guidelines for the Keeping of Backyard Hens and has amended its Animal Control and Zoning Bylaw, which includes the specific regulations around siting, registration, and care for chickens.

The Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw No. 6211 being proposed for the District of North Vancouver, is a stand-alone bylaw that draws on the best practices and lessons learned by other jurisdictions. Registration of coops will be required at no charge (to be reassessed in one year) and all registrants will be required to submit a photo and site plan of where they propose to build the coop and chicken run on their property. Following construction, photographs must be submitted to staff and an on-site inspection will take place if necessary. The Hen Bylaw includes general regulations around setbacks, height, construction, cleanliness, upkeep, and odour control. Prohibited uses are also included in the bylaw as well as regulations for enforcement, seizure and disposition, and municipal ticket enforcement.

It is intended that educational material will be provided up front to ensure compliance with the bylaw and ongoing support by CLUCK to troubleshoot issues that may bring neighbourhood concerns.

Summary of Bylaws:

| Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016 (Schedule A) | |
|---|---|
| Subject | Recommended Provision |
| Allowable zones | Single family residential (RS) zones |
| Registration | Online or by phone registration No registration fee |
| Minimum Siting restrictions for hen enclosures | 1.2 metres from a rear lot line 1.5 metres from an interior lot line 1.2 metres from a dwelling unit Not permitted in the front or side yard |
| Size restrictions for hen enclosure | Minimum 2 metres in height Maximum floor area – 5 square metres |
| Number and type of hens allowed | Minimum 2 hens per lot, maximum 6 hens per lot Any chick to be a minimum of 4 months old No roosters |
| Housing requirements | Minimum 0.4 square metres per hen Inclined roof made from materials that do not collect heat and are waterproof Wooden floor at least 0.3 metres above grade or concrete floor Minimum one nest box Minimum one perch at least 0.25 metres in length per hen Must include a run with a minimum of 1 square metre of floor area per hen Be constructed to prevent the escape of hens and access by other animals Be located in an area that provides both shade and direct sunlight, good drainage and protection from the wind |
| Pest control | Enclosures must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Kept in good sanitary condition and repair- Constructed and maintained so as to prevent any vermin from harbouring beneath the enclosure or within its walls and to prevent entrance by vermin, other wildlife or pets Food and water must be secured in the coop Leftover feed, trash and manure must be removed in a timely manner |
| Biosecurity (infectious diseases, Avian Influenza) | Must follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency |
| Other regulations | Hens are for personal use only – cannot sell, trade or barter eggs, manure, meat or other products Hens must be kept in a secure and locked coop from |

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | dusk until dawn |
| Prohibited uses | No person shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Keep a chicken in a cage, other than transport- Slaughter, euthanize, or attempt to euthanize a chicken except as permitted in the Bylaw- Leave a dead chicken on the property for more than one day- Dispose of a dead chicken except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian or other facility legally permitted to dispose of a hen- Deposit manure in the municipal sewage or storm drain or collection system |
| Enforcement | Bylaw is enforced by the Animal Welfare Officer, Bylaw Enforcement Officer and Medical Health Officer |
| Seizure and Disposition | Animal Welfare Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer can seize or impound any chicken running astray |
| Offence and Penalties | Any person that violates the bylaw is guilty of an offence and must pay a fee (listed in the bylaw) |

Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7448, 2004, Amendment Bylaw 8222, 2017 (Amendment 31) and Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, 1992, Amendment Bylaw 8224, 2017 (Amendment 52) are included as Attachment B and C.

Timing/Approval Process:

Should Council recommend the proposed Bylaws at the regular meeting on April 10th, the Bylaws could be approved at the April 24th council meeting.

Concurrence:

Staff has worked closely with the Municipal Solicitor and the Municipal Clerk in order to prepare the draft bylaws. The bylaws have been reviewed by Development Planning, Solid Waste, the Animal Welfare Officer, as well as the Chief Bylaw Officer. Staff has also been working closely with staff from the Black Bear Society, to ensure the bylaws adequately satisfy any issues or concerns that may arise. It is recognized that the activity of keeping of hens is an attractant to bears and it is hoped that the steps taken will reduce any pressure on bear activity. BC's Conservation Officer Service recommends electric fencing around a coop, however staff felt this requirement may be too onerous to include as a bylaw requirement. Individual owners may wish to consider this on their own if other prevention measures are not sufficient. Members of CLUCK have agreed to support new hen keepers and build on their existing network. Staff at Maplewood Farm have agreed to provide education.

Financial Impacts:

Based on the experiences of other municipalities that allow backyard hens (City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver and City of Vancouver) it is not anticipated there will

be a significant increase in staff time, particularly around Bylaw Enforcement and Animal Control.

Social Policy Implications:

The social benefits associated with backyard chickens are linked to food security, access to safe, healthy and nutritious foods, as well community development and education, for both children and adults. These values are linked to the District's 2011 Official Community Plan.

Environmental Impact:

The introduction of backyard chickens into the urban environment contributes to the environmental management and sustainability of cities. Chickens provide natural insect control, they aerate the soil and break down larger pieces of vegetation, thereby accelerating the decomposition process. Also, the keeping of backyard hens fits into environmentally sustainable living practices such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the 100 Mile Diet, and food security. Wildlife conflicts, the management of chicken waste and disposal are potential issues that would need to be effectively managed. The Hen Bylaw contains regulations that address these issues. Moreover, District staff, in collaboration with volunteers from CLUCK, intends to work with potential residents interested in owning hens to ensure they have the information they require to be responsible and effective hen owners.

Public Input:

A public hearing was not required to permit backyard hens as the Zoning Bylaw did not need to be amended. However, given the level of interest in the community regarding backyard hens, staff solicited public input over the period of one month. A survey was posted on the District website on March 7, 2017 and remained online until Friday, April 7. Residents were notified of the survey through Facebook and Twitter, as well as through the North Shore News on March 12, 15 and 19. Residents both in support of and opposed to this Bylaw have taken the time to either send in the survey, call staff directly, or write letters and emails with their comments. At the time this report was written a total of 167 comments had been received in support of the Bylaw and 49 were opposed. In addition to this, many comments were received on the District's Facebook page, the majority of which were in favour of the proposed Bylaw. A summary of the comments received to date is provided below while a detailed listing of all comments received may be found in Attachment D. Additional comments made after this report was completed, up till April 7, will be included on table for Council's review.

Support:

Some comments received (167 in total) in support of the Bylaw. Many residents commented they used to have chickens growing up and that it was an enriching experience which gave them a great understanding of how and where food comes from and that they would like to have those experiences with their children. There are also comments from residents whose neighbours already have hens in the District and how it's been a good experience, especially for the local children.

Specific comments include:

- Having chickens would be a great experience and would allow my family to have fresh eggs,

- I wish we were approving 8 hens as a larger flock allows variable ages of chickens and low producing hens to be kept longer,
- Chickens will be happier than factory chickens, they can be like pets and will teach me to be more responsible and caring and I can teach my friends about them,
- Feel like we should catch up to our neighbours in the City of North Vancouver and West Vancouver,
- It's important for families and communities to know where their food comes from,
- Might be good to get neighbour input before you get chickens,
- Importance of promoting local food production,
- Bylaws like this really contribute to making our communities more healthy, connected and resilient,
- Lynn Valley has the largest bee keeping population in the Lower Mainland and having honey combs in hundreds of backyards would prove to be more of an attractant, and this bylaw was never given public attention,
- What happens if you have 2 hens and one dies, then you are not meeting the Bylaw, there should be some leniency with this,
- Should consider providing people with some examples of coop plans that are rodent proof,
- Chickens would help manage my compost needs removing the city from the cost of transporting my waste,
- Garbage and fruit trees will continue to be the main attractants,
- 5 years is too long to make this legal,
- Important to increase awareness around animals humanely raised for food production and encourage accountability for people regarding food resources. In the past I kept chickens in Squamish and there are simple, realistic ways to avoid encouraging wildlife interactions,
- My recommendation is that there should be a mandatory training program with very clear treatment guidelines,
- I've been waiting for this for so long!
- I recommend someone from the District to stop by from time to time to spot check on registered properties.

Other questions were posed about possible neighbourhood consultation, registration, and the importance of the design and build of the coop to prevent access by wildlife.

Against:

Those residents against the proposed Bylaw (49 comments in total) were generally concerned the hens would be a wildlife attractant, particularly for cougars, bears, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, and rats and would endanger the wildlife as well as the hens. Other concerns are related to the nuisances of hens, specifically around smell, noise, compost, mess, as well as disease.

Specific comments include:

- Please consider these actions: require new owners to take a certification course in animal husbandry, specifically around chickens; require owners to inform their

- neighbours in writing and get approval before getting hens; and provide avenues for disposal/donation of chickens after their egg-laying days are done,
- They would create more community anxiety than benefit,
 - If the District would like to explore having local hens, I would prefer them to be in community co-op farms instead,
 - Increased density and rural pursuits don't mix well even though we might wish that they could,
 - Chickens have a short egg bearing life,
 - Another issue for our overworked bylaw enforcement officers to deal with,
 - Level of interest may dwindle over time when chicken owners tire of the constant upkeep of their flocks,
 - Hen keepers should be required to have their birds checked regularly by a vet to check for viruses,
 - I have an allergy to chicken dust and due to my health concerns, my neighbours would or should not have chickens

Staff response:

Staff has carefully considered the concerns raised by residents around the keeping of backyard hens and believe that education will be key in mitigating many of the issues that may arise. In consultation with the Manager of Bylaws, the North Shore Black Bear Society, as well as CLUCK, staff has come up with a number of proposed measures (outlined below) if the Bylaw is passed that will help reduce conflict and ensure that hens are kept in a safe, humane, and sanitary manner.

- Social planning staff will work with communications staff to develop a page on the District's website that will contain educational materials (including coop building plans) to help residents understand and care for their hens. The website will be similar to those that have been created for the District of West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, and the City of Vancouver (<https://westvancouver.ca/home-building-property/pets-wildlife-environment/backyard-chickens>, <http://www.cnv.org/Your-Government/Living-City/Local-Food/Urban-Chicken-Keeping>, <http://vancouver.ca/people-programs/backyard-chickens.aspx>)
- The registration form will request that each interested hen owner submit as part of their application, a photograph of where the coop will be located on their property as well as a site plan to show the setbacks. Once the coop is completed, the owner will have to submit photographs that will be reviewed by staff. Follow up will occur if the structure does not meet the regulations contained in the bylaw or if complaints are received.
- Members of CLUCK have agreed to act as a resource for potential hen owners and are willing to provide education and advice. They are also willing to accompany staff to conduct site visits to ensure the coops meet the regulations.
- In cooperation with Maplewood Farm and CLUCK, a Hens 101 course will be offered 2 times per year or more depending on interest. Hen owners will be encouraged to

take the course in order to learn the basics around hen care and upkeep, coop construction, and to have answer to any questions about the bylaw. If the bylaw is adopted, a class can be scheduled for May 2017.

- Social planning staff will contact each potential hen owner to ensure they have the information they require, to connect them with CLUCK, and to recommend they enrol in the Hens 101 course.

Conclusion:

Backyard hens can provide many benefits, including improving food security, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions related to the transportation of food, and contributing to a just and sustainable food system. The proposed Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw provides regulations on how hens can be enjoyed, while protecting public health and safety and ensuring humane treatment of hens. The bylaw will allow up to 6 hens in single family residential zones and will provide setbacks, maximum floor care, as well as regulations around coop construction in order to minimize wildlife conflict, and how to take care of feed, water and manure. The bylaw also contains a number of prohibited uses as well as regulations around enforcement, seizure and disposition, offence and penalties, and municipal ticket enforcement. The majority of the comments received by the public have been in favour of the proposed Bylaws (167 in favour and 49 opposed) and many residents are interested in learning more about hens and the possibility of becoming responsible hen owners. Staff believes the concerns expressed by residents can be mitigated by the measures outlined in this report, as well as through the regulations contained in the bylaws.

Options:

The following options are available for Council's consideration:

1. THAT Council give FIRST, SECOND and THIRD readings to the Bylaws under consideration and set a date for FOURTH and final reading,
2. That Council request more information from staff.
3. THAT Council not proceed with the proposed Bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

Cristina Rucci, MCIP, RPP
Social Planner

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016
Attachment B: Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004, Amendment Bylaw 8222, 2017 (Amendment 31)
Attachment C: The District of North Vancouver Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, 1992, Amendment Bylaw 8224, 2017 (Amendment 52)
Attachment D: Summary of public comments
Attachment E: Staff Report dated November 16, 2016, "Draft 'Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw'"
Attachment F: Staff report dated June 22, 2016, "Backyard Chickens – A Review of Bylaws from other Municipalities"
Attachment G: Staff Report dated June 12, 2012, "Domestic Chickens – A Discussion and Exploration of Next Steps"

| REVIEWED WITH: | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Community Dev. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office _____ | External Agencies: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Services _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Board _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> NS Health _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITS _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> NVRC _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment _____ | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Solicitor _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate _____ | |

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The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver

Bylaw 8211

A bylaw to regulate the keeping of domestic *hens*

The Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver enacts as follows:

1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited as “Keeping of Domestic *Hens* Bylaw 8211, 2016”.

2. Definitions

In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

- a) “*chicken*” means a domesticated *chicken*;
- b) “*coop*” means that part of an *enclosure* that is constructed of solid walls on all sides and covered with a solid roof, with a wood or concrete floor;
- c) “*enclosure*” means an enclosed structure designed for the keeping of *chickens*, and consists of a *run* and a *coop*;
- d) “*hen*” means a female *chicken*;
- e) “*rooster*” means a male *chicken*; and
- f) “*run*” means the outdoor part of an *enclosure* that is fully enclosed by wire or mesh on all sides and covered with a solid roof.

3. Applicability

The keeping of *hens* is permitted on properties located in any of the single family residential (RS) zones defined in the District of North Vancouver Zoning Bylaw 3210, subject to compliance with this Bylaw.

4. General Regulations

No person shall keep *hens* unless they:

- a) register the *hens* with the District of North Vancouver by filling out all fields of the *hen* registration form and submitting it with the appropriate registration fee set out in the Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, if any, along with any additional information required by the District of North Vancouver General Manager –

Planning, Properties and Permits, or his or her designate;

- b) construct and maintain an *enclosure*, including a *coop* and a *run*, which *enclosure* shall:
- (i) be at least two metres in height;
 - (ii) be constructed only in a rear yard;
 - (iii) comply with the following property setbacks:
 - a) From a rear lot line 1.2 metres (3.9 feet) minimum
 - b) From an interior side lot line 1.5 metres (4.9 feet) minimum
 - c) From a dwelling unit 1.2 metres (3.9 feet) minimum
 - (iv) include a *coop* having:
 - A. a floor area of at least 0.4 square metres per *hen*, provided that no *coop* floor area shall exceed 5 square metres;
 - B. an inclined roof constructed of a material that does not collect and hold heat, which roof shall be covered with waterproof material (but tarps shall not be permitted);
 - C. a wooden floor at least 0.3 metres above grade, or a concrete floor;
 - D. at least one nest box; and
 - E. for each *hen*, a minimum of one perch at least 0.25 metres in length;
 - (v) include a *run* with a floor consisting of any combination of vegetated or bare earth, with at least 1 square metre of floor area per *hen*;
 - (vi) be constructed so as to prevent the escape of *hens* and access by other animals; and
 - (vii) be located in an area that provides shade, direct sunlight, good drainage, and protection from wind;
- c) maintain the *enclosure* and all parts thereof in good and sanitary condition and repair;
- d) construct and maintain the *enclosure* so as to prevent any vermin from harbouring beneath the *enclosure* or within it or its walls, and to prevent entrance

by vermin, other wildlife or pets;

- e) secure all food and water containers in a *coop*, or otherwise in a manner to prevent access by vermin, wildlife and other animals;
- f) remove leftover feed, trash, and manure in a timely manner so as to prevent obnoxious odours, attraction of pests and wildlife, or conditions that could interfere with the health or well-being of a *hen*;
- g) follow bio-security procedures recommended by the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency*;
- h) keep *hens* for personal use only, and not sell, trade or barter eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from the *hens*;
- i) ensure that all *hens* are kept within a secure and locked *coop* from dusk until dawn or from 9:00 p.m. where dusk falls later than 9:00 p.m. and until 7:00 a.m. where dawn occurs earlier than 7:00 a.m.; and
- j) ensure that each *hen* remains at all other times in the *enclosure*.

5. Prohibited Uses

No person shall:

- a) keep or permit to be kept any *rooster* on property that they own or occupy;
- b) keep or permit to be kept any *chicken* younger than 4 months on property that they own or occupy;
- c) keep or permit to be kept more than 6 *hens* on any single family residential lot;
- d) keep fewer than 2 *hens*, if *hens* are kept;
- e) have or permit more than one *enclosure* per single family residential lot;
- f) keep a *chicken* in a cage, other than an *enclosure*, unless for the purpose of transport;
- g) slaughter, euthanize, or attempt to euthanize a *chicken*, provided that this will not apply to veterinary clinics or abattoirs that are legally permitted to slaughter or euthanize *chickens*;
- h) bury a *chicken*;

- i) leave a dead *chicken* for more than one day on a property that they own or occupy;
- j) dispose of a dead *chicken* except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian or other facility that is legally permitted and able to dispose of *chicken* carcasses;
- k) construct or permit to be constructed an *enclosure* in the front yard or side yard of a property that they own or occupy, or otherwise keep or permit to be kept any *hens* in any such front yard or side yard; or
- l) deposit manure in the municipal sewage or storm drain system, or compost manure in such a way as to allow manure to enter the municipal sewage or storm drain system.

6. Enforcement

The Animal Welfare Officer, Bylaw Enforcement Officer and Medical Health Officer are authorized to enforce this Bylaw and for that purpose may enter at all reasonable times upon any property to ascertain whether or not the provision of this bylaw is being obeyed.

7. Obstruction

No person shall interfere with, delay, obstruct or impede a Bylaw Enforcement Officer or other person lawfully authorized to enforce this Bylaw in the performance of duties under this Bylaw.

8. Seizure and Disposition

The Animal Welfare Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer reserves the right (but is not in way obligated) to seize and impound any *chicken* running astray. If any impounded *chicken* is not claimed within 24 hours, the Animal Welfare Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer, or the designate of either of them, may donate, euthanize or otherwise dispose of the *chicken* in any manner he or she sees fit. To claim an impounded *chicken*, the owner shall pay the fees set out in the Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481.

9. Offence and Penalties

Any person:

- a) who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of this bylaw, or who causes or suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of, or in violation of, any provision of this bylaw; or
- b) who neglects or refrains from acting in accordance with this bylaw and as

directed by the Animal Welfare Officer or Bylaw Enforcement Officer;

is guilty of an offence and upon conviction is liable for a fine of at least \$25 and not more than \$10,000, and for continuing offences, the fine for each day that an offence continues shall be at least \$25 and not more than \$10,000.

10. Designation of Bylaw

This bylaw is designated pursuant to section 264 of the *Community Charter* as a bylaw that may be enforced by means of a ticket in the form prescribed, and may be enforced by any person listed in section 6 of this bylaw.

11. Municipal Ticket Enforcement

The words or expressions listed below in the Designated Expression column are authorized to be used on a ticket issued pursuant to 264 of the *Community Charter* to designate a violation of the corresponding section of the bylaw appearing in the Section column. The amounts appearing in the Fine column and the Late Penalty column are the fines set pursuant to section 265 of the *Community Charter* for contravention of the corresponding section of the bylaw set out in the Section column.

| Section number | Designated Expression (Short-Form Description) | MTI Fine (\$) | Late Penalty Fine (if Fine unpaid after 30 days) (\$) |
|----------------|--|---------------|---|
| 4(a) | Failure to register | 150 | 190 |
| 4(b) | Improper <i>enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(c) | Failure to maintain <i>enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(d) | Failure to exclude other animals | 150 | 190 |
| 4(e) | Failure to properly secure food and water containers | 150 | 190 |
| 4(f) | Failure to prevent obnoxious, unsafe or unhealthy conditions | 150 | 190 |
| 4(g) | Failure to follow bio-security procedures | 150 | 190 |
| 4(h) | Commercial use of <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(i) | Failure to secure <i>chickens</i> in <i>coop</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 4(j) | Failure to secure <i>chickens</i> in <i>enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(a) | Keeping <i>roosters</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(b) | Keeping juvenile <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(c) | Keep more than six <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(d) | Keep fewer than two <i>chickens</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(e) | More than one <i>chicken enclosure</i> | 150 | 190 |
| 5(f) | Keep <i>chicken</i> in cage except for transport | 150 | 190 |
| 5(g) | Killing a <i>chicken</i> | 200 | 250 |
| 5(h) | Burying a <i>chicken</i> | 175 | 220 |
| 5(i) | Failure to dispose of dead <i>chicken</i> within one | 150 | 200 |

| | | | |
|------|---|-----|-----|
| | day | | |
| 5(j) | Improper disposal of dead <i>chicken</i> | 200 | 250 |
| 5(k) | Keep <i>chickens</i> or construct <i>enclosure</i> in front yard or side yard | 250 | 300 |

READ a first time

READ a second time

READ a third time

ADOPTED

Mayor

Municipal Clerk

Certified a true copy

Municipal Clerk

The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver

Bylaw 8222

A bylaw to amend Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004

The Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver enacts as follows:

1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited as "Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004, Amendment Bylaw 8222, 2017 (Amendment 31)".

2. Amendments

2.1 Schedule A to Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw 7458, 2004 is amended by adding the following in alphabetical order:

| Bylaw Section | Description | A1 Penalty Amount (\$) | A2 Discounted Penalty: Within 14 days (\$) | A3 Late Payment: After 28 days (\$) | A4 Compliance Agreement Available | A5 Compliance Agreement Discount (\$) |
|---|---|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw 8211, 2016 | | | | | | |
| 4(a) | Failure to register | 100 | 75 | 150 | NO | N/A |
| 4(b) | Improper chicken enclosure | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 4(c)-(g) | Improper maintenance of chickens or chicken enclosure | 200 | 185 | 215 | NO | N/A |
| 4(h) | Commercial use of chickens | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 4(i)-(j) | Failure to secure chickens | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 5(a) | Keeping roosters | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 5(b) | Keeping juvenile chickens | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 5(c)-(e) | More than six chickens or fewer than two chickens | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 5(e) | More than one chicken enclosure | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 5(f)-(j) | Improper caging, slaughter or disposal of chickens | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A |
| 5(k) | Keep chickens or construct enclosure in front yard | 150 | 135 | 165 | NO | N/A" |

READ a first time

READ a second time

READ a third time

ADOPTED

Mayor

Municipal Clerk

Certified a true copy

Municipal Clerk

The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver**Bylaw 8224**

A bylaw to amend Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, 1992

The Council for The Corporation of the District of North Vancouver enacts as follows:

1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited as "District of North Vancouver Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, 1992, Amendment Bylaw 8224, 2017 (Amendment 52)".

2. Amendments

- 2.1 The Fees and Charges Bylaw 6481, 1992 is amended by the addition of the following to Schedule E:

| "Domestic Hens | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Impound fee | \$25.00" |

READ a first time

READ a second time

READ a third time

ADOPTED

Mayor

Municipal Clerk

Certified a true copy

Municipal Clerk

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Public Comments on the Hen Bylaw

| | Support: |
|--------|--|
| 1 Y | <p>4. General Regulations</p> <p>a) - hen/s should read hens given the minimum of 2 requirements</p> <p>- amount of registration fee (suggest \$50) is not shown nor is fine (suggest \$100) recorded in fees and charges schedule</p> <p>b) (i) "be at least two metres in height" (suggest capping maximum height at 2.5 metres)</p> <p>b) (iii) format needs to change so that setbacks correctly align</p> <p>"for each chicken, one nest box and a minimum of one perch at least 0.15 metres in length"</p> <p>(suggest one nest box per two chickens and 0.15 metres change to 0.25 metres.....i.e. 10 inches vs 6 inches.....which is not wide enough for a chicken to roost on</p> <p>8. Seizure and Disposition</p> <p>"but is not in way obligated" s/b "but is not in any way obligated"</p> <p>Fees and Charges schedule does not include the fine to claim an impounded chicken</p> <p>Also, the 5(g) to 5(k) fines are not readable per current schedule forma</p> |
| 2 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I am concerned about food in the chicken coop attracting bears. The bylaw should have more specific language on the enclosure design/built to prevent bear access. The coop would have to be very solidly built to be bear-resistant or have electric fencing.</p> |
| 3 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This is such a great way to support food literacy and to grow food-sufficiency on the North Shore.</p> <p>Bylaws like this really contribute to making our communities more healthy, connected and resilient. Thank you!</p> |
| 4 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? That is an excellent idea.</p> |
| 5 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This is an excellent way to promote sustainable, local and healthy lifestyles. We have chickens near us and have not once had a complaint to make. Allowing chickens can help bring North Vancouver back to our "rural" roots and allows for increased community engagement. I strongly support this bylaw change!</p> |
| 6 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 7 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 8 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |

| | |
|----------|--|
| 9 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I am concerned about what action would be taken against cat owners, like myself, if my cat attacked a chicken. I am also concerned about the noise. I don't know how noisy chickens are. |
| 10 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I have been keeping an eye out to see when the District would come on line about the keeping of hens as the City has had this law for several years now. I will continue to follow this proposal with hopes of keeping hens of my one in the near future. |
| 11 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think this is a great idea and long overdue. |
| 12 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 13 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This is a brilliant idea. Much of our vegetarian food scraps can be used as additional feed, and properly composed chicken waste can be very useful for garden fertilizer. I recommend someone from the city to stop by from time to time to spot check on registered properties. |
| 14 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This is a wonderful idea! |
| 15 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I support the idea of keeping backyard hens. As a child my dad kept chickens which gave us a great understanding of how and where our food comes from. I have fond memories of riding my bike to the allotment in the dark to feed the hens as a child. I'd love to be able to pass this on to my children, allowing them to know that our meat and eggs do not grown in packages at the supermarket! |
| 16 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? We would be excited to have backyard hens. |
| 17 ? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think this is a great idea and long overdue. |
| 18 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |

| | |
|----------|--|
| 19 Y | <p>Your first name: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Your last name: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Wonderful proposal by the District and will follow example set quite a while ago by City of North Van and District of West Van. Encouraging people to grow and raise their own food is only a good thing and such an educational experience for children. Those who are afraid of such bylaw seem mostly concerned about noise and wildlife. These fears can be allayed by the requirement for properly maintained chicken coops and no roosters with the District being aided by organizations such as CLUCK for resident support. What is better than waking up to freshly-laid eggs?!? Please approve the proposed bylaw DNV! Thank you!</p> |
| 20 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I've been waiting for this for so long! As have my kids. Ever since we were asked to chicken sit for someone in the city last summer my kids have been asking to get our own hens. Just the difference in the eggs compared to store bought is incredible. I support this 110%!</p> |
| 21 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? It isn't really clear how people are supposed to dispose of chickens (vet? butcher?). Also I'm not sure how one makes a bear-proof chicken coop, but no other comments.</p> |
| 22 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 23 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? If the proposed bylaw is accepted we would be having chickens in our backyard. Absolutely.</p> |
| 24 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 25 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think this is an awesome initiative! Thanks!</p> |
| 26 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Great idea and wholeheartedly support it!</p> |
| 27 Y? | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |

| | |
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| 28 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 29 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Love this!!!! |
| 30 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 31 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 32 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This is a no-brainer! Years ago when I was a kid growing up in Deep Cove we had chickens and fresh eggs daily. No idea why it was stopped then, but it truly should not be an issue. This would be a positive step in the right direction! |
| 33 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 34 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Yes I would love to have hens! |
| 35 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Sounds good |
| 36 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think this is great! |
| 37 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 38 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 39 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |

| | |
|----------|---|
| 40 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 41 y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 42 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 43 N | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I am a resident of [REDACTED], we live on 10 acres, and have had chickens for the last 23 years!!! I cannot say enough about how much chickens can enrich ones life and benefit your back yard! 1. Chickens scratch around the lawn and eat weeds, bugs, worms and fertilize the grass. 2. There poop once composted, is excellent for the garden. 3. Back yard chicken eggs are soo tasty and nutritionally healthier then the factory farm egg. Collecting them every day puts a big smile on your face!! 4. Young children learn about the responsibilities of caring for a farm animal and in exchange reaping the benefits of collecting their eggs, and cooking them up, very rewarding!!!! 5. Chickens are very entertaining and an all around a joy to have as a pet friend!!! I could go on, but I think I made my point on the benefits of caring and sharing your life with backyard chickens!!! |
| 44 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 45 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? We have been waiting forever for this. Please pass this! |
| 46 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? My family and I would love to be able to own and raise our own hens! It would help to save a bit of money by being able to collect our own eggs. It would also be very comforting knowing that our eggs came from somewhere that treated the hens humanely and that they're organic. It also teaches our children the important skills of independence, being self-sufficient and promotes a sustainable way of living. Please allow hens in our backyards! Thank you. |
| 47 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I am in full support of this, and feel it's one of the best things we could do for the health of our community. Connect people to their food! |

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| 48 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 49 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 50 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I am fully in support of domestic hens. Eating locally and in turn mitigating the effects of climate change should be of great deal of interest to the North Vancouver District. By allowing families to produce their own eggs you would in turn be lowering the carbon footprint for the eggs our district eats. Thanks. |
| 51 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Awesome idea, really support this. Great to educate our kids and have access to non-factory-farmed eggs once in a while. |
| 52 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? No - sounds great! Super excited this may be a thing. :) |
| 53 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 54 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I am so glad the district is considering this. I think this is a wonderful initiative and I am looking forward to being able to have some hens. |
| 55 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 56 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 57 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Great! |
| 58 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? It is about time!!!! |
| 59 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |

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| 60 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Awesome! |
| 61 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 62 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 63 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Cluck cluck! |
| 64 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Back yard chicken regulation will benefit district residents and provide guidance and security to hen keepers. could the bylaw be in place by Mothers Day? |
| 65 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 66 N | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Having a small clutch of hens is great but it takes time and serious commitment. First and foremost is the ethical and proper handling of the hens. They need a safe place to roost.</p> <p>Racoons, dogs, coyotes , etc will most certainly test your coop. You need space. Hens love to burrow. They need dirt baths to clean themselves of mites, which you will certainly get in a small enclosure. Lastly and perhaps most importantly, hens live a lot longer than they produce eggs. Unless you are prepared to support your old hens (and know how to introduce new hens, which isn't as easy as one would hope) then you should rethink your plan.</p> <p>Essentially, the smaller the space the bigger the problems. The worst thing to happen is that a cottage industry springs up supplying prefabbed coops and rotates your hen population. This is no better than industrialized farming.</p> <p>My recommendation is that there should be a mandatory training program with very clear treatment guidelines. Also, prohibit private suppliers, if they are for profit organizations, who will cull the old hens. For the right type of person chickens make the best pets ever. However, dare I say it, many people can't even have goldfish last more than a few months. Good luck!</p> |
| 67 y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Absolutely needed. Not only to provide eggs for families but great for young family members to engage in a bit of farm life and understanding. comments about this proposed bylaw? Absolutely. Taken too long to get to this point. Let's get on this |

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| 68 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any |
| 69 y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Absolutely. Taken too long to get to this point. Let's get on this |
| 70 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 71 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 72 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 73 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think it would be a phenominal oppurtunity for me and my family, we love chickens. |
| 74 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? this is awesome and sustainable!! |
| 75 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? We are excited and cant wait to get a couple hens! |
| 76 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I support this and would like to keep hens myself. Protection from wildlife and management to avoid nuisance animals would be especially important here in the District, as we have so many bears, raccoons and skunks. |
| 77 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I would be very interested in keeping hens in my backyard. |
| 78 | I wouldn't do it myself, but as long as there are no roosters crowing, I have no problem with anyone else having them! Thanks |

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| 79 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Yes!!!! |
| 80 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 81 N | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? So Why do you not allow single people to have chickens??? They need them just as much as single families do? |
| 82 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 83 | Dear Christina, I would like to support this proposal by sending this email. Thanks, |
| 84 | Love the idea of my own eggs but won't they attract other critters like raccoons bears coyote? |
| 85 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 86 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] 5 Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? YES! This is a wonderful idea especially for a borderline rural place like North Vancouver where rent is beginning to climb - chickens can be a good way to cut down on grocery costs or even help with mental health as pets! I support this bylaw wholeheartedly |
| 87 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? It's about time |
| 88 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Our family is very excited about hens in the District and we are completely supportive of the proposed bylaw! |
| 89 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Amazing idea! It would create an opportunity for neighbours and neighbourhoods to connect. |

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| 90 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Yea please, it's about time. |
| 91 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I would love to have some hens!! Yes! Let's do this!!! |
| 92 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Thank you! I've been waiting for this for years. People who want chickens will put the effort into looking after them properly. It's a real pleasure to see this finally happening. |
| 93 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 94 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? No. I think it will be a great addition to the district of north vancouver. |
| 95 Y | Hi, I am strongly in favour of the proposal. A number of residents have already backyard chicken as I learned. Given this is the case a positive decision of the District is long overdue . Thank You. Resident District Of North Vancouver |
| 96 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 97 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Our family is ready to raise hens and pick fresh eggs, in accordance to the drafted bylaw. |
| 98 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 99 | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? THIS IS TERRIFIC NEWS AND ABOUT TIME! The draft of the bylaw looks great and it will really make such a positive difference in our community as a result. THANK YOU!!! |

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| 100 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 101 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I like the bylaw. I've had hens before and kept them in an enclosed run with the coop integrated so raccoons & skunks could not enter. Hens are quiet and I had no complaints from my neighbors. This promotes healthy living, the eggs from your own hens are second to none, and is sustainable.</p> <p>Thank you for proposing this</p> |
| 102 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? With the appropriate regulations (max. number of hens, away from waterways, waste management, perhaps even a tax to cover (bi-)annual inspections) backyard chickens could be very beneficial in promoting a more self-sustainable lifestyle, be a teaching resource for young people, increase the awareness around animals humanely raised for food production and encourage accountability for people regarding food resources, in general. I very much support passing this bylaw. In the past, I have kept chickens in [REDACTED] and there are simple, realistic ways to avoid encouraging wildlife interactions (I assume raccoons, coyote, skunks and bears are the main concern here).</p> |
| 103 Y | <p>Hi Cristina,</p> <p>I've just seen your ad in the paper regarding backyard hens and I wanted to share my thoughts with you. My family has been in North Vancouver for over 40 years spanning several generations so I've given it a lot of thought. I think as Vancouverites we all pride ourselves on our relationship with the outdoors and our commitments to supporting local businesses grow and succeed. I mention this because I feel allowing family residential lots to have backyard hens is in line with this part of our identity.</p> <p>I spent some time last year living and working in [REDACTED] and I looked forward to the fresh market every single Saturday morning selling things ranging from fruit to meat to eggs to cheese. It was a way to connect with my neighbours who were buying and selling and enjoy the amount of locally grown fresh foods.</p> <p>While I recognize eggs for sale commercially is a separate issue, I am strongly in support of allowing single family lots to own a few hens because of the sense of community it will bring. Not to mention, creating opportunities for Vancouverites to take agency in their food security in a way that lets them know where their food comes from is important to me.</p> <p>Thanks very much,</p> |
| 104 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |

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| 105 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 106 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I'm only curious what remediation will be employed if someone is found to be slaughtering or raising hens for sale. |
| 107 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 108 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 109 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? why do you need to control the people in the district so hard? 5 years to make this thing legal? are you kidding or something? even the city of vancouver, which is the worst city i've ever lived in has made it legal, so has west vancouver and north vancouver. i think it's time for the mayor and council to re think why they are sitting in their mighty positions, because you are not respecting the people who voted for you and are paying your salaries. Change is inevitable, standing in the way of change is a waste of public money and resources! |
| 110 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? No |
| 111 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I find the draft by-law to be quite thorough my only comment would be - Will a choice of domesticated chicken breed be allowed? |
| 112 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Yay hens! Excellent idea. |
| 113 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think being able to have chickens in my backyard would be fantastic! I'm [REDACTED] years old and feel raising chickens would be a good learning experience and a fun challenge. I've been to the library and have read and reasearched how to raise and care for chickens. In addition they would provide organic eggs for my family. Please say YES to backyard chickens! |

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| 114 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I would love to see this bylaw approved. My family only consumes meat that we have a close relationship with the farmer who raises them, and understand the types of conditions they live in. If we could supply our own family with eggs, and teach ourselves and children the relationship between us, food and animals, it would be enriching to say the least. My only concern is about not allowing the slaughter of chickens, as I am unclear of what needed to be done in order to kill a chicken that has come to the end of its life.</p> <p>Either way, I'm very much in favor of this bylaw.</p> |
| 115 N | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Fantastic idea – go for it!</p> |
| 116 Y | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Great idea</p> |
| 117 N | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>I think chickens should be allowed</p> |
| 118 N | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Allowing backyard hens helps promote using locally available food and subsequently food sustainability, both important for communities.</p> |
| 119 Y | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>Wonderful! Let's have more eggs!</p> |
| 120 Y | <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>I have been waiting for sometime with regard to the above and am so very in favour of using our huge back gardens to produce food. I cannot wait to enjoy the privilege. Please do not hesitate too long. Thank you</p> |
| 121 Y | <p>I am thankful for letting me speak at the meetings, and I am excited to get chickens. Thank you for writing the bylaw. I would like to have 8 chickens but the coop must be well protected. This is how I would like the bylaw to be. Tell me if you need my help.</p> |
| 122 Y | <p>Have lived in Lynn Valley since the [REDACTED] and used to have all sorts of animals growing up- including chickens and pigs. Also had chickens when she was raising her own children up near the canyon. Her kids loved them and it was an enriching experience for her family. These are things enjoyed by all people.</p> |
| 123 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Is there a plan to include a few examples of average chicken coop plans for perspective homeowners? Considering the prevalence of rodents in the district it may be helpful to front load some plans that are well thought out and provide rodent proofing in the plans themselves. This would help homeowners to consider the reality of pests and to have to include this in the construction and maintenance costs of maintaining chickens.</p> |

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| 124 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I think it's about time that we have joined the 21st century. Way to go!!</p> |
| 125 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>The draft bylaw (http://www.dnv.org/sites/default/files/edocs/draft-domestic-hens-bylaw.pdf) mentions a fee to register in Bylaw 6481, but I was not able to locate any relevant fees in the document at https://www.dnv.org/sites/default/files/bylaws/Bylaw%206481.pdf. Is there a proposed amendment to Bylaw 6481 that's not mentioned? What will be the fee amount? According to the neither the City of Vancouver nor the City of North Vancouver require a fee for registering. Why does the District of North Vancouver feel the need to require a fee? Such a fee should be justified, rather than imposed by default.</p> <p>As a technicality, requiring a two-hen minimum means that should one hen of a pair perish (due to old age, say) the owner would immediately be in violation of the bylaw. There must be some allowance for the owner to find time to locate a suitable replacement hen. I don't know what a reasonable timeframe is nor what the negative effects of keeping a single hen are, but if acquiring a new hen requires driving to Abbotsford then it could certainly take a few weeks.</p> |
| 126 Y | <p>Your postal code [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? It seems to have been well thought out. If properly scrutinised, there should be benefit to the hens and property owners.</p> |
| 127 Y | <p>Your postal code [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I feel this is a great move for building community, fighting neighbourhood social isolation, teaching our next generation to understand where their food comes from and the impact of their food choices on their world. The impact on surrounding wildlife (bears/rodents) has been shown to not be a concern from the NSBBS and due to the relatively small uptake from this bylaw change it should not be an issue. Lynn Valley has the largest bee keeping population in the lower mainland and having honey combs in hundreds of backyards would prove to be more of an attractant, and this bylaw was never given public attention.</p> <p>Garbage and fruit trees continue to be the main attractant.</p> |
| 128 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I welcome this option to allow people to produce their own eggs.</p> |
| 129 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |

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| 130 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 131 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This will be a great move for the communities of the District of North Vancouver. I support it 100%. |
| 132 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think it would be an amazing community experience to have hens in my neighbourhood even though I might not ever have any. |
| 133 Y? | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 134 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Most definitely I support the bylaw allowing chickens in single family backyards. Many benefits including healthier and happier chickens and thus eggs, educational for children and will be my opportunity to take a stand against factory farming. A question I have - with your requirement to register the chickens, does that mean you will be charging for this? Is it a one time license cost or will you be charging every time acquire a new chicken? Looking forward to this bill being passed.Barbara |
| 135 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think anything we can do to promote local food production is great education for our young people and also great emergency preparedness for our communities. |
| 136 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 137 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think it's how the neighbors surrounding your yard feel at the time of "your projects" start. If everyone doesn't have a problem, then its okay. Neighbors of the future, will have to put up with the situation they have bought into |
| 138 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |

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| 139 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 140 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think this is critically important to allow families and communities the pleasure of having hens and knowing where their food comes from. I have had hens in the past and can say they were incredible and did not pose any of the problems that people are sometimes concerned about. |
| 141 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 142 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? My neighbour used to have chickens and they were no problem. In fact we all enjoyed fresh eggs together with a lot of children seeing nature first hand You should YES YES YES |
| 143 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Yes! I support this by law |
| 144 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 145 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] 1 Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Chickens respond to being loved and recognize the people who are kind to them. Will come running when their name is called My chicken is not a drumstick! Glad the DNV is almost unanimous in supporting the hen bylaw. |

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| 146 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I wholly support the proposed bylaw amendment allowing domestic hens in backyards. When I was growing up in North Van in the late 1970's, early 1980's a local farm run by the Spendlove family raised chickens, roosters and geese and grew many vegetables. I remember fondly the sound of the roosters calling us to wake up in the early hours (yes, I know that roosters will not be legal - but regardless their call was soothing).</p> <p>Chickens are quiet and inoffensive - when they are pets they produce eggs for family consumption and can through their natural foraging inclinations be used to prepare vegetable gardens for replanting. They will also de-sod grass areas as part of their daily routine.</p> <p>Creating a safe enclosure for them really isn't that difficult with a bit of knowledge. Predators can be easily and firmly secured against (eg. Bears, coyotes, raccoons, etc.)</p> <p>I feel the inclusion of chickens to our north shore families is well overdue.</p> <p>Please confirm your support for north shore family's chickens with your vote.</p> <p>Sincerely [REDACTED]</p> |
| 147 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 148 Y? | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 149 Y? | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This will enable us to re-connect with where our food comes from, to teach youth how to properly care for animals and ensure they are cared for in a healthy, natural environment.</p> |
| 150 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 151 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 152 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I fully support it and feel that we should catch up to our neighbours in both the West and North Vancouver Cities.</p> |

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| 153 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Glad it is finally being addressed. Hopefully the outcome is positive.</p> |
| 154 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Bylaws look great!</p> |
| 155 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>My name is [REDACTED] and I am [REDACTED] years old.</p> <p>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 then in a egg factory.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>In conclusion I think that the residents of the district of North Vancouver should have chickens because other urban municipalities have chickens with out any problems so we should have chickens too.</p> <p>Thanks, North Vancouver</p> |
| 156 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 157 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? It's excellent idea.</p> |
| 158 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>Hurray! I am happy to see the positive by-laws drafted for backyard chickens. I sincerely hope they pass easily and we will be having chickens in well cared for flocks this year.</p> <p>I have read through the recommended by-laws and have a few constructive comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I wish we were approving 8 hens. This would provide less pressure to turn over the flock or force higher egg production from each bird. A larger flock allows variable ages of chickens and low producing older hens to be kept longer. 2. Perhaps the bylaw 4.b) (iv) D. has a typo? You could not possibly mean for each chicken to have it's own nesting box... right? A little visit down to Maplewoods Farm with show you that chickens share nesting boxes. A quick reference check with Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens (c. 2010,1995), which is an excellent reference for raising chickens, will inform the staff writing the bylaw that "one nest for every four to five hens" is appropriate. So by my math, only two next |

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| | <p>boxes are required for six hens.... three if you want to have a luxury hen house.</p> <p>3.Chickens naturally put themselves to roost at dusk and naturally wake with dawn. Requiring exact lock up times is likely going to create stress for owners and the birds... trying to get chickens to roost early or keeping them cooped in the day can lead them to start pecking at eachother when the hens want to get out and scratch. If the lock up times of 9 PM to 7 AM are going to be enforced, then the coops should be larger to facilitate healthy chicken socialization when cooped in daylight hours. I favour allowing the chickens' natural rhythm determine when they are allowed out in their runs, as this is healthier for them and the flock socialization. Since there are no noisy roosters allowed, I am now sure what is gained by the proposed curfew times.</p> |
| 159 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 160 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 161 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I think that having chickens would be a great experience and it would allow me and my family to have access to fresh eggs.</p> |
| 162 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 163 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This bylaw needs to happen. If we are interested as a society in a move towards sustainability and environmental responsibility, then we must allow and promote home production of foods. The edible garden concept need to expand into the edible community gardens encompassing all community spaces rather than using them to grow purely ornamental things.</p> |
| 164 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? It's time we that we get on board with this proposed bylaw. We should be encouraging a more sustainable lifestyle in our community. The chicken industry is a cruel existence for birds. I would love to produce eggs from some healthy and well loved birds in my own backyard. Chickens would manage my compost needs removing the city from the cost of transporting my waste. It just makes sense.</p> |
| 165 Y | <p>Your postal code [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>What happens when it goes to -8 at night. I don't see anything in the proposal that says that they have to have some sort of heat for those cold winter days.</p> |

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| 166 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |
| 167 Y | Your postal code: [REDACTED] Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? |

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| 1 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? There needs to be some sort of reference to the "bird flu"... reassurance that it isn't an issue, unless it could be a problem. Otherwise people might panic next time bird flu is in the news.</p> |
| 2 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 3 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? While I do think it is a nice idea, I don't think the size of the majority of the lots in the District of NV can actually support the amount of manure that will be produced by the hens. I think the romance of having fresh eggs will attract users who will underestimate the work involved in raising poultry. As long as the District is okay with manure ending up in residential garbage, and the local animal welfare groups are happy to accept unwanted hens, I think it is reasonable.</p> <p>But please do not think that 'composting' chicken manure is a feasible option for disposal in this circumstance.</p> |
| 4 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I actually like the idea.</p> <p>I grew up on a farm and we had chickens. I was fabulous having fresh eggs.</p> <p>However, I don't think this is the right area for this. I'm a parent of [REDACTED] and I like that they are getting to the age where they can walk on their own to the local store for treats to the park in the summer. It already concerns me when I see the bear sightings signs pop up and I don't want to worry about cougars roaming the neighbourhoods looking for snacks and finding kids instead. Last summer we had a few sightings in our area and I don't want anything to encourage them further. So no, reluctantly, I'm not in favour.</p> |
| 5 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? If I wanted to live next to a chicken coop, I would live out in Surrey or Langley. Chickens smell, there's no getting around it. I know because we had them when I was a kid - out in the country. Added to that, we already have enough problems with marauding raccoons going after our green cans without adding fresh eggs to their menu.</p> |

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| 6 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>Hi,</p> <p>Aside from the possible health benefits of eggs from well-fed, happy chickens, I don't see many benefits.</p> <p>Economic benefit? None. Eggs are so cheap at the store. By the time people buy the chickens, purchase materials for a proper chicken coop, hire a carpenter to build one, continually buy high quality chicken feed, pay for vet bills and eventual slaughtering or disposal, it's a negative proposition.</p> <p>Neighbourhood benefit? None. I live in a super quiet neighbourhood. I treasure this. If some chicken wakes me up in the morning, I won't be happy about that at all. Add to that the probability of the chickens attracting prey (e.g. RATS, cougars). But worst of all, you cannot control how someone will take care of them. Mess, smell, stinking compost, unreasonably sized coops, etc. All potential neighbour-to-neighbour conflict areas.</p> <p>So, if you're proposing this chicken thing, you've probably already decided that it will happen. But please consider these actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Require new owners to take a certification course in animal husbandry, specifically chickens. Model it on the extensiveness of the "Serving It Right" certification. Then they might have some clue of what they're getting themselves and their neighbours into. - Require owners to inform their neighbours in writing and get approval from them before setting up the farm. - Provide avenues for disposal/donation of chickens after their egg-laying days are done. Most people don't realize that they only lay eggs for a few years, not forever. <p>There's probably more I can say, but it's dinner time. I have to check the chicken in the oven. Thanks.</p> |
| 7 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? My concern is enforcement challenges and the risk to natural predators that will inevitably come with the chickens</p> |
| 8 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |

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| 9 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I AM NOT GOING TO ACCUSE YOU of being absolutely daft as you have not (yet) approved this. In case it has escaped anyone's notice we don't live on a farm. Anybody out there had a good whiff of chicken shit?? It makes that compost facility (in Langely or Surrey?) that the locals are going nuts over, look (smell) like a perfume factory.</p> <p>I am not sure how much noise a half dozen chickens will make but I suspect it is enough that a 5:00 AM meeting of The Flock will not result in a happy Sermon on the Mount.</p> <p>You, collectively, have driven home how we must keep our garbage out of the reach of bears. With this idea you may as well put up a neon sign, "Bears! Good Eats Here!" I suspect cougars also have hankering for some good old Kentucky Unfried Chicken too. So, the bears and cougars will have to be "put down". And the put down will not be "man, that's so bogus". Or it might be but it will be accompanied by the business end of a shotgun. Of course the odd family pet will take a run at these snacks. Then the effluent will hit the whirling device. It will be "Dog Owners must control their pets and it is up to the Municipality to protect the chickens!" (sorry I just can't make myself say Dog Guardians or whatever is currently the PC descriptive).</p> <p>I know, I know the Chicken McNutters will profess that with good regulations it will all be under control. No it won't. And for the sake of a few dozen eggs why do this? The world will not be a better place by bringing chickens into the Municipality. I almost guarantee neighbour against neighbour. I know there is an urge to be PC here but really. It is time to CHICKEN OUT. In this case that is a positive thing.</p> |
| 10 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 11 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Can see no justification to allow it and just the potential to have them creates more community anxiety than benefits.</p> |
| 12 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? We don't live in farmland. Having hens all over will only attract more predators (bears, cougars) to the residential family areas.</p> |

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| 13 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I have major concerns about attracting wildlife. In [REDACTED] we often have cougar, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, rats, eagles, hawks, as well as the occasional bear and deer trekking through our area, as we are close to the Capilano River as well as First Nations Reservations (which also attract wildlife when they are drying salmon in the summer). It is common in the spring/summer to have reports of cougars and coyotes walking down our streets in the mornings, just before school starts, and I would hate to encourage their existence in the neighbourhood, for their safety as well as our children's safety. I also question the ability of most people to follow all of the bylaws. Your reports show # of complains, not PERCENTAGE of complaints... From our experience with off-leash dogs in the neighbourhood, I do not have faith in people taking proper precautions with their chickens. I am furthermore concerned about noise, odor, and attraction of rats (we have thousands down here!). From online postings on social media, farmers have posted that hens do in-fact make a considerable amount of noise, their feces STINKS (I really don't see people disposing of this properly... what about salmonella in compost?? Does it die?), and attract rodents.</p> <p>If the district would like to explore having local hens, I would prefer them to be in community co-op farms instead. There are a number of local "farms" and they would offer better facilities and oversight to ensure the safety of the hens and mitigate risk involved. I would suggest a co-op for those people who are interested in keeping and maintaining hens and that only they have access to eggs produced. This would allow those interested to be in contact with one another and allow the rest of us to live with out worry about the other negative effects. These "farms" could also be open to the public for display of the chickens for educational purposes. Please think out-side of the box on this! I think that MORE people would be involved if it were small co-op based and there would be fewer complaints, by-law infractions and wildlife encounters.</p> |
| 14 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? We have enough problems with wildlife in the District. No reason to add to the problem!</p> |
| 15 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? Yes Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? No</p> |
| 16 Y | <p>I am definitely against this dumb idea, will increase our rat and racoon population by 200%</p> |
| 17 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Are we trying to increase conflict with wildlife? This will be snack time for coyotoes, bears and raccoons. And who's going to police/enforce whether the structures are sturdy enough to contain the chickens, let alone that they're kept clean and not smelly.</p> |
| 18 Y | <p>Hi Christina,</p> <p>We just saw the proposal for backyard hens in the North Shore News and would like to express our objections to such a proposal.</p> <p>We live in an area where wildlife abounds. Our biggest concern is that chickens will continually attract rats, raccoons, skunks, coyotes, bears and cougars.</p> <p>We do not want such predators accessing our yard in an attempt to gain access to a neighbour's</p> |

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| | <p>chickens or their feed.</p> <p>Nor do we want any related odours. Speaking of odours, what is the expectation with regard to disposal of the manure?</p> <p>Should we also be concerned about the possibility of avian flu?</p> |
| 19 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I am strongly against this bylaw. The district can't even enforce the bylaw which disallows dogs on school property. How are they going to enforce this bylaw? Coops can be built in places that disrupt neighbors who choose not to have hens. They are noisy and it is not necessary for people to have them in an urban setting</p> |
| 20 N | <p>Hi Cristina,</p> <p>I live in the City but I will share anyway.</p> <p>Rats are a big problem all over the North Shore and poultry raising attracts rats. The District should be prepared for a way to address the problems that will arise should they go ahead. Increased density and rural pursuits don't mix well even though we might wish that they could.</p> |
| 21 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 22 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? No need for more wild predators near by.</p> |
| 23 | <p>I vote no for the hen proposal. If people want hens they should move to the Fraser valley. They have tendencies to escape their enclosures, dig up people's gardens, cause rat problems, and they smell. People don't have time to maintain them or the yard space to care for them. It's not fair to the neighbours or the hens themselves.</p> |
| 24 | <p>I vote for no backyard hens, they will cause a disturbance to people in the community and have a tendency to escape thier enclosure and ruin things for other people, they are not able to live a proper life because people do not have the time or proper space to care for them. Its animal abuse. Is that something you really want to support and a part of? Ask your self that before making the wrong decision.</p> |
| 25 | <p>My husband and I would prefer not to allow backyard hens in the district. They will inevitably attract rodents and more importantly bears. We do not want to see more bears slaughtered because of humans and their attractants being introduced into what is their natural territory.</p> |
| 26 Y | <p>Good day Cristina - re your advert in NS News –</p> <p>We and a neighbour are against the proposed bylaw allowing chicken coups –</p> <p>There will be more coyotes and rats (and black bears?) in our area if chickens are kept in back yards. There may also be more nuisance barking by our neighbours dogs when they hear the chickens.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> |

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Dear Christina Rucci

Re district contemplating 2 – 6 chickens (no roosters) per single family residential zones:

Cons:

A. WILDLIFE AND DOMESTIC ANIMAL IMPACTS It will attract more wildlife (endangering the wildlife as well as the chickens): <http://articles.extension.org/pages/71204/predator-management-for-small-and-backyard-poultry-flocks>

- 1) **Bears:** We often get black bear problems. This will attract them X10 – more natural and tasty than garbage. Just google **will black bears eat chickens**

<http://www.backyardchickens.com/a/bear-chicken-predators-how-to-protect-your-chickens-from-bears>

Bears are generally omnivorous. Their greatest predatory edge is their heightened sense of smell, which guides them to their prey. These powerful olfactory senses are believed to be more powerful than those of dogs or any other mammal. Unlike most predators (like raccoons, crows, rats, foxes, opossums, and cats) who will lie in wait until no one is around to strike, bears attack and break through your defences — especially when faced with food he enjoys. These animals can easily destroy picket fences and small wood sheds just to get to your chicken feeds. Along the way, they will eat as many panicking chickens as they can as they tear through the coop using their sharp claws.

- 2) **Dogs:** As we have a problem with too many dogs running unleashed around – if people read this then there will be an increase of 2-3 more dogs per household.

Domestic dogs allowed to run free in a neighborhood can be a problem for poultry flocks. They often kill simply for the fun of it. Dogs descended from the wolf and have retained some of the hunting instinct of this predecessor. Not all dogs will attack a poultry flock. In fact, some breeds are good guard dogs for a flock. Factors that contribute to the likelihood that a dog will attack a flock include the breed of the dog, the presence of other dogs, and the dog's past experiences. Some breeds have a greater tendency to chase prey than others. This inclination can be heightened by the presence of other dogs, often resulting in pack behavior. Also, if a dog has had success in the past at getting food by attacking a poultry flock, it is more likely to repeat the behavior.

People already have dogs pooping up and down Lonsdale, running unleashed in school yards – Do we want to double or triple that number for the back to the wilderness aficionados that decide they are going to go Rambo to protect their chickens. The unleashed dogs will simply run off and scare and terrorize the chickens..

While dogs have been known to attack chickens and devour their young, they can be trained as puppies to leave the chickens alone and become livestock guardian dogs that will protect your flock and deter predators instead. Have at least two or three of them around your backyard. **While there is no guarantee that bears will not intrude**, guard dogs can be an effective deterrent.

So the untrained, unleashed ones (like I don't see that all day long already), will be out in full force to try to get the chickens. Other wonderdummies will increase their dogs by 2 or 3 more, and if they are as ignorant as a lot of dog owners I see we are going to have a lot of problems with this.

- 3) **Raccoons** - Lately it hasn't been bears chasing garbage cans in the district but raccoons, which are pretty clever a learning to unlock latches, etc.
Raccoons enter poultry houses and take several birds in one night. They often tear and chew a bird's breast and crop and sometimes eat the entrails. They may remove eggs from the nest and take them away, usually within 9 meters (28 feet) of the nest, to eat them. Garbage cans and dumps can be major sources of food, attracting raccoons to urban areas. Once settled in an area, raccoons will seek other food sources, including backyard poultry flocks.
- 4) **Skunks** - Skunks do not kill many adult birds. In general, when a skunk attacks a flock, it kills only one or two birds and mauls others considerably. Also, skunks love eggs. Usually, a skunk opens an egg at one end and punches its nose into the hole to lick out the contents. Eggs that have been eaten by a skunk may appear to have been hatched, except that the edges of their openings are crushed. A skunk may remove eggs from a nest but rarely carries them more than 1 meter (3 feet) away.
- 5) **Coyotes** - There are a lot of these up in the Capilano and Seymour watersheds. This would attract them down into the district suburban areas.
- 6) **Bobcats** - One of the most common wildcats in North America, the bobcat is only about twice the size of a typical domestic cat. Bobcats prefer woodlands but will venture into backyards in search of prey, especially where housing encroaches on their normal habitat. There are significant numbers of these in our watersheds as well. Chickens entice them to go into backyards. Like cats, bobcats can see in low light. They prefer to hunt during the twilight hours of dawn and dusk but will attack any time of day. They can easily carry off a chicken or two from your flock. A bobcat may eat an entire bird in a single feeding or carry the carcass away. . (domestic cats will also do this).
- 7) **Rats** - If eggs are missing, one of several predators—including skunks, snakes, rats, raccoons, blue jays, and crows—may be at fault.
- 8) **Squirrels** - Because squirrels are shy, you can just shoo them away. However, they can do considerable damage to your farm. Squirrels love eating chicken eggs and poultry feed, so collect eggs frequently and store feed in secure, preferably metal, storage cans for feed. When other food sources are hard to find, a squirrel may have to take what it can get. This sometimes includes stealing eggs from other animals, or even eggs from your chicken coop. When necessary, squirrels may prey on robin eggs, blackbird eggs, and more. Also when necessary, squirrels will not short stop of eating hatchlings, **young chicks, baby birds**, and the carcasses of unfortunate chicks that have fallen from their nests.
- 9) **Birds** - Will get more crows - add to the crow populations

B. Maintenance - If you allow chickens, how will the district ensure people will be responsible and maintain the birds' environment. Structure sound, safe, humane, secure, clean,

etc. Maintenance of pets – chicken mites, etc. Properly fed. How do you police re diseased birds, inadvertently when buying a chick finding out it is a rooster. What do we do noncompliance, chicken owners ending up with a rooster?

- C. Smell of Chicken Poop** - Coops NEED to be cleaned every few days. How many people will be maintaining this. here are five quick tips to help you keep your chicken coop smelling fresh. If your coop makes you hold your breath when you go in to collect eggs, think about how the chickens feel! It's not too hard to keep the coop clean and fresh, if you do a little bit of cleaning every few days. I am listing a few important basics for you. 1. **Water and moisture are not your friend – (We live in a rainforest climate).** If you slop or spill water when filling the water founts or bowls, the moisture will mix with the droppings and create a bad ammonia odor. The best way to keep this from piling up is to clean up any spills as they happen. We had to switch to a fount style waterer instead of a bowl because we had one duck in with the chickens and she thought we were giving her a small swimming pool each evening. Mrs. Duck could still get enough water to dip her bill in with the water fount. And there was less mess to cleanup in the morning. 2. **Install a box fan to keep air circulating.** Stagnant air smells bad and the flies will accumulate more in a stuffy airless building. Running a fan, even on low speed, will keep the flies, and the odor to a minimum. Not to mention that it keeps the coop from becoming too hot, also. We hang an inexpensive box unit over the coop doorway. You can read more about that [here](#), in my [heat stress post](#). Installing a fan is one of the easiest ways to keep your chicken coop smelling fresh. 3. **Use fresh herbs and rose petals** if you have them, in the nesting boxes and in the sleeping areas. Not only will the herbs and petals smell great, the hens will appreciate the yummy treat. Mint is another great addition and it will help repel pests too. Check out more about using herbs in your nesting boxes. Another good source for chicken information is [here's a link to a great post about using herbs in your coops](#).
- D. Avian Flu** - how do we prevent outbreaks. How much work will it be when there is an outbreak. (All it needs is one unhealthy affected chicken). Who will be filling these out if there is an outbreak. https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Newsroom/downloads/wild_bird_mortality_investigation_protocol.pdf?wt.mc_id=news;&wt.cg_n=hootsuite
 BC Centre for Disease Control: <http://www.bccdc.ca/default.htm>
 • Your Regional Health Authority
 • BC NurseLine 1-866-889-4700 or 604-215-4700 in Greater Vancouver
 • Public Health Agency of Canada: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/influenza/avian-eng.php>
http://www.tractorsupply.com/know-how_pets-livestock_chicken_how-to-protect-your-flock-from-bird-flu
 AI can be spread directly by healthy birds coming into contact with infected birds, and indirectly by birds coming in contact with manure, equipment, vehicles, and people whose clothing or footwear have come into contact with the virus
 Restrict access where your birds are kept. Limit access to only those caring for the birds. Visitors, especially other bird owners, should not be around your birds.
 Wild birds should not have contact with your flock.
 Before entering your bird area, put on clean clothes, disinfect your footwear, and wash your hands.
 Clean cages and equipment regularly.
 Isolate sick birds, and dispose of dead birds quickly and properly.
 If your birds have been around other birds, for example, at a fair, isolate them from the rest of the flock for two weeks. Watch for signs of sickness before allowing them to rejoin the flock.

If you purchase new birds, isolate them from the flock for 30 days.

Do not borrow equipment, tools, or poultry supplies from other bird owners. If you must borrow equipment, including cages and crates, be sure to clean, wash, and dry thoroughly.

- E. Short Egg Bearing life.** Chickens usually don't simply "stop" laying eggs when they get to a certain age, but they will lay fewer as they get older, usually 2-3 years max for any kind of egg laying. That said, most laying breeds will lay less productively in backyard terms for five or seven years. We know of one ancient buff orpington cross who still lays an egg occasionally at 17 years old!!

Factory farms slaughter their poor layers at a year old or so because those girls might lay a couple fewer eggs a week. Laying one or two fewer eggs just isn't usually important in backyard terms, even if you don't regard your hens as pets, but a commercial entity, a factory farm, sees "financial sense" in killing their all their one or two year olds and bringing in fresh chattel. As pets that's fine but owners need to be aware of this.

- F. Old Chickens (non bearers) -** How do we dispose of sick or old chickens

<http://www.hipchickdigs.com/2009/09/how-to-kill-a-chicken/>

www.nwedible.com/you-absolutely-should-not-get-backyard-chickens Meanwhile, if you live in a city or suburb, you have an even bigger problem: your now non-laying hens are taking up your legal urban chicken quota which could be filled with younger, laying hens, and you are stuck. You can't just keep adding to your flock indefinitely when you live on 1/12th of an acre in Seattle. So now you are a Backyard Chicken Keeper without any Backyard Eggs.

Just some thoughts to ponder – is it really worth it?

Pros: Chickens are social creatures, so having more than one can provide company for them to entertain themselves.

All of them seemed to have their own personality, and were varied in color and sizes.

A few of them were even trained to come when called, proving that chickens can be trained to perform a variety of actions on command.

They do not mind being picked up, stroked, cuddled or hugged, **but they can peck at human eyes.**

For this reason, it's best to keep the bird's line of sight away from your own when in close proximity. (warning re small children)

Once you are cleared and ready to obtain the chickens, the Humane Society suggests adopting where possible.

Many hens and roosters end up in shelters, and often chicks can die when being transported through regular shipping channels.

Check the shelters in your area first for any available chickens.

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| 28 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I DO NOT support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in District of North Vancouver backyards. The last thing we need is another attractant for wildlife in our neighbourhoods. Tax payers' money should not be spent policing the permits, housing and waste disposal of hens when our roads, sewage and water infrastructure requires immediate updating and maintenance.</p> |
| 29 Y | <p>Cristina Ruccic/DNV</p> <p>RE: Backyard Hen Comments</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Then on page A14 I read about "a proposal for backyard hens" and I'm invited to send my feedback on the topic.</p> <p>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?</p> <p>We have lived in this single family residential zone(only type of property where 2-6 hens allowed) since [REDACTED]. Like many north shore properties, ours borders a ravine with a stream.</p> <p>Over this [REDACTED] 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!</p> <p>During the first [REDACTED] yrs. our dogs could safely roam about our fenced yard, however; in the last [REDACTED] it's been necessary to personally accompany our "grand-dogs" for their safety because of the ever increasing wild-life visitations.</p> <p>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 [REDACTED] yrs.</p> <p>And now someone has the insane idea to allow "2- 6 hens per property"but oh, NO ROOSTERS!</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> |

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| | <p>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!</p> <p>So, be kind to us all , (including those poor captive chickens), JUST SAY NO!</p> <p>N.Vancouver DistrictAMENDMENT- Please add coyotes to the list of our wildlife visitors in paragraph 5.</p> <p>██████████</p> |
| 30 Y | I am opposed to chickens on private property. The risk of disease vectors increased due to increase in urban wildlife..avian diseases are already on the increase. North Van |
| 31 Y | <p>Your postal code: ██████████</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 32 Y | <p>Your postal code: ██████████</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? This runs a very real risk of inciting conflicts, as surely not everyone will follow the by-law to the letter. It's not something I would want in our neighbourhood. Thanks.</p> |
| 33 Y | <p>Your postal code: ██████████</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Normally I tend to oppose over-regulation but in this case I don't see a practical or substantial benefit to this bylaw. What I do see is yet another issue for our overworked bylaw enforcement staff to deal with - likely a very difficult task in the context.</p> |
| 34 Y | <p>Your postal code: ██████████</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |
| 35 Y | <p>Your postal code: ██████████</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>It will attract wild life no matter how you fence the area.</p> <p>Who is going to check in the green bin to make sure there is no waste?</p> |
| 36 Y | <p>██████████</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It takes 1-1 ½ years for chicks to become egg layers - Chickens lay 2 eggs every 3 days for 8 months; then the moult, then they lay eggs for 4 months; then they moult and no longer lay eggs. At this point you have pets which are no longer economically viable that will continue to live 2-2 ½ years - What will people do with aging chickens? Will they set them free and increase wildlife populations? Will excess wildlife be shot? - Start up costs – food, straw, nesting boxes, perches, a proper coop with both exposed and internal areas, etc. - Mess – daily cleaning of nesting boxes; constant sterilization (chickens and eggs are a risk |

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| | <p>for salmonella bacteria); chicken feces on lawns are not healthy for active children and pets,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Level of interest may dwindle over time when chicken owners tire of the constant up keep of their flocks, - What about runaway chickens – who is responsible for them? - Idea to allow 6 chickens at a time for egg laying without a rooster. To maintain a system for continuous eggs you need a multigenerational flock. This plan will not work unless mature chickens are eaten or if allowed to die of natural causes before they can be replaced over time. - Not all responsible people treat animals responsibly i.e. rabbit and coyote populations in Richmond, - Not ideal for busy families and or with other pets. - The simplest solution is to spend \$7.19 and buy a Peter Rabbit farm cageless over time. |
| 37 Y | <p>Hello Cristina; Noticed the ad in the News which indicated that backyard hens are being considered.</p> <p>Based upon some considerable “chicken” experience with our family in the Interior and my own knowledge this idea is a bad idea.</p> <p>The presence of chickens in this area will only add to the growing problem of attracting the ever present “wild animals” already roving the neighborhoods.</p> <p>One only needs to consider the number of cougar, coyote, racoon, skunk and bear sightings and the interactions with house pets to realize that adding something else to the mix is really dumb.</p> <p>The posted street adds asking about missing cats and small dogs may be a clue for those who pay attention to our surroundings. We do have a problem.</p> <p>If someone wants to deal with a real issue, they should consider doing something about the growing rat problem. The North Shore had a Vector Control Officer who dealt with this problem however, to my knowledge no one is doing anything at present. Time to consider dealing with this issue.</p> |
| 38 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I used to live on a hobby farm years ago, in a country setting. We used to have problems with predatory wildlife that required the use of rifles to scare away, or even kill such predators as coyotes who used to break into and raid the chicken coop. That is the stark reality.</p> <p>There will be nothing more disturbing for a family than seeing chickens massacred by wildlife predators in their coop, especially when you can't fend off the predators in a timely way. I am writing this from my own experience in the past.</p> <p>Many of us live near a forested area, with hungry predators like bears and cougars (and the odd coyote) who would see these chickens as easy pickings...</p> <p>We will most likely see more wildlife conflicts over this. What may work in Vancouver's urban area, will not work well in the District... So, I have to say "no" to chicken coops...</p> |

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| 39 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I do not support the by-law as I believe the birds will break noise bylaws. For those in condos you would be amazed how much we hear. Even 25 stories up. Sound travels very well so I would hate to be constantly awoken by birds day and/or night. Remember, not everyone works 9 to 5 shifts... Besides the fees and fines what about the keepers being regulated to have the birds checked regularly by a vet? This should also be considered and enforced so that bird viruses are not spread. Thank you for allowing me to comment.</p> |
| 40 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? If people want to farm animals then it needs to be conducted in an area that is conducive to those types of activities. I also have legitimate concerns with increased activity from predatory animals such as Coyotes & Cougars. Every year we have issues with predators such as these in our neighbourhoods and I'm afraid that with these types of "food sources" in our backyards, their natural inclination to hunt these birds is obvious and sadly, it's going to be the Cougars & Coyotes that pay the ultimate price when they are later trapped or euthanized because of there increased presence in our neighbourhoods. There are wide spread restrictive covenants on many North Van homes restricting this type of activity and I can't help but think that they were put there many years ago for good reason.</p> |
| 41 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I have made my views known (in more detail) in an e-mail to Cristina Riccici. As I have had no reply, I'm not sure if it has been received. Basically though, as a bear advocate I feel it is very unwise to bring another element of bear attractants into our community. Please refer to my e-mail to Cristina for my reasons.</p> |
| 42 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>No. I have an alerge to chicken dust, my eyes get itchy and red. Due to health concerns my neighbours would or should not have any chickens as it would affect my quality of life and health. I do not believe anyone can control the wind blowing this dust around.</p> <p>Another concern is how frequently would the owners pick up the chickens feces, the same as dogs, which should be as soon as it is dropped? Or the smell would be another major concern to neighbours quality of life.</p> |
| 43 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>I oppose the bylaw change because dog owners have shown us that they do not adhere to dog control bylaws and they feel they are above the law. I have no reason to believe that chicken owners will be any different. Addituonally, bylaw enforcement will be a cost to already over taxed residents.</p> <p>I also feel that this is possibly the beginning of a disturbing trend. What would be next? Goats? Pigs? Cows?</p> <p>NO, NO, NO!</p> |

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| 44 Y | <p>We are writing to you to oppose the above. We realize that our say will have no bearing as both the District of West Vancouver and the city of North Vancouver have approved and currently has been implemented in single residential zones.</p> <p>We can voice our opinion "first" hand as we have been in reach and in hearing distance with hens for about 5 years.</p> <p>Let us explain. Our neighbours in the back [REDACTED] have hens on district encroachment land. In other words the coop is not on their property. We have been in contact with the Bylaw department (Shawn 604-990-6191). Should the district approve backyard hens, Shawn will ensure that the coop is solely on residential property.</p> <p>Now back to why we disapprove of backyard hens. Because we are so close to the coop here are our reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • we cannot have our windows open as the noise from the hens disturbs our sleep waking us up very early. • It attracts the rodents because of the bird feed on the ground. The rodents are entering our shed which is practically behind the coop. • The stench from the coop is strong and we can smell it in our backyard. <p>Personally we think that hens belong on farms where there is space for them as well as space from neighbours.</p> <p>We hopefully will hear back from you on this issue.</p> |
| 45 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? Our neighbour had chickens. Woke us up at sunrise every day. Chickens ran loose and onto our yard often. Spend time building better roads</p> |
| 46 Y? Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw? I guess I would be in favour of it if I new that the coop would not be constructed next to my patio. If there is an alley way, why not insist the coups be located in the centre of the lot and at the back - as far away from the property lines as possible. Or, when the backyard abuts to another property it be located next to the house in the centre and not on either side of the property. Not everyone will keep the coups clean and when children are involved the novelty soon wears off. Have you ever smelled a hamster cage when the kids decide this is not fun anymore?! I do recall a neighbour having his entire backyard with fencing constructed over it and about 14 chickens clucking and digging. It was rather fun to take the children for a visit. While I know this won't happen, chicken manure is rather stinky. Oh and if I ever chicken sit for the summer do I get to keep the eggs? :)</p> |

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| 47 | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> <p>Smell from the composted waste</p> <p>Attraction to rodents and crows, flies etc Noise factor... they do make a noise.</p> <p>Why six when dogs are restricted to three.?</p> <p>In a perfect world everyone respects the rules but in this age of populism few do...many dog owners do not respect the on leash rule, trash dropping is abundant, parking rules are not respected nor are secondary suite rules, marijuana shops etc...why will chicken owners be any better...just one more problem.</p> <p>Hens tend to stop laying after two years, and then you can't kill them...so what do you do? create a hen sanctuary?</p> <p>And we have children who go to school hungry everyday, traffic that doesn't move, a rec centre that still isn't open...get real councillors!</p> |
| 48 | <p>Does not support. Live next to the river and are worried that hens will attract wildlife in the area. Already have lots of wildlife in the area. Also worried about noise level and disease and droppings. Also who will monitor to ensure that the bylaw is being adhered to?</p> |
| 49 Y | <p>Your postal code: [REDACTED]</p> <p>Do you support the proposed bylaw to allow domestic hens in backyards? No Do you have any comments about this proposed bylaw?</p> |

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| AGENDA INFORMATION | |
|--|-------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting | Date: November 21, 2016 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | Date: _____ |

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|  Dept. Manager |  GM/ Director |  CAO |
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The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

November 16, 2016
File: 10.4900.30/002

AUTHOR: Cristina Rucci, Social Planner

SUBJECT: Draft "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw"

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the report prepared by the Planning, Permits and Properties Division and the Draft "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw" Bylaw (Attachment A), dated for reference November 16, 2016, be received for information and that staff be directed to proceed with the bylaw for Council consideration.

REASON FOR REPORT:

To provide Council a draft bylaw regarding the keeping of domestic hens for their review and consideration and to outline next steps for public consultation.

SUMMARY:

At the regular Council meeting on July 4, 2016, Council considered a report regarding the keeping of domestic hens. The report, included as Attachment B, provided Council an overview and comparison of the various bylaws that have been adopted by the City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, District of Squamish and the City of Vancouver around the keeping of backyard hens. During the discussion, Council raised some questions around the number and the nature of the complaints received by the other municipalities, particularly by the City of Vancouver. Further, Council requested that staff prepare a draft bylaw for their review and consideration and to provide next steps regarding public consultation.

BACKGROUND:

The Canadian Liberated Chicken Klub or CLUCK has been actively involved in advocating for the keeping of backyard chickens across the North Shore over the past 5 years and have made presentations to District Council in both 2012 and 2016, to the City of North Vancouver in 2012 and to the District of West Vancouver in 2015.

Following the delegation in 2012, District Council directed staff to provide clarification regarding issues such as increased bear activity, the risk of Avian Influenza and Salmonella, odour control, noise, increased staff costs associated with bylaw enforcement issues as well as the humane treatment and disposal of chickens (see Attachment C for the staff report). A

Council workshop was held to discuss these issues and Council's direction at that time was to not take further action.

In July of 2016, a delegation by CLUCK reported that bylaws for enabling backyard chickens had been successfully adopted and implemented in a number of municipalities including the City of North Vancouver (2012), District of West Vancouver (2016), District of Squamish (2014) and the City of Vancouver (2008). Following this delegation, Council directed staff prepare for their consideration a draft bylaw for the District of North Vancouver.

EXISTING POLICY:

The following policies in the District's OCP support the District's involvement in food security and urban agricultural initiatives:

- 6.3.12 Encourage sustainable, local food systems through initiatives such as promotion of healthy, local foods and food production, and the facilitation of community gardens, farmers markets, urban agriculture initiatives in appropriate locations.
- 6.3.14 Collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health and other community partners in their efforts to provide increased access for all members of the community to safe, nutritious food.
- 6.3.15 Develop a food policy that defines the District's vision and commitment to facilitating a food system that supports long-term community and environmental issues.

The North Shore Food Charter was endorsed by Council in July 2013. The Food Charter provides a framework for North Shore governments, organizations, communities, and stakeholders to guide innovative work, and to encourage cohesion around issues such as food production and access to safe and healthy food. In its capacity as a tool, the Charter links policy and community action, and provides a reference for managing food system issues on a system-wide basis.

The Regional Food System Strategy was adopted in 2011 by the Metro Vancouver Board. This strategy encourages a collaborative approach to a sustainable, resilient and healthy food system that will contribute to the well-being of all residents and the economic prosperity of the region while conserving our ecological legacy. A number of goals are outlined in the strategy which can relate to the keeping of backyard chickens: Goal 1: Increased Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home; Goal 2: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices; and Goal 3: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food.

Council endorsed the 2016 Regional Food System Action Plan on October 3, 2016. This Plan summarizes the actions that local governments have indicated they are planning to undertake in the next 3-5 years to advance a regional sustainable food system. Although the District did not specifically indicate in the Plan, it is an action that is in keeping in line with the plan, and would fall under Goal 4 "Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse & Affordable Food".

ANALYSIS:

Items for clarification as requested by Council:

At the meeting in July of 2016, Council requested further information regarding issues that have emerged with registered chicken owners in the City of Vancouver (CoV) including the number of complaints that are received annually. Staff contacted the CoV and a summary of their response is noted below:

- Since 2008 when the CoV bylaw was adopted, there have been 233 home registrations. Actual numbers of homes with backyards chickens is likely higher since registration is voluntary.
- There are an average of 20 chicken-related complaints reported annually; most are for stray chickens (many escape from poultry processing plants), followed by chickens running loose in a yard, and finally roosters (people sometimes buy chickens too young and they are not properly sexed). The CoV has received very few complaints around noise, odours or wild life conflict. Only a few fines have been issued and there has been an occasional zoning charge regarding where a coop is located. Most complaints are unfounded (owners are complying, coops comply, chickens are registered, so no legitimate complaint).
- Most stray chickens have been taken by owners of hobby farms.
- Disease has not been an issue as the chicken population is small and well-dispersed.
- The Animal Control Officer responds to chicken complaints.

In the City of North Vancouver, hen owners do not have to register their chickens, however it is estimated that there are approximately 20 coops in the municipality. Staff typically receives approximately 1-2 complaints per year, generally around chicken housing and noise, although most of these complaints are resolved immediately.

The District of West Vancouver bylaw was only recently adopted (February 2016). Since that time there have been 3 registrations and zero complaints. This bylaw drew on lessons learned in other jurisdictions and was designed to address potential concerns about disease and unsanitary conditions, humane treatment of the chickens, noise, odours, unsightly coops and concerns about predators such as bears.

Draft District of North Vancouver Bylaw Highlights

To assist Council in determining whether to enable backyard chickens in the District of North Vancouver, staff has prepared a draft "Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw" to demonstrate how such a regulation could be applied locally. This bylaw has been substantively informed by that of the District of West Vancouver with whom we share a similar urban geography, climate and landscape as well as similar potential issues and concerns.

Key elements of the draft bylaw (included as Attachment A), are:

Enclosure and safety

- a. A chicken enclosure (including a sheltered chicken coop and an outdoor chicken run) is required;

- b. Chicken enclosures shall have a minimum floor area of 0.4 square metres per chicken to a total maximum floor area of 9 square metres, and at least 1 square metre of a chicken run per chicken
- c. Chicken enclosures shall have a maximum height of 2 metres.
- d. Chicken enclosures are not permitted in the front yard and shall be set back from the property line as follows:
 - A minimum distance of 1.2 metres from a rear lot line;
 - A minimum distance of 1.5 metres of a side lot line
 - A minimum distance of 1.2 metres from any dwelling unit; may be kept in backyards or side yards where minimum setback requirements are met; chicken enclosures are not permitted in front yards;
- e. Chicken enclosure must be constructed and maintained to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal;
- f. A floor of vegetated and/or bare earth must be provided and maintained;
- g. At least one perch per chicken is required, perch must be at least 15cm long and at least one nest box must be provided per chicken coop;
- h. A chicken must not be kept in a cage unless for the purpose of transport;
- i. Chickens must be kept in a locked chicken coop from dusk until dawn, or from 9:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., where dusk falls later than 9:00 p.m. and where dawn occurs earlier than 7:00 a.m. At all other times, chickens must be kept in the chicken enclosure (chicken coop or chicken run);

Feed Security

- j. Food containers must be secured indoors or in a manner to prevent access by vermin, wildlife and other animals;
- k. Bio-security procedures recommended by the *Canadian Food Inspection Agency* must be followed;

Waste Disposal

- l. Leftover feed, trash, and manure must be removed in a timely manner;
- m. Chickens must not be buried on the property and must not be disposed of except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other facility that has the ability to dispose of chickens lawfully;

Prohibitions

- n. Chickens under 4 months old and roosters are prohibited;
- o. No more than 6 chickens permitted per single family residential building and registration is mandatory;
- p. Sale of eggs, manure, meat or other products derived from the chickens is prohibited;
- q. Slaughtering or euthanizing a chicken on the property is prohibited;

Enforcement

- r. A proposed bylaw would also include wording around seizure and disposition and would give the Animal Welfare Officer authority to donate or dispose of a stray chicken after a 96 hour period.

A new Keeping of Domestic Hens bylaw would require consequential amendments to the Zoning Bylaw. These could include:

- s. Backyard chickens may be permitted in all single family zones;
- t. A maximum of 6 chickens and one chicken enclosure is permitted per single family residential building;
- u. The keeping of chickens shall not contribute to noise, odour or dust to the immediate neighbourhood and must comply with the Zoning Bylaw, Noise Regulation Bylaw, Solid Waste Regulation Bylaw, Nuisance Abatement Bylaw, Rodent Control Bylaw and other applicable bylaws.

Stakeholder Feedback:

The North Shore Black Bear Society has recommended the approach used by the District of West Vancouver (DWV) and is satisfied the West Vancouver Bylaw includes effective measures to reduce wildlife conflict. The DWV Bylaw includes measures found in established backyard chicken programs from the City of North Vancouver, District of Squamish and City of Vancouver.

CLUCK has been supportive of the process in West Vancouver and believes that the approved bylaw is fair and provides sound regulations to guide best practices used in neighbouring municipalities.

Potential Next Steps towards Implementation:

Staff is seeking Council direction as to whether to proceed to public consultation. As directed by Council, and based on the results of public input, staff would further refine the Draft Keeping of Domestic Hens Bylaw with applicable staff including the Animal Control Officer and the Chief Bylaw Officer. This will ensure consistency with other bylaws and confirm enforcement measures.

Subject to Council consideration of the bylaw at a later date, it is proposed that follow-up on any initial complaints is accompanied by an educational approach that provides hen keepers with information and direction to achieve compliance. In order to facilitate this, a user friendly brochure can be developed and made available to each person registering their chicken enclosure and can be posted on the District's web site as well.

Timing/Approval Process:

If Council decides to move forward with the bylaw process, following consultation in early 2017, a refined bylaw could be ready for Council consideration in the spring of 2017, which is generally when the hen season begins.

Concurrence:

Staff has done extensive research on backyard chickens and has reviewed the draft bylaw measures with Bylaws, Environment and Development Planning staff. Should Council decide to move forward with a Bylaw and public consultation, further interdepartmental review and refinement will be coordinated.

Financial Impacts:

Staff time would be required for the public consultation process and the further refinement of a new bylaw. If the bylaw is adopted, enforcement would fall to the Animal Welfare Officer.

Public Input:


Further opportunity for public input would be provided through the public hearing process.

Conclusion:

This report provides to Council a draft "Keeping of Domestic Hens" Bylaw for their consideration and outlines potential next steps including public engagement. This bylaw builds on that recently adopted by the District of West Vancouver and seeks to proactively reduce or avoid potential issues and concerns with noise, smells and wildlife conflict.

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| Attachment A | Draft "Keeping of Domestic Hens" Bylaw |
| Attachment B | Staff Report dated June 22, 2016 "Backyard Chickens – A Review of Bylaws from other Municipalities" |
| Attachment C | Staff Report dated June 12, 2012 "Domestic Chickens – A Discussion and Exploration of Next Steps" |

Respectfully submitted,



Cristina Rucci, MPP, MCIP
Social Planner

| REVIEWED WITH: | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Community Dev. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office _____ | External Agencies: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Services _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Board _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> NS Health _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> ITS _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> NVRC _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate _____ | |

| AGENDA INFORMATION | |
|---|--------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Meeting | Date: <u>JULY 4/2016</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Committee of the Whole | Date: _____ |

SMS
Rae
Dept.
Manager

DM
GM/
Director

[Signature]
CAO

The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

June 22, 2016
File: 10.4900.30/002

AUTHOR: Cristina Rucci, Social Planner

SUBJECT: Backyard Chickens - A Review of Bylaws from other Municipalities

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the report and provides direction to staff on the preferred next steps based on the options outlined in this report.

REASON FOR REPORT:

Council considered this item in 2012. At that time, Council made a decision to take no further action until a more comprehensive food policy was developed. This report provides further information to Council regarding the keeping of backyard chickens in response to a delegation made by the Canadian Liberated Chicken Klub (CLUCK) on April 25, 2016. It includes an overview of bylaws adopted by neighbouring municipalities (City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, District of Squamish and the City of Vancouver), lessons learned by those municipalities and options to address the keeping of backyard chickens for Council consideration.

SUMMARY:

On April 25, 2016, CLUCK appeared as a delegation in order to provide Council with information on the benefits of the keeping of backyard chickens, common concerns associated with chickens as well as how hens contribute to sustainability. Following the delegation, a number of questions were asked by members of Council to members of CLUCK regarding the current bylaw, what other municipalities allow, and any conflicts that might arise from allowing backyard chickens. Staff was directed by Council to prepare a report which provides an overview of the bylaws recently adopted by neighbouring municipalities, including the City of Vancouver, City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver and the District of Squamish, as well as to outline any concerns these municipalities have experienced as a result of allowing chickens.

BACKGROUND:

At a Council Workshop held in June 2012, Mayor and Council considered a report prepared by staff regarding domestic chickens. This report provided an overview on keeping backyard chickens and reported on the findings of recent studies on this from Vancouver Coastal Health, the Black Bear Society and the Conservation Officer. A series of options for moving forward were presented to Council. Council recommended that no further action be taken. Since that time, the District became a signatory of the North Shore Food Charter, which was endorsed in

July 2013. The Food Charter provides a policy context to consider the keeping of backyard chickens in the municipality.

EXISTING POLICY:

The following policies in the District's OCP support the District's involvement in food security and urban agricultural initiatives:

- 6.3.12 Encourage sustainable, local food systems through initiatives such as promotion of healthy, local foods and food production, and the facilitation of community gardens, farmers markets, urban agriculture initiatives in appropriate locations.
- 6.3.14 Collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health and other community partners in their efforts to provide increased access for all members of the community to safe, nutritious food.
- 6.3.15 Develop a food policy that defines the District's vision and commitment to facilitating a food system that supports long-term community and environmental issues.

The North Shore Food Charter was endorsed by Council in July 2013. The Food Charter provides a framework for North Shore governments, organizations, communities, and stakeholders to guide innovative work, and to encourage cohesion around issues such as food production and access to safe and healthy food. In its capacity as a tool, the Charter links policy and community action, and provides a reference for managing food system issues on a system-wide basis.

The Regional Food System Strategy was adopted in 2011 by the Metro Vancouver Board. This strategy encourages a collaborative approach to a sustainable, resilient and healthy food system that will contribute to the well-being of all residents and the economic prosperity of the region while conserving our ecological legacy. A number of goals are outlined in the strategy which can relate to the keeping of backyard chickens:

- Goal 1: Increased Capacity to Produce Food Close to Home;
- Goal 2: People Make Healthy and Sustainable Food Choices;
- Goal 3: Everyone has Access to Healthy, Culturally Diverse and Affordable Food.

The Regional Food System Action Plan, which was adopted by the Metro Vancouver Board, on April 29, 2016, identifies a number of strategic and collaborative actions that local governments can undertake to advance efforts towards a resilient and sustainable food system in Metro Vancouver.

The keeping of poultry is currently prohibited in the existing Zoning Bylaw under section 403A(1)(b)(i).

ANALYSIS:

Background:

Over the last 5 years, there has been a growing interest amongst residents on the North Shore to raise backyard chickens for a number of reasons including: access to home-grown, organically

fed, healthy chickens; opportunity to reduce our environmental footprint and 'food miles' by growing food in our neighbourhoods; and an opportunity to feel connected to the land, nature and farming. In response to this interest, the Canadian Liberated Chicken Klub (CLUCK) approached Municipal Councils in the City of North Vancouver (in 2012), the District of North Vancouver (in 2012 and 2016) and District of West Vancouver (in 2015) to create awareness, to educate and to advocate for the keeping of backyard chickens. The group also requested that applicable bylaws be reviewed and revised to allow backyard hens in all three municipalities.

North and West Vancouver Response

In response to the CLUCK delegation, the City of North Vancouver amended their Zoning Bylaw and the Small Creatures Limitation Bylaw to allow hens in one-unit Residential Zones. These bylaws have since been amended and residents in the City have been permitted to keep chickens for the last 5 years. A review of the Zoning Bylaw and what is permitted is outlined in Attachment 1. Although the City of North Vancouver does not require coops or chickens to be registered, they estimate that there are approximately 20 coops in the municipality. The City of North Vancouver receives approximately 1-3 complaints a year, mainly relating to the maintenance of coops. Staff also noted that there has been no increase in staff time related to the keeping of backyard chickens.

Hens were permitted in the District of West Vancouver up to 2008 at which time the Manager of Bylaw & Licensing Services recommended that the keeping of poultry be removed from the Bylaw. The reason for the removal was not because of complaints, but instead due to changing community needs. Following the delegation by Cluck in the spring of 2015, Council directed staff to proceed with public consultation and to report back on next steps. In early 2016, a further report was presented to Council along with draft amendments to the Zoning Bylaw as well as the Animal Control and License Bylaw, which were approved by Council. The latter required that coops be registered as this allows staff to monitor the number of properties with backyard chickens and to track potential issues and complaints.

Other Neighbouring Municipalities that Permit Backyard Chickens

The District of Squamish has allowed backyard chickens since August, 2014. This municipality is unique in that it requires an electric fence around the coop, and a perimeter fence at least 1.5 metres from the electric fence. The District of Squamish is the only municipality in the region that requires electric fences due to their high incidence of wildlife conflict and forested, suburban setting. Since the implementation of the bylaw, only one application has been received. Staff believes that many residents are not registering their chicken coops due to costs associated with getting a Land Title Certificate as well as the costs associated with the installation of an electric fence.

The City of Vancouver has allowed backyard chickens since 2010. There have been 218 households with registered hens since that time. The City of Vancouver has received 169 complaints since the program was implemented mostly related to odour (due to improper siting of coops) and roosters (which are not permitted). The City of Vancouver's purpose built chicken shelter, designed to accept 'stray' chickens, has had very little use.

Some of the common regulations found in the City of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, District of Squamish and City of North Vancouver's established backyard chicken program include:

- No roosters allowed;
- Maximum number of chickens, ranging from 4 to 8 (City of Vancouver (4), Squamish (5), District of West Vancouver (6), and City of North Vancouver, (8);
- Zoning bylaw provisions to differentiate coops from general accessory buildings, regulate coop siting; and identify permitted zones;
- Sale of eggs prohibited;
- Adequate fencing for backyard;
- Minimum age requirements for chickens; and
- Minimum requirements for basic care of chickens.

A comparison of the Bylaws from the four Municipalities is outlined in Attachment 1.

Concurrence:

Bylaw and Business License

District Bylaw staff commented that if backyard chickens were to be considered, then regulation would be needed to disallow roosters, to specify coop size and number of chickens allowed, to monitor noise and smells as well as to create a way capture stray chickens.

Development Planning

Should Council direct staff to prepare a bylaw to allow backyard chickens, Development Planning staff suggest that they be limited to single family residential zones and that the size of coops, siting and setbacks be reviewed.

Environment

The Environment Department does have some initial concerns with the keeping of backyard chickens given that multiple wildlife corridors in the municipality which are connected to the stream corridors. To minimize conflicts with wildlife, environment staff suggest that hens be restricted to areas outside of any Environmental Development Permit Areas, that chicken coops be enclosed by electric fences and that hen food be secured. Other concerns noted by environment staff include tree removal for enclosures; manure, odor and noise and administration, regulation and complaints.

Vancouver Coastal Health

A letter dated May 17, 2016 was prepared by the Medical Health Officer from Vancouver Coastal Health regarding Urban Backyard Chickens (Attachment 2). The letter summarizes the health benefits (education, social, food security and environment) and potential risks, nuisance factors and potential pests and predators. A number of recommendations are outlined in order to minimize the risks, such as prohibition of chicks and roosters, limiting the number of hens, mandatory requirement for chicken enclosures and food storage, mandatory registration of hens in a registry and the prohibition of backyard slaughtering and selling of chicken products. These recommendations would be included in any future bylaw prepared for the District of North Vancouver.

North Shore Black Bear Society

Staff from the Black Bear Society were contacted and a letter dated April 13, 2016 (Attachment 3), was submitted from the Society to Mayor and Council outlining their position on backyard chickens. The Society supports urban food production and feels that potential risks could be


minimized if building and feeding requirements and regulations are articulated in bylaws rather than in general regulations which may not be followed. They note that electric fencing is the best deterrent to keep bears away from chickens, but that there are safety concerns, especially for those that have children. It is suggested that the District consider an information requirement and an annual registration and inspection process.

Conclusion:

This report documents the findings of a review of backyard chicken enabling bylaws. Staff is now seeking Council direction on the next steps which may include:

- Option 1:** Direct staff to report back to Council with further information,
Option 2: Direct staff to proceed to a community consultation process to develop a Backyard Chicken Bylaw for Council consideration,
Option 3: Direct staff to pursue another course of action as determined by Council.

Respectfully submitted,


Cristina Rucci, MCIP, RPP
Social Planner

Attachment 1: Summary of Zoning Regulations for Neighbouring Municipalities

Attachment 2: Letter from Vancouver Coastal Health dated May 17, 2016

Attachment 3: Letter from the Black Bear Society dated April 13, 2016

| REVIEWED WITH: | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Community Dev. _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office _____ | External Agencies: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Services _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Board _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> NS Health _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> ITS _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> NVRC _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum & Arch. _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate _____ | |

ATTACHMENT 1: Summary of Zoning Regulations for Neighbouring Municipalities

| Summary of Requirements | City of North Vancouver | District of West Vancouver | District of Squamish | City of Vancouver |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Allowable Zone | One-unit residential zones | All single family zones, RS1-RS10 | All – but must be a resident on the Property (prohibited in some areas with covenants) | Single family and multi-family Residential Zones |
| Number of Hens Permitted | 8 hens at least 4 months of age. No roosters | 6 chickens at least 4 months old and no roosters. One enclosure. | 5 hens per parcel at least 4 months old. No roosters | 4 hens per lot, at least 4 months old. No roosters. |
| Size restrictions for pens | Included in Urban Chicken Guidelines | Yes - Minimum floor area of 0.4m per chicken and must be under 2m in height. must meet setbacks and be located in backyards. | Yes – Maximum 10 m2 floor area and 2 m2 height. 1.5m from property line. Must be located in backyards with fences. | Yes – maximum area 9.2 m2 (100f2). Must meet setbacks |
| Housing requirements | Included in Urban Chicken Guidelines | Yes – enclosure must include a chicken run, perch and nest box (one per chicken). | Yes – Min 0.37m2 (4 ft2) for coop and run space per hen. Coop must be roofed with perch for each hen and one nest box. | Yes – min of 0.37 m2 (4ft2) coop Space and 0.92 m2 (10 ft2) enclosure space per hen). Perch and nest box for each hen. Must be enclosed at all times. |
| Electric fencing required | No | No | Yes | No |
| Basic care | Included in Urban Chicken Guidelines | Enclosures must be construct to prevent any rodents from harbouring underneath or within it. containers must be secured and waste removed. | Enclosures must be kept in good repair and sanitary conditions, reasonably constructed so as to prevent entry of vermin and wildlife, food secured and waste removed | Enclosures must be kept in good Repair and sanitary conditions and constructed to prevent access by other animals. Food and water must be kept in coop at night. |
| Biosecurity | Not referred to | Must follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) | Must follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) | Must follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) |
| Registry requirement | No (self-regulation) | Yes - one time registration fee of \$50 for the coop | Yes – no fee (only 2 registered so far, but expect there are 20 additional coops) | Yes – no fee |
| Other regulations | Hens shall not be slaughtered or euthanized on the property. Hens shall only be disposed of by delivering to a farm, abattoir, vet, or other facility that has the ability to dispose of hens lawfully. | No slaughtering or euthanizing on the property. Chickens must not be buried on the property. No sale of eggs, manure or meat products. Chickens must be locked in coop from dusk until dawn and manure must not be deposited in the Municipal sewage system. | No slaughtering, no sale of manure or meat. Proper disposal of carcasses, no burying of hens on the property. Hens must be secured in coops from sunset to 7:00am. | No slaughtering of chickens or sale of eggs, manure or other products. |
| Complaints | Approximately 1-3 calls per year | Only call so far was regarding a Stray chicken | Approximately 3-4 per year – mainly around wild life attractant, loose chickens and smell | Received about 169 complaints Since bylaw was implemented in 2010 (about 28/year) |
| Increase to workload | No | No | No | Part of the normal workload |

May 17, 2016

Re: Urban Backyard Chickens

This document was prepared by Vancouver Coastal Health to guide the District of North Vancouver in their consideration of the health impact of raising chickens in an urban backyard setting.

Evidence of the risks and benefits of raising chickens in an urban backyard can be found on both sides and does not clearly favour either position. In addition to improved food security, there may also be social, educational and environmental benefits from keeping backyard chickens. In terms of risk, there are concerns regarding the potential for disease transmission, nuisance factors, and attracting pests and predators. These risks can be mitigated with appropriate public education and regulations.

Summary of health impacts:

Benefits:

- Education: Through raising backyard chickens, families and neighbors can learn animal husbandry practices and biology, and develop a greater awareness for where food comes from.
- Social: Backyard chickens provide companionship, fun, and opportunities to promote community bonding that all contribute positively to psychological wellbeing.
- Food security: Urban agriculture, including raising chickens, offers autonomy over one's food choices and provides access to nutritious food.
- Environment: Backyard chickens may reduce household waste through consumption of scraps and their manure can replace chemical fertilizers if handled appropriately.

Risks:

- Infectious disease: Avian influenza poses a minimal risk to the health of backyard chickens, and the risk of transmission to humans in this context is negligible. Pathogens such as Salmonella and Campylobacter from chickens can contaminate humans directly or indirectly through their food sources. Caring for chickens properly and adherence to hygiene and safe handling practices will reduce risk of disease transmission. Prohibiting backyard slaughter, selling of chicken products and mixing of hens with other animals can reduce risk further.
- Nuisance factors: Odours, noise and aesthetic factors from backyard chickens may lead to neighborhood complaints. Noise from chickens is minimal and can be controlled by prohibiting roosters and limiting the amount of hens per household. Proper disposal of waste and regular cleaning will reduce odours and improve aesthetic factors.

- Pests and predators: Pests, such as rodents and raccoons, may pose a minimal health risk and act as nuisance factors for neighborhoods. Pests can be prevented with appropriate waste management, food and water storage, cleanliness, and pest proofing chicken enclosures. Predators, especially bears, are of particular concern for North Vancouver. Adherence to safety standards and maintenance of chicken enclosures can dissuade and prevent predators from gaining access.

Recommendations:

Should backyard chickens be allowed, the following regulations are recommended in order to mitigate risks:

- Prohibition of chicks (under four months) and roosters
- Limiting the number of hens per household
- Mandatory requirements for chicken enclosures, waste management (feces, carcass, surplus eggs), and food storage that are appropriate for containing birds and discouraging pests and predators
- Mandatory registration of hens in a registry
- Prohibition of backyard slaughtering and selling of chicken products

The District should also consider including an education piece for backyard chicken owners that would include the following:

- Caring for and keeping chickens, including encouraging adherence to Canadian Food Inspection Agency: Bird Health Basics – How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds
- Disease prevention, including hygiene and safe handling practices, cleanliness guidelines, and waste management guidelines
- Pest and predator control
- Direction on how to access poultry health experts

Further Information:

CFIA: Bird Health Basics – How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>

City of Vancouver Report to Council. Guidelines for Keeping of Backyard Hens.

National Center for Infectious Diseases, Healthy Pets Healthy People Program. Backyard Poultry. <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/farm-animals/backyard-poultry.html#cdc-recommendations>

Pollock SL, Stephen C, Skuridina N, Kosatsky T. Raising chickens in city backyards: the public health role. J Community Health. 2012 Jun;37(3):734–42.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22083301>



April 13, 2016

Dear Mayor Walton and Council

Some residents in the District of North Vancouver are keen to keep backyard chickens. The North Shore Black Bear Society appreciates the careful manner that the District of North Vancouver is using to approach this request. We are well aware of the importance of urban food production, and we fully support community gardens and farmers' markets, but we believe that building and feeding requirements and regulations are essential elements to the success of keeping backyard chickens.

Should a municipality choose to permit backyard hens, there are risks if people are left to follow municipal guidelines on their own. As an example, a few years ago a new resident in the City of North Vancouver did not follow the online municipal recommendations about the construction of the coop and fence and feeding and storage of feed, nor did he have an electric fence. Consequently, a bear was attracted into the City below Keith Road, and the bear killed some of the chickens.

We have confidence that the members of The Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Club of North Vancouver (aka CLUCK) are very knowledgeable, thorough and careful. Some of them are very good partners with us as they monitor their neighbourhoods well and inform our organization when a resident needs some guidance with attractant management. The last thing they want is to have a bear to come around for household waste and accessible bird feeders, and to discover their backyard hens.

We do not want wildlife attracted to private property, and we do not want chickens to be killed.

As a result of the interest for backyard hens across the North Shore, we have had discussions with a number of BC communities and organizations – both rural and urban – and inquired about how people can safely raise chickens in communities where there is a potential for wildlife conflict. The information that we gathered is summarized in the following recommendations and is supported in the WildSafeBC position paper, <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/wildsafebc-public/pdf/positionpaper.pdf>.

- **Electric fencing**

Although a properly installed and maintained electric fence is the best deterrent to keep bears away from chickens, we continue to hear safety concerns about electric fences, especially from those who have children. It is important to recognize that electric fences can easily be opened/turned off when residents are outside. This will allow the chickens to move around outside their enclosure while people are present.

Well-researched guidelines for electric fencing is available at

<https://wildsafebc.com/electric-fencing/> These guidelines state: " It should be noted that having an electric fence in an urban setting will be less of a safety issue than having no electric fence and a bear or other predator accessing attractants in that setting."

- **Building requirements**

The fence must be imbedded a certain distance or smaller predators, like skunks and raccoons, can dig under the fence to steal the eggs; in an effort to protect the eggs, some chickens have been killed.

- **Feeding requirements**

The need to feed the chickens in a careful manner and store the feed in a wildlife-resistant container is essential. Strewed seed can attract rats, which in turn brings the coyotes and other wildlife onto the property and closer to the chicken coop for a further meal.

The District of North Vancouver might consider an **information requirement** and an **annual registration and inspection process** if the request for backyard chickens is approved. An applicant for a backyard chicken coop should be able to demonstrate a certain level of knowledge of how to raise chickens in a wildlife-safe manner and/or be required to attend a workshop to learn how to build and maintain a chicken coop in a community where wildlife conflicts can occur. And an annual registration process can pro-actively check for compliance with building and feeding requirements.

Thank you for giving these suggestions your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Regards,

Christine Miller

Education Coordinator/Executive Director

North Shore Black Bear Society

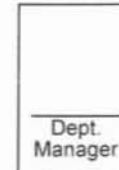
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| COUNCIL AGENDA/INFORMATION | | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> In Camera | Date: _____ | Item # _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regular | Date: _____ | Item # _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agenda Addendum | Date: _____ | Item# _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Info Package | <u>JUNE 25. 12</u> | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council Workshop | DM# _____ | Date: _____ | Mailbox: _____ |



The District of North Vancouver REPORT TO COUNCIL

June 12, 2012

File: 13.6640.20/003

Tracking Number: RCA -

AUTHOR: Cristina Rucci, Social Planner

SUBJECT: Domestic Chickens - A Discussion and Exploration of Next Steps

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council provide feedback on the options outlined in this report to inform proposed directions regarding the keeping of backyard chickens.

REASON FOR REPORT:

To provide further information and seek the direction of Council regarding the keeping of backyard chickens in response to a recent a delegation by the Council of Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK).

SUMMARY:

The keeping of backyard chickens in urban areas is becoming an increasingly popular trend not only in Metro Vancouver, but across North America. This trend has been prompted by people's growing interest in the health and safety of their food as well as by heightened sensitivities around the environmental impact of food and other sustainability issues. In North Vancouver, members of the North Vancouver Chapter of the Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK) approached the Councils in both the City and District of North Vancouver in April of this year to request that they consider enacting a new bylaw which would allow for the keeping of backyard chickens. Through this report, staff provides further clarification around this issue and reports on the findings of the recent studies on this issue as well as the preliminary feedback received from Vancouver Coastal Health, Bear Aware and the local Conservation Officer. A range of potential options are outlined in order to gain Council feedback on the keeping of backyard chickens at this time and to assist staff in developing a recommended direction for Council's consideration at a future date.

BACKGROUND:

At the Regular Council Meeting on April 16, 2012, Council received a delegation from the CLUCK. At the meeting, CLUCK presented a proposal to amend bylaws to allow District residents to keep chickens at their place of residence.

Council requested that staff review the bylaw, work in conjunction with the City of North Vancouver and report back at a future meeting.

EXISTING POLICY:

Policies 6.3.12 and 6.3.15 of the Official Community Plan supports the District's involvement in food security and urban agricultural initiatives, as stated below:

Encourage sustainable, local food systems through initiatives such as promotion of healthy, local foods and food production, and the facilitation of community gardens, farmers markets, urban agriculture initiatives in appropriate locations.

Develop a food policy that defines the District's vision and commitment to facilitating a food system that supports long-term community and environmental issues.

As well, policy 6.3.12 states the following with regards to health and nutrition:

Collaborate with Vancouver Coastal Health and other community partners in their efforts to provide increased access for all members of the community to safe, nutritious food.

The keeping of poultry is currently prohibited in the existing Zoning Bylaw under section 403A(1)(b)(i).

ANALYSIS:

The keeping of backyard chickens is gaining increased popularity not only in Metro Vancouver, but across North America as well. CLUCK is eager that Mayors and Councils in both the City and District consider amending their existing bylaws to allow backyard chickens, similar to what other municipalities have done across the province. The benefits associated with the keeping of backyard hens are included in Attachment A and include benefits associated with health, the environment and the community.

Following the presentation from CLUCK, Mayor and Council received a letter as well as a petition that was signed by a number of District residents concerned about allowing backyard chickens. The concerns expressed by residents include the potential that they will increase bear activity and the risk of Avian Influenza and Salmonella, odour control (including waste removal), noise, increased staff costs associated with bylaw enforcement issues as well as the humane treatment and disposal of chickens. Staff has consulted with local experts and has conducted research regarding many of the concerns expressed.

Increased Bear Activity

Staff has been in discussion with representatives from the Bear Aware Network and the local Conservation Officer (CO), around the correlation between chickens and increased bear activity. Although the CO did not state his position around the keeping of backyard chickens, he did articulate that his role in participating in the debate was around offering his expertise in wildlife management and to take a proactive role in order to avoid conflict.

According to his own personal field experience, as well as the experience of other CO's across the Province, the CO articulated that chickens do and will attract dangerous wildlife, including cougars, coyotes, wolves and bears as well as other wildlife such as racoons and skunks. However, he did note that if effective and enforceable measures were put in place, then conflict would be minimized. Proper pen construction, secure enclosures, feed storage, cleanliness, etc., all contribute to upholding the harmony between wildlife and humans. The CO further noted that municipalities do have a role and must be diligent in ensuring that residents interested in raising chickens abide by bylaws that are enforceable.

Staff from the Bear Aware Network concurred with the CO's synopsis and added that municipalities should further take an active role in ensuring that District residents reduce all bear attractants, including garbage, which is the most significant bear attractant.

Both the CO and representative from Bear Aware did comment on the idea of requiring electrical fencing as a way to deter bears and other wildlife from entering a property with chickens, particularly along greenways, creek beds, etc. Both concur, that if done correctly, and if properly installed and mainlined, electrical fencing is a very effective way to deter wildlife. They also noted, however, that the fencing is very expensive and that the voltage needed to deter wildlife would be felt by a child, which may involve some risks. Staff contacted a local chicken expert in the City of Vancouver and he also commented that low voltage electrical fencing (including solar fencing) is an effective deterrent. He also noted that electric fencing should be a choice for educated residents to make and not a requirement.

Increased Risk of Avian Influenza and Salmonella

In the preparation of their bylaw to allow backyard chickens, the City of Vancouver conducted substantive research around public health concerns commonly associated with the keeping of hens in urban environments. In particular, the City examined Avian Influenza and Salmonella and worked with Vancouver Coastal Health at great length in order to ensure that all the necessary measures would be taken in order to reduce any health risks associated with the keeping of backyard hens. The City of Vancouver's report dated March 24, 2010 is included as Attachment B for Council's information.

Staff also contacted the Manager, Health Protection from Vancouver Coastal Health's North Shore office and he reiterates that the position taken in Vancouver would be the same position that would be taken on the North Shore. He also makes reference to a recently published article 'Raising Chickens in City Backyards: The Public Health Role' – Journal of Community Health (2012, 37:734-742). The following conclusion is reached in the article:

Overall, the risk of pathogen transmission given backyard chicken keeping appears to be low and does not present a greater threat to the public's health compared with keeping other animals allowed by similar bylaws such as dogs and cats."

The article contains information on Avian Influenza (AI) specifically. It states:

While the potential for air droplet transmission exists for AI in commercial poultry operations, it is less relevant for urban backyard chicken scenarios (limited number of birds, outdoor confinement and less potential for reaching high pathogen loads in adjacent air).

If Council considers moving forward with a chicken bylaw, staff will work closely with the Health Authority to ensure that the regulations satisfy concerns around health and safety. It should be noted that VCH has been very supportive of this initiative as it increases local and healthy food options.

Noise and Odour

As discussed in the City of Vancouver's report and also as noted in the research provided by CLUCK, the noise produced by chickens is relatively quiet and intermittent and is not likely to be a significant nuisance, particularly if pens are situated appropriately on the site. The District's Noise Regulation Bylaw 7188, also limits sounds which are objectionable or liable to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of individuals or the public, including any noises or sounds which occur continuously or discontinuously for 15 minutes or more created by animal activity.

In terms of odours, if properly maintained, unpleasant odours should be avoided. Any chicken bylaw prepared by the District would include a provision requiring enclosures to be maintained in a sanitary condition, free of obnoxious smells and substances.

Increased Staff Costs Associated with Bylaw Enforcement

The District's Senior Animal Welfare Officer undertook a random sampling of municipalities across BC that allow chickens or are considering adopting a bylaw which would allow chickens in their municipality. As part of the analysis, included as Attachment C, staff sought input on the number of complaints received due to chicken activity. As indicated in the attachment, the number of complaints received has been relatively low and have been mainly associated with noise (rooster related) as well as some odour complaints, which are mainly due to improper siting. In the City of Vancouver, they sought and received funding for a chicken coop but have not yet built the facility as there has not been the demand, and in fact, they have been able to accommodate the 4-10 annual chickens that they receive in their dog runs. It should be noted that the chickens they do receive are boilers that have fallen from trucks or roosters. In terms of complaints, the City is receiving approximately 20 a year, mostly around rooster related noises (which are not permitted and would not be permitted in the District either).

As a way to circumvent any complaints that would need to be responded to by District staff, a suggestion was made that members of CLUCK could act as an intermediary. In this role, they would contact the chicken owner to ensure that the person is properly educated and

understands District regulations. As well, members of CLUCK are agreeable to maintaining a blog which would be a forum where chicken owners could post questions regarding the raising and maintenance of their hens.

Humane Treatment of Hens

Any bylaw created in the District of North Vancouver would include regulations which would ensure the humane treatment of hens is a priority.

In addition to regulations contained in the bylaw, which would specify setbacks, specifications related to coop and run construction and the disposal of hens, staff would also suggest that any resident interested in owning backyard chickens would be required to attend a course on chicken rearing. Maplewood Farm could act as an ideal location for this course and could be an additional way for the farm to generate some income. Farm Staff have expressed interest in this idea, which was also supportable by members of CLUCK, Bear Aware and other community partners.

Timing/Approval Process:

This report follows on a delegation to Council by CLUCK in April, 2012. The City of North Vancouver is anticipated to report to their Council on this matter in July. Council's feedback from the workshop will help inform proposed directions on the keeping of backyard chickens that would be the subject of a future Council report.

Concurrence:

Staff worked closely with the past Manager of Animal Welfare Services, as well as the Senior Animal Welfare Officer, in preparing this report.

In addition, staff from North Shore Recycling, Maplewood Farm and Bear Aware were consulted along with Vancouver Coastal Health and the local Conservation Officer in an effort to become more aware of the potential conflicts that could arise with the introduction of backyard chickens in the District of North Vancouver. In addition, advice was sought on next steps, such as to how to proceed with public consultation.

Following the delegation made by CLUCK in the City of North Vancouver on April 2nd, the City of North Vancouver Council passed the following resolution:

THAT Council approve in principle the urban chicken proposal presented by the Canadian Liberated Urban Chicken Klub (CLUCK);

AND THAT staff be directed to report back to Council on this proposal and to prepare bylaw revisions based on it.

Based on City Council's resolution, staff have prepared options regarding possible bylaw amendments which would permit backyard chickens. City Staff anticipate that their report to will go to Council on either June 18th or June 25th. District staff will be able to provide further clarification on the City of North Vancouver's direction on this matter at the June 25th workshop.

Financial Impacts:

Staff time and resources would be required for the public consultation process and the potential development of a new bylaw. If a new bylaw is adopted, bylaw enforcement would add to the workload of the Animal Control Officer.

Social Policy Implications:

The social benefits associated with backyard chickens are linked to food security, access to safe, healthy and nutritious foods as well community development and education, for both children and adults. These values are linked to the District's Official Community Plan, which was adopted last year. Noise, odour and other potential impacts exist and would need to be effectively managed as outlined in this report.

Environmental Impact:

The introduction of backyard chickens into the urban environment contributes to the environmental management and sustainability of cities, in that chickens provide natural insect control, they aerate the soil and break down larger pieces of vegetation, thereby accelerating the decomposition process. Also, the keeping of backyard hens fits into environmentally-sustainable living practices such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the 100 Mile Diet and food security. Wildlife conflicts, the management of chicken waste and disposal are potential issues that would need to be effectively managed as outlined in this report.

Conclusion:

The keeping of backyard chickens is one aspect of the urban agricultural movement which is gaining increased attention and popularity in small towns and suburban communities as well as major metropolitan urban centres, from the City of Vancouver to New York City. Despite potential conflicts that could arise due to the keeping of backyard hens, there are many measures that could be adopted to mitigate these conflicts and to maintain harmony between nature and human activity.

To assist in gaining Council's feedback and direction at this time, various options may be considered in the discussion at the June 25th Council workshop including:

- Receiving information on backyard chickens and taking no further action at this time; or
- Convening a public information meeting in collaboration with community partners such as NS Recycling, Bear Aware, Maplewood Farm, Vancouver Coastal Health, the Conservation Officer as well as community groups such as CLUCK to determine level of interest and reporting subsequently to Council; or
- Developing a pilot project to assess the compatibility of backyard chickens in the DNV context, develop model bylaws and monitor outcomes; or
- Developing a bylaw, potentially in partnership with CNV to allow backyard chickens and in consultation with the public; or

SUBJECT: Domestic Chickens - A Discussion and Exploration of Next Steps

June 12, 2012

Page 7

- Considering the keeping of backyard chickens at a future time in the context of development of a more comprehensive food policy for the District which is an objective of the OCP.

Council's feedback is being sought on this matter at this time. Arising from this discussion with Council, staff will make recommendations regarding the keeping of backyard chickens for Council's consideration at a regular meeting.


Cristina Rucci
Social Planner

Attachment A: Benefits of Raising Backyard Chickens
Attachment B: Report from the City of Vancouver dated March 24, 2010
Attachment C: Random Sampling of Municipalities Across BC that have or are considering a Chicken Bylaw

| REVIEWED WITH: | REVIEWED WITH: | REVIEWED WITH: | REVIEWED WITH: |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable Community Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk's Office | External Agencies: | Advisory Committees: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Library Board | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> NS Health | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Operations | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> RCMP | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Fire Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Commission | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Human resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> ITS | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Solicitor | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> GIS | | |

Benefits of Raising Backyard Chickens:

- 1) **Eggs from well-tended backyard chickens are healthier.** Factory farmed chickens live their lives without ever touching the soil or being allowed to hunt and peck for bugs. They are fed an unnatural and unvaried diet. These environmental conditions are designed to produce eggs quickly and cheaply in the factory farm. However, the result is an egg that is less nutritious than one produced by chickens allowed to exercise, peck for bugs and engage in their natural chicken-y behaviour.

In contrast to factory farm eggs, eggs from backyard chickens have 25 percent more vitamin E, a third more vitamin A and 75 percent more beta carotene. They also have significantly more omega-3 fatty acids than factory farmed eggs.

- 2) **Eggs from backyard chickens are tastier.** Eggs produced in the grocery store can be weeks – even months – old. As these eggs age, air seeps into the naturally porous eggshell, degrading not just the nutrition, but also the taste and affecting the consistency of the egg.

Fresh eggs from backyard chickens have firmer whites and bright orange yolks. But the real difference is the taste. Backyard chicken eggs have a more robust taste that is difficult to describe.

- 3) **Chickens are natural composters from start to finish.** Chickens love to eat table scraps and just about anything you were otherwise going to put in your compost. On the other end of things, chicken droppings are high in nitrogen. Added to the compost bin, they add more nitrogen and improve your compost. Chicken manure is a highly regarded additive to soil for most gardeners and is sold in garden centres regularly.
- 4) **Chickens provide natural insect and weed control.** As they hunt and peck around the yard, chickens gobble up grubs, earwigs and other bugs, treating our garden pests as tasty, nutritious treats. They are also voracious weed eaters – dandelions being one of their favourites.
- 5) **Their scratching for bugs is good for the soil.** Chickens are enthusiastic foragers and will scratch around in the leaves and soil searching for the tastiest morsels. As they do, they aerate the soil and break down larger pieces of vegetation with their sharp talons, accelerating the decomposition process.
- 6) **Chickens are fun and interesting.** Every chicken has a personality – and lots of it. They aren't particularly smart, but when properly socialized, chickens can be very friendly and even do tricks.

- 7) **Backyard chickens provide lessons for children about responsibility and where food comes from.** Tending chickens is pleasurable and even easier than caring for a dog. There is no walking the chickens or giving them a bath. However, chickens do require daily food and fresh water. The coop must be cleaned and the chickens inspected regularly to ensure they are healthy. Children can participate in all of these chicken-related chores.
- 8) **The keeping of backyard hens allows hens to live out their lives in humane conditions with caring and attentive owners.** The conditions that most chickens are forced to exist in, large commercially run operations, are deplorable. Chickens are housed by the thousands, crammed three or four to a cage. As mentioned most of these hens never see the light of day or touch the earth throughout their entire lives.
- 9) **The keeping of backyard hens fits into environmentally-sustainable living practices such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emission, the 100 Mile diet, and food security.** It is also extremely cost-effective and requires very little start-up capital. It also educates the owners, their children and neighbours, or animal husbandry, farming techniques and food production. This contributes to a more aware community, and neighbourhood connection.
- 10) **The keeping of backyard hens builds community through the sharing of education and resources.** Our website, www.chickensinnorthvancouver.com, will create an automatic communication hub where people can come together to share advice, information, and even tools or eggs. All of this contributes to developing and sustaining community in North Vancouver.

Supports Item No. 3
P&E Committee Agenda
April 8, 2010



POLICY REPORT
LICENSING

Report Date: March 24, 2010
Contact: Tom Hammel
Contact No.: 604.873.7545
RTS No.: 08315
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: April 8, 2010

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
FROM: Chief Licence Inspector
SUBJECT: Guidelines for Keeping of Backyard Hens

RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT proposed amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law regarding keeping of backyard hens, as outlined in this report and in Appendix A, be referred to Public Hearing;
- FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare the necessary amending by-law, generally in accordance with Appendix A, for consideration at the Public Hearing;
- B. THAT, subject to the approval of the amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law at a Public Hearing,
- i. The Animal Control By-law be amended to provide regulations for the keeping of backyard hens, generally in accordance with this report and Appendix B.
 - ii. Council authorize the Chief Licence Inspector to establish and administer an on-line registry for backyard hen keepers, generally in accordance with this report.
 - iii. Council authorize the expenditure of \$20,000 from the existing Community Services capital budget for construction of a facility to house seized or abandoned hens at the Vancouver Animal Control shelter.
- C. FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward, at the time of enactment of the amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law regarding the keeping of hens, a by-law to amend the Animal Control By-law, generally in accordance with Appendix B.

- D. FURTHER THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward, at the time of the establishment of the on-line registry, a by-law to amend the Animal Control By-law, generally in accordance with Appendix C.

GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The General Manager of Community Services RECOMMENDS approval of A, B, C and D.

COUNCIL POLICY

On March 5, 2009, Council passed a resolution directing Legal Services to bring forward an amendment to the Animal Control By-law removing the prohibition of keeping of backyard hens, and directing staff to develop policy guidelines that both protect the health and welfare of citizens, and ensure the humane treatment of backyard hens.

In January 2007, Council adopted the Vancouver Food Charter which sets out the City's commitment to the development of a coordinated municipal food policy that recognizes access to safe, sufficient, culturally appropriate and nutritious food as a basic human right for all Vancouver residents.

On July 8, 2003, Council approved a motion supporting the development of a just and sustainable food system for the City of Vancouver that fosters equitable food production, distribution and consumption; nutrition; community development and environmental health.

In April 2002, Council adopted a formal position, definition and principles on sustainability.

SUMMARY

This report provides recommendations for the humane and sanitary keeping of backyard hens in Vancouver. These recommendations include amendments to Zoning and Development By-law No. 3575 and Animal Control By-law No. 9150, creation of an on-line registry for hen keepers, and funding for facilities to house hens at the Vancouver Animal Control shelter. The Zoning and Development By-law amendments must proceed to Public Hearing prior to Council action. Since the Zoning and Development By-law amendments are integral to the proposed system of regulation, the remainder of the recommendations are contingent upon their approval.

The proposed by-law amendments, and basic features of the proposed on-line registry, are outlined in Table 1 below:

Table 1. Recommended By-law and Registry Provisions

| Recommended By-law and Registry Provisions for Backyard Hens | | |
|---|---|---------------|
| SUBJECT | RECOMMENDED PROVISION | BY-LAW |
| Allowable zones | Single and multi-family residential zones (RA-, RS-, RT-, RM-, FM-, FSD-) | Z & D |
| Siting restrictions for hen enclosures | – 1 m from property line – 3 m from windows and doors of dwellings | Z & D |

| | | |
|---|---|-------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reduced exterior side yard setback on corner lots – May not be located in front yards – Must be located at grade level | |
| Size restrictions for hen enclosures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maximum area 9.2 m² (100 ft²) – Maximum height 2 m | Z & D |
| Number and type of chickens allowed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Maximum 4 hens per lot, at least 4 months old – No roosters | AC |
| Housing requirements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Minimum 0.37 m² (4 ft²) coop space and 0.92 m² (10 ft²) enclosed run space per hen – Entire structure must be roofed – ≥15 cm perch for each hen and one nest box – Hens must remain enclosed at all times | AC |
| Basic care | Hens must be provided food, water, shelter, adequate light and ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities to scratch, dust-bathe, and roost. | AC |
| Pest control | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enclosures must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ kept in good repair and sanitary condition ▪ constructed to prevent access by other animals – Food and water must be kept in coop at night – Manure /waste must be removed in timely manner – Up to 1 m³ of manure may be kept for composting | AC |
| Biosecurity | Must follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) | AC |
| Other regulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – No slaughtering allowed – No sales of eggs, manure, or other products | AC |
| Registry basics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Register on-line or by phone – No registration fee – Registration materials available in six languages – Registrants must reside on lot with hen enclosure | AC |
| Information provided on registry website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – By-law requirements – Resource page with links to Best Management Practices (BMPs), humane education, and biosecurity information – List of upcoming chicken workshops | N/A |

These recommendations have been reviewed by a number of stakeholders, including staff from several departments (Development Services, Social Policy, Animal Control, and Law); City committees including the Food Policy Council, the Urban Agriculture Steering Committee, and the Policy Implementation Advisory Committee (PIAC); and the interested public. A summary of comments from the public is included as Appendix G.

PURPOSE

This report provides recommendations regarding the keeping of backyard hens, including zoning requirements, animal control regulations, and funding for animal shelter facilities to house impounded and abandoned hens.

BACKGROUND

The Animal Control By-law prohibits the keeping of chickens or other fowl. This prohibition has been in place since 1968, and perhaps earlier. The Animal Control By-law also contains provisions for the housing, impoundment, and disposition of “other animals,” which are defined as “any animal except a dog or domestic cat.”

Section 10.18 of the Zoning and Development By-law requires buildings or runs for birds and animals to be set back 9.1 m (30 feet) from any dwelling, and 18.3 m (60 feet) from the front property line (except in the RA-1 district). It also requires such structures to conform to all applicable by-law provisions applicable to accessory buildings. This section does not define birds and animals, but instead refers to Health By-law No. 6580 (which has since been superseded by the Animal Control By-law). No other reference to birds and animals, and their enclosures, is found in the Zoning and Development By-law.

Although prohibited, some backyard hens are kept in the City, and many individuals have expressed interest in keeping them. Enthusiasm for urban chickens has grown throughout North America in the past few years, as increased attention is paid to issues of sustainability, food security, and consumption of locally grown food. During this time, many North American cities have enacted or updated by-laws to allow keeping of chickens. A summary of by-laws in select North American cities, including Lower Mainland municipalities, is provided as Appendix D.

DISCUSSION

To fulfil Council’s mandate to allow the humane and sanitary keeping of backyard hens, staff recommends adoption of several by-law amendments. These by-law amendments are intended to meet three criteria: protection of public health and welfare; humane treatment of hens; and reasonable access to hen keeping for Vancouver residents.

Siting of Chicken Coops

In order to allow hen keeping by most Vancouver residents, staff recommends a reduction of current zoning setbacks for bird and animal enclosures, and designation of hen keeping as an allowable use in single-family, two-family, and multi-family zones.

Currently, zoning regulations for bird and animal enclosures require a 9.1 m (30 foot) setback from adjacent dwellings, and an 18.3 m setback from the front property line. These setbacks would prohibit hen keeping on many residential lots, most of which are 10 m wide, and some of which are less than 8 m wide. Therefore, staff recommends that a new section be added to the Zoning and Development By-law with specific requirements for hen enclosures. These include a 1 m side yard setback and a 3 m setback from any door or window. The latter requirement would allow hen enclosures to be located adjacent to a deck, porch, or shed, while providing a larger 3 m setback from building interiors. The recommended setbacks would allow for hen enclosures on residential lots with laneway housing, and on many lots

would allow “chicken tractors,” a rotational grazing system utilizing movable coops and runs. Appendix F illustrates how hen facilities would fit on a standard single family residential lot with the recommended setbacks. Under the proposed by-law amendment, hen enclosures would be allowed in side yards, and anywhere in rear yards, including outside of designated accessory building areas. They would not be allowed in front yards.

Corner flanking lots, which lie at the intersection of two streets, and whose rear yard flanks the front yard of the lot behind (with or without an intervening lane), require particular consideration. These lots have one front yard and three side yards, including an exterior side yard (along the flanking street) with a 7.3 m side setback in many residential zones. In order to allow hen enclosures on these lots, staff recommends that the exterior side setback be reduced to the existing or conforming exterior side setback of the primary residence, whichever is greatest.

Staff recommends that hen keeping be allowed in all residential zones, including multi-family, and that all of those zones be subject to the same requirements. Thus, a multi-family development could have four hens per lot, not four hens per unit, and hen facilities must be at grade level. These requirements are necessary to limit the concentrations of birds, for public health reasons, and to ensure that birds receive access to earth for scratching. Another recommendation applicable to all zones is the requirement that keepers of hens reside on the lot containing the hen enclosure, in order to ensure that hens receive appropriate care and supervision. Thus, under the proposed by-law provisions, an apartment dweller could maintain a flock of four hens in the yard of the apartment complex, but could not keep the hens on a balcony. It would be the tenant’s responsibility to obtain property owner approval for keeping hens.

Staff recommends that hen keeping be prohibited in commercial, industrial, and comprehensive development zones, with the exception of the First Shaughnessy District (FSD), due to the lack of suitable physical environments and absence of supervision on many commercial and industrial sites, particularly after the close of business. Staff also recommends that hen facilities be prohibited, for the time being, in public parks and community gardens, again due to the absence of consistent supervision, particularly at night, and the complexity of establishing responsibility for maintenance and care of the hens. The latter recommendation could be revisited once basic hen keeping provisions are in place, and a more detailed review of communal hen keeping is possible.

Staff also recommends some limits on the size and height of hen facilities, including a 9.2 m² (100 ft²) floor area limit, and a 2 m height limit. The height restriction is recommended to minimize visual impacts, and the floor area restriction allows the coop to be exempt from Floor Area Ratio (FAR) limits and building permit requirements.

Humane Treatment

In its resolution, Council cited the humane treatment as a priority in the development of guidelines for keeping hens. Humane treatment of farm animals is commonly defined by the “five freedoms,” as developed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, an advisory body to the UK government. These include:

1. Freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.

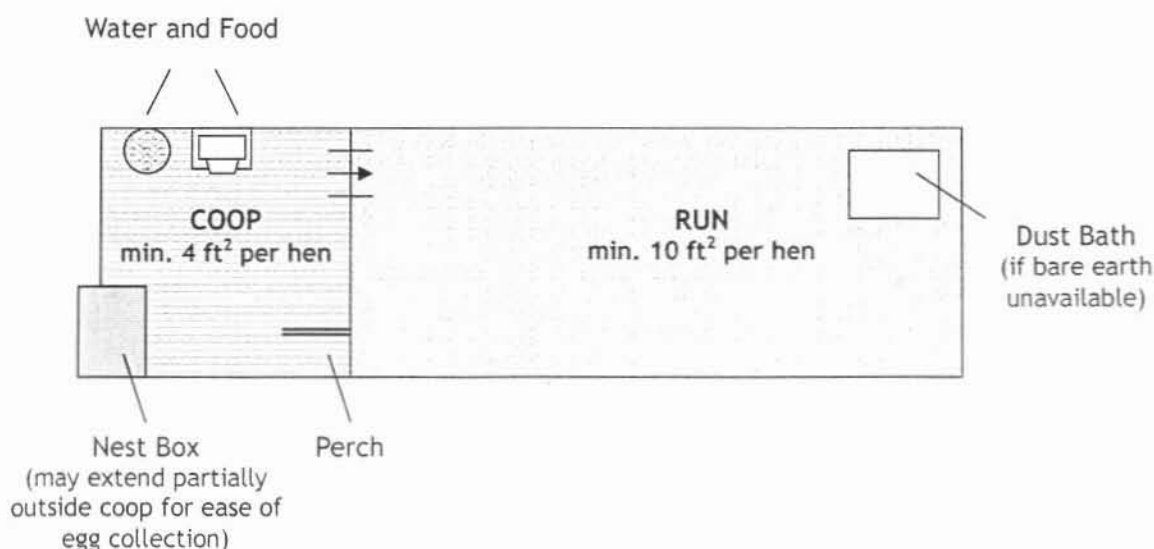
2. Freedom from discomfort - by providing a suitable environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company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

To enjoy the Five Freedoms, hens need shelter, food, water, adequate space, environmental conditions (such as adequate ventilation and light) conducive to good health, and the opportunity to socialize and engage in fundamental behaviours, which for them include scratching (foraging by scraping the ground with their claws), roosting (resting on a stick or branch), and dustbathing (thrashing around in the dirt to clean feathers and remove parasites). These needs must be met under the recommended requirements for care of backyard hens.

For shelter and protection from predators, hens need an enclosed house, with a locking door, which is known as a coop. Coops should contain a nest box, in which hens will lay their eggs, and one or more perches per bird. Hens also need access to the outdoors, either by free ranging or by use of an enclosed outdoor space that allows them ground on which to scratch and peck. For hens without access to bare earth, a dust bath, made of any combination of sand, soil, ash, food grade diatomaceous earth (to control parasites) or other similar material, should be provided. Schematic views of standard coops and outdoor enclosures are provided in Figure 1 below.

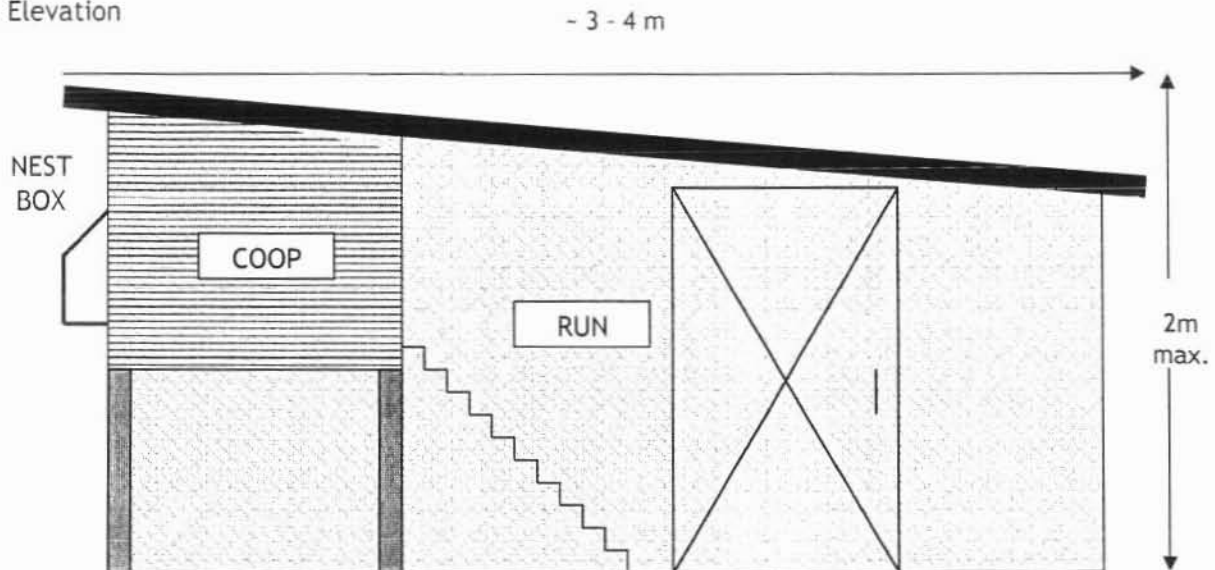
Figure 1. Schematic Depiction of Coop and Run

a. Plan View



¹ Farm Animal Welfare Council. Five Freedoms. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://www.fawc.org.uk/freedoms.htm>

b. Elevation



Hens also require adequate space. Too little space can be a stressor for hens, who may respond with aggressive behaviours such as egg eating, pecking at each other, and cannibalism. Too much space in the coop can increase heating demands. Significant debate exists on the amount of space required to raise hens. While most large-scale commercial producers provide between 0.8 ft^2 - 1.2 ft^2 of space per hen, space requirements for smaller free range, organic, and humane-certified flocks are more generous. Recommended cage-free or free range indoor space requirements vary from 1.5 ft^2 to 8 ft^2 per hen, depending on the size of the hen and other factors. Appendix E lists space recommendations from a variety of sources, with a mean recommendation of between 3 ft^2 and 4 ft^2 per hen.

The staff recommendation includes a minimum space requirement of 0.37 m^2 (4 ft^2) of coop space and 0.92 m^2 (10 ft^2) of outdoor enclosure, reflecting the roomier standards found in Appendix E. This liberal space allotment is appropriate, given that the hens will be continuously confined. Other housing requirements include a nest box, to accommodate the need for seclusion during egg-laying, and one $\geq 15 \text{ cm}$ perch per bird, to allow hens to engage in roosting, an essential behaviour. Keeping hens in cages, which would prevent them from utilizing the full space allotment, and may cause injury, is not allowed in the proposed by-law amendment.

The staff recommendation also prohibits slaughtering or attempts at euthanasia by those who keep hens, as slaughtering by untrained individuals can result in unnecessary suffering. Hens at the end of their lives may be euthanized by a veterinarian (at an estimated \$40 cost), or taken to a farm or abattoir for slaughtering. Chicken carcasses may be taken to the Vancouver Animal Shelter for cremation, or disposed of in any other legal manner (i.e. buried in a pet cemetery, or in any other area where burial is allowed under Ministry of Environment regulations, or composted on a farm). Chicken carcasses are not allowed in City garbage containers.

Another recommendation with humane implications is the restriction on hens younger than four months. As well as reducing the number of unexpected roosters, this provision is intended to reduce impulse purchasing of chicks and subsequent abandonment of no-longer-cute-and-fuzzy hens. Even so, it is expected that some adult hens will end up at the Vancouver Animal Control shelter, either through abandonment or impoundment. Provisions for housing these hens, as well as other enforcement considerations, are discussed under Enforcement below.

Along with regulations, education plays a vital role in promoting humane care. Staff therefore recommends that the on-line registry be a vehicle for ensuring that registrants receive basic information on chicken care and maintenance. Specifically, staff proposes that the registry include information and links on best management practices, humane considerations, biosecurity protocols, educational resources, and by-law requirements, including a list of local workshops on hen keeping, with a strong encouragement for all registrants to attend. Staff considered requiring registrants to attend a workshop, but does not recommend that this be a by-law requirement. The administrative process this would involve, including reviewing, assessing and endorsing the appropriate courses, and providing proof of course completion, would be difficult. In addition, many people that keep hens have prior experience and may not require courses to properly manage them. By forgoing the workshop requirement, staff recognizes that a balance must be maintained between providing adequate regulatory control and avoiding burdensome requirements.

Public Health and Welfare

Public health and welfare must be a primary concern when considering regulations for backyard hens. Many urban dwellers question whether hens are appropriate to keep in urban environments, and fear that they will bring disease, increased noise, unpleasant odours, and unwanted animals such as rodents to their neighbourhoods. This section examines some of the main health and nuisance concerns associated with backyard hens, and the measures proposed to address them.

Avian Influenza

Chickens, like other birds, are susceptible to forms of Type A influenza that are collectively known as “avian influenza” (AI). The AI virus is widespread, particularly among wild birds, but most forms produce relatively mild or no symptoms. AI can mutate, after circulation in a concentrated poultry population, into highly pathogenic forms (HPAI) that produce severe symptoms but this is less common.² AI is not an airborne disease, but is transmitted from infected to healthy birds via direct contact with birds and their droppings, feathers, and body fluids.³

AI has spread to humans in rare instances. Transmission from birds to human remains difficult, usually involving prolonged and close contact, and human-to-human transmission has been suspected in only a handful of cases.⁴ The greatest risk of infection for humans appears to be

² World Health Organization (WHO). Avian Influenza Fact Sheet. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/avian_influenza/en/.

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Questions and Answers - The Facts of Bird Flu. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/qanda.html>.

⁴ World Health Organization (WHO). H5N1 Avian Influenza: Timeline of Major Events. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/Timeline_10_01_04.pdf.

through the handling and slaughtering of live infected poultry. Public health concerns centre on the potential for the virus to mutate or combine with other influenza viruses to produce a form that could easily spread from person to person.

A high pathogenic H5N1 subtype of AI has caused virulent disease among birds in parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe, and rare but serious disease in humans. An outbreak of high pathogenic H7N3 AI occurred among poultry in the Fraser Valley in 2004, resulting in the deaths of 17 million birds (through disease and culling) but only two mild cases of flu among humans. A more detailed review of these outbreaks is provided in Appendix H.

Health authorities in Canada consider the risk of H5N1 reaching North America, or other HPAI subtypes spreading among backyard hens, to be extremely limited, particularly if biosecurity measures, such as those recommended by the CFIA, are followed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The risk of avian influenza development is not appreciably increased by backyard hens. Urban hen keepers should be encouraged to follow the advice of CFIA: Bird Health Basics - How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds.

The staff recommendation requires hen keepers to follow the CFIA biosecurity standards, and includes the standards as a required reading on the on-line registry. These measures are intended to limit introduction of diseases from other domestic poultry and cross-contamination between humans and hens. Staff further recommends that owners be required to provide veterinary care for hens sufficient to maintain them in good health.

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

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

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

Salmonella

Salmonella is another health concern associated with poultry and eggs. *Salmonella* lives in the intestines of infected chickens, and can be shed in large numbers in the droppings. Humans who handle the birds or clean their enclosures can then be exposed to the bacteria, which can cause severe gastrointestinal illness if ingested. The guidelines recommended to reduce the risks of avian influenza will also help minimize the risk of *Salmonella* poisoning from contact with chickens. This risk is further reduced by the recommended prohibition of hens less than four months old, as chicks shed much more *Salmonella* than older birds. In addition, transmission of the bacteria will be limited by the recommended prohibition on commercial sale of eggs or other hen products.

With the recommended regulations in place, keeping of backyard hens should pose minimal risks to public health.

Nuisance Issues

The keeping of backyard hens raises potential nuisance issues, including increased noise, unpleasant odors, and attraction of unwanted animals, such as rodents and raccoons. In order to minimize nuisance issues in general, staff recommends that a maximum of four hens be allowed per lot. Specific nuisance issues, and recommended measures to address them, are outlined in turn below.

Noise

Laying hens produce a variety of vocalizations, none of which are very loud. Perhaps the loudest noise is an approximately five-minute period of cackling or squawking that occurs when a hen lays an egg. In an investigation conducted by staff from the City of Pleasanton, California, noise readings of a "squawking" chicken registered at 63 dbA at two feet away,

and would not register at nine feet away.⁵ For comparison, the average human conversation registers at about 60 decibels,⁶ and a barking dog can be as loud as 100 dbA.⁷

Noise Control By-law No. 6555 limits “continuous sound” levels in residential areas to 55 dbA in daytime and 45 dbA at night, measured from the point of reception. In addition, it prohibits the cries of animals or birds that can be easily heard by a person outside the premises, and that unreasonably disturbs the “quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience” of that person. The same provision is applied to dog barking in the Animal Control By-law.

Given that noise from hens is relatively quiet and intermittent, it is unlikely to be a significant nuisance under the proposed guidelines, which provide setbacks and other management measures to ensure some separation between hen enclosures and neighbouring properties. Specifically, staff recommends minimum setbacks of 1 m from all property lines, and 3 m from all windows and doors. Given this separation, it is unlikely that hen sounds will be above allowable levels on neighbouring properties. The recommendation that hens be kept in their coops from sunset to sunrise, which is primarily to protect hens from predators, will reduce potential noise impacts at night.

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

Odor

Unpleasant odors, from accumulation of manure and/or food scraps, can result if chicken enclosures are infrequently cleaned and food is broadcast in the pens. Although chickens produce only a few tablespoons of manure per day, accumulations of manure can produce ammonia, which is both harmful for chickens and unpleasant for others. It is recommended to remove manure and scraps at least weekly, and preferably daily. Manure can be flushed down the toilet, or composted, but is not allowed in garbage cans in Vancouver. Composted chicken manure is an excellent fertilizer.

In order to address potential odor issues, staff recommends that a provision requiring enclosures to be maintained in a sanitary condition, free of obnoxious smells and substances, be added to the Animal Control by-law. Recognizing the value of composted chicken manure, as well the potential odor issues associated with manure accumulation, staff recommends a by-law provision that allows storage of up to 1 m³ of manure only if it is stored in a fully enclosed structure (such as a compost bin).

⁵ City of Pleasanton. Planning Commission Staff Report, October 26, 2005, Item 6f. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://www.ci.pleasanton.ca.us/pdf/pcsr-6f-prz30-ord.pdf>.

⁶ National Agricultural Safety Database. Hearing Protection for Farmers. Retrieved January 14, 2010 from <http://nasdonline.org/document/1144/d000933/hearing-protection-for-farmers.html>.

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

Pests

Hen enclosures can also attract unwanted animals, including rodents seeking food scraps, and larger animals, such as raccoons, foxes, skunks, and coyotes, seeking eggs or a chicken dinner. For this reason, it is vital that hen enclosures be secure from other animals. In order to discourage rodents and predators who may be attracted by food scraps and potential prey, staff recommends by-law language that requires hen enclosures to be constructed and maintained to prevent rodents from being harboured underneath, within, or within the walls of the coop and the run, and to prevent access to the enclosure by any other bird or animal. As noted above, staff further recommends that owners be required to keep hens, as well as their food and water, in the coop between sunset and sunrise, and that the coop remain locked during that time. Lastly, staff recommends that any leftover feed be removed in a timely manner to discourage rodent interest.

Enforcement

Animal Control would enforce the recommended by-law provisions, using procedures currently authorized for control of "other animals." These procedures, which are outlined in the Animal Control By-law, include measures for impoundment, seizure, detainment, and disposal of animals, as well as descriptions of fees and penalties. To ensure that these measures would be available, staff recommends that the definition of "other animals" in the Animal Control by-law be clarified to include hens. Enforcement would be done on a complaint basis.

As noted above, it is expected that some adult hens will end up at the Vancouver Animal Control shelter, either through abandonment or impoundment. Currently, the shelter has no facilities for poultry, and houses the occasional stray chicken in a cage in the dog run area. This arrangement is stressful for the chickens and overstimulating for the dogs, and would be unworkable should a greater number of birds need accommodation. Therefore, staff requests that \$20,000 be provided from the existing Community Services capital budget to construct a facility with coops and runs for six hens. Although contained in one structure, each coop and run would be separate from the others, to prevent transmission of disease, as well as pecking and other aggressive behaviour common among unacquainted hens. The facility would also have electricity, in order to allow heat lamps in winter, and plumbing to improve ease of cleaning.

The Vancouver Animal Control shelter is a pro-adoption facility; therefore, efforts would be made to find placements for abandoned or impounded hens. Hens that were unable to be placed would be euthanized.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Recommendation B (iii) requests authorization of a \$20,000 expenditure from the existing Community Services capital budget for construction of facilities to house abandoned and/or seized hens. In addition, approximately \$5,000 from the existing Licences and Inspections operating budget will be required for communications.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

No new personnel are required to implement the staff recommendation. It is expected that existing staff could maintain the on-line registry, and respond to complaints. If complaint volumes are larger than anticipated, staff may request additional enforcement staffing

resources. Creation of the on-line registry website will require approximately 4 weeks of dedicated staff time from Information Services and from Graphics and Communications.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

By providing eggs for urban residents, and fertilizer for urban gardens, backyard hens contribute to local food production, which in turn reduces the City's carbon footprint. Hens can also reduce weed and garden pest populations, thus providing an environmentally friendly alternative to pesticides and herbicides. Backyard hens produce very little environmental impact, provided that their waste is regularly collected and composted or flushed, and their enclosures are kept clean.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Backyard hens contribute to the local and affordable production of nutritious food, and thus support the goal of creating a just and sustainable food system for our City.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Should Council approve the staff recommendation, amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law would proceed to public hearing on May 18, 2010. Should Council approve the proposed Zoning and Development By-law amendments at that time, those amendments, and the amendments to the Animal Control By-law, would be brought concurrently to Council for enactment. While the by-law amendments are proceeding towards enactment, staff would begin work on the on-line registry and construction of the hen facilities at the animal shelter. The on-line registry may not be completed until several weeks after the initial by-law amendments are enacted; however, phone registration would be available during that time. Once the on-line registry is established, it will be necessary to further amend the Animal Control By-law in accordance with Resolution D and Appendix C.

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Should Council approve the staff recommendation, staff would immediately e-mail interested parties, update the backyard hens website, and issue a press release. Communications materials would emphasize that approval for the Zoning and Development By-law amendments must await public hearing. Staff would follow the same protocol once the Zoning and Development By-law amendments are approved, and upon final by-law enactment. At that time, promotional ads for the on-line registry would be taken out in local weekly newspapers, at an estimated cost of approximately \$5,000, to be drawn from the existing Licences and Inspections public education budget.

CONCLUSION

As recognized by Council, backyard hens can provide many benefits, including improving food security, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions related to the transportation of food, and contributing to a just and sustainable food system. This report provides recommendations on how the City can enjoy those benefits, while protecting public health and safety and ensuring humane treatment of the hens. These recommendations include amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law that allow keeping of hens in all residential zones, including multi-family, that provide reduced setbacks to allow keeping of hens on Vancouver's typically

narrow lots, and that provide maximum floor area and height standards to ease permit requirements and reduce visual impacts. The recommendations also include amendments to the Animal Control By-law, including repeal of the prohibition on keeping of hens, and addition of a new section providing limits on the number and type of chickens allowed, requirements for housing and care, prohibitions on backyard slaughtering and/or commercial use, requirements for pest control, sanitation, and biosecurity, and a requirement that hen keepers register their hens. Lastly, the staff recommendation includes a request for funding to construct hen facilities at the animal shelter. In total, the recommendations provide a system of regulation that will allow Vancouver residents to safely and humanely enjoy the rewards that backyard hens provide.

* * * * *

Draft Amendments to
Zoning and Development By-law No. 3575
regarding keeping hens

Note: A By-law will be prepared generally in accordance with the provisions listed below, subject to change and refinement prior to posting.

1. This By-law amends or adds to the indicated provisions of the Zoning and Development By-law.

2. To section 2, after the definition of “Head of Household”, Council adds:

“Hen means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four months old;”.

3. After section 10.18.1, Council adds:

“10.18.2 Despite section 10.18.1, a building or other enclosure for keeping one or more hens:

- (a) must be no more than 9.2 m² in floor area;
- (b) must be no more than 2 m high;
- (c) must be no closer than 3 m from any door or window of any dwelling;
- (d) must be situate only in a rear yard or a side yard;
- (e) may be anywhere in a rear yard;
- (f) must, on a corner flanking lot, be no less than the greater of a distance equal to:
 - (i) the existing setback of the principal building, and
 - (ii) the required setback for a principal building under the Zoning and Development By-law,from the property line adjacent to the flanking street;
- (g) must be at grade level;
- (h) must be no less than 1 m from any property line; and
- (i) may be situate only in RA, RS, RT, RM, and FM zones.”

* * * * *

BY-LAW NO. _____

**A By-law to amend Animal Control By-law No. 9150
regarding keeping hens**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This By-law amends or adds to the indicated provisions of the Animal Control By-law.
2. To section 1.2, after the definition of “dog”, Council adds:
‘ “hen” means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four months old;’.
3. From section 1.2, Council repeals the definition of “other animal”, and substitutes:
‘ “other animal” means any animal, including any mammal, bird, reptile or amphibian, except a dog or domestic cat;’.
4. Council repeals section 7.2, and substitutes:
“7.2 A person must not keep in any area, temporarily or permanently, any horses, donkeys, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, ducks, geese, turkeys, pheasants, quail, or other poultry or fowl, except that this prohibition does not apply to:
 - (a) keeping hens, subject to sections 7.15 and 7.16;
 - (b) areas in which the Zoning and Development By-law allows the keeping of such animals;
 - (c) licensed pet shops or kennels;
 - (d) slaughter houses; or
 - (e) the exceptions set out in section 7.4.”
5. In section 7.5, Council:
 - (a) from subsection (a), strikes out “or”;
 - (b) from subsection (b), strikes out “.”, and substitutes “; or”; and
 - (c) after subsection (b), adds:
“(c) four hens, in aggregate, on any one parcel despite the number of dwelling units permissible on that parcel.”
6. After section 7.14, Council adds:

“Registration of hens

7.15 A person must not keep a hen unless that person first registers with the city, by:

- (a) requesting, by telephone to 311, the mailing to that person of the information on keeping hens and an application form;
- (b) reading such information;
- (c) completing the application including the following mandatory fields:
 - (i) the date,
 - (ii) the person’s name, address and postal code,
 - (iii) confirmation that the person resides on the property where he or she will be keeping hens, and
 - (iv) confirmation that the person has read the information referred to in subsection(b); and
- (d) returning the completed application to the city;

and such person must promptly update, and provide to, the city any information given when any change occurs.

Keeping of hens

7.16 A person who keeps one or more hens must:

- (a) provide each hen with at least 0.37 m² of coop floor area, and at least 0.92 m² of roofed outdoor enclosure;
- (b) provide and maintain a floor of any combination of vegetated or bare earth in each outdoor enclosure;
- (c) provide and maintain, in each coop, at least one perch, for each hen, that is at least 15 cm long, and one nest box;
- (d) keep each hen in the enclosed area at all times;
- (e) provided each hen with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as

scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the hen in good health;

- (f) maintain each hen enclosure in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and obnoxious smells and substances;
- (g) construct and maintain each hen enclosure to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal;
- (h) keep a food container and water container in each coop;
- (i) keep each coop locked from sunset to sunrise;
- (j) remove leftover feed, trash, and manure in a timely manner;
- (k) store manure within a fully enclosed structure, and store no more than three cubic feet of manure at a time;
- (l) remove all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing;
- (m) follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
- (n) keep hens for personal use only, and not sell eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from hens;
- (o) not slaughter, or attempt to euthanize, a hen on the property;
- (p) not dispose of a hen except by delivering it to the Poundkeeper, or to a farm, abattoir, veterinary, mobile slaughter unit, or other facility that has the ability to dispose of hens lawfully; or
- (q) not keep a hen in a cage.”

7. A decision by a court that any part of this By-law is illegal, void, or unenforceable severs that part from this By-law, and is not to affect the balance of this By-law.

8. This By-law is to come into force and take effect on the date of its enactment.

ENACTED by Council this _____ day of _____, 2010

Mayor

City Clerk

BY-LAW NO. _____

**A By-law to amend Animal Control By-law No. 9150
regarding keeping hens**

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VANCOUVER, in public meeting, enacts as follows:

1. This By-law amends or adds to the indicated provisions of the Animal Control By-law.
2. Council repeals section 7.15 and substitutes:

“

Registration of hens

7.15 A person must not keep a hen unless that person first registers with the city:

- (a) electronically by:
 - (i) accessing the city's animal control computer website at _____,
 - (ii) accessing the link from that website to the on-line registry at _____,
 - (iii) reading the information on keeping hens at the on-line registry site,
 - (iv) completing the application at the on-line registry site including the following mandatory fields:
 - (A) the date,
 - (B) the person's name, address and postal code,
 - (C) confirmation that the person resides on the property where he or she will be keeping hens,
 - (D) confirmation that the person has read the information referred to in clause (iii), and
 - (v) submitting the application to the on-line registry site; or
- (b) by requesting, by telephone to 311, the mailing to that person of the information on keeping hens and an application form, and by:
 - (i) reading such information,
 - (ii) completing the application including the mandatory fields referred to in subsection (a)(iv), and

(iii) submitting the completed application to the city;

and such person must promptly update, and provide to, the city any information given when any change occurs.

BACKYARD HEN REGULATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AND IN MAJOR U.S. CITIES

| City | Maximum # Allowed | Roosters Allowed | Permit or Licence Required | Neighbour Notification Required | Minimum Lot Size | Setbacks (from dwellings on lot) | Setbacks (from lot lines) | Setbacks (from other dwellings) |
|----------------------|---|------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Vancouver (proposed) | 4 | No | Registration required | No | No | 3 m (10 feet) | 1 m (3 feet) | 3 m (10 feet) |
| Victoria | Unlimited, but excessive numbers will bring into question intended use | No | No | No | No | None | None | None |
| Esquimalt | 4 | No | No | No | No | None | 1.5 m (5 feet) | None |
| Burnaby | Unlimited | Yes | No | No | 1 acre; A1 & A2 zones only | 9 m (30 feet) | 24.5 m (80 feet) | None |
| Richmond | Unlimited | Yes | No | No | 2,000 sq. metres (1/2 acre) | None | None | None |
| Surrey | 12 per acre | Yes | No | No | 1 acre | None | Front and Side Yard Flanking Street = 36 m (120 feet) Rear and Side Yard = 7.5 m (25 feet) | None |
| New Westminster | 8 chickens on 6,000 sq. ft. lot, plus one for each additional 750 sq. ft., and up to 50 on lots greater than 1/2 acre | Yes | No | No | 6,000 sq. ft. | 50 feet (15.2 metres) 100 feet (30.4 metres) if more than 12 chickens | None | 50 feet (15.2 metres) 100 feet (30.4 metres) if more than 12 chickens |
| Seattle | Three, with one additional chicken allowed per 1,000 ft ² beyond minimum lot size (or beyond 5,000 ft ²) | Yes | No – voluntary registry through King County Public Health | No | No | None | 10 feet | None |

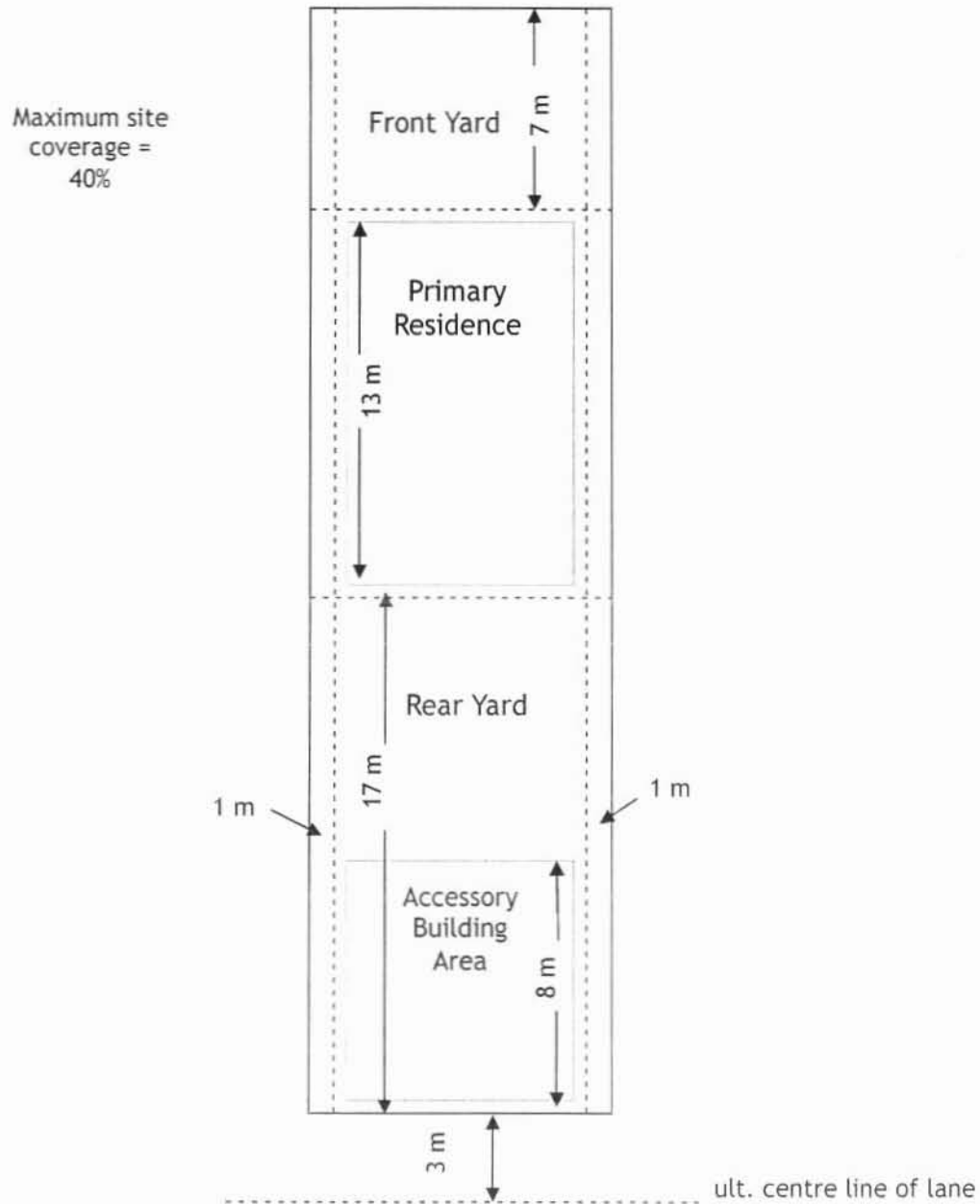
| City | Maximum # Allowed | Roosters Allowed | Permit or Licence Required | Neighbour Notification Required | Minimum Lot Size | Setbacks (from dwellings on lot) | Setbacks (from lot lines) | Setbacks (from other dwellings) |
|---------------|---|------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Portland | Three without permit, unlimited with permit | No | Yes, for more than 3 chickens | Yes, for more than 3 chickens | No | None | None | 15 feet |
| San Francisco | Four | Yes | No, unless kept for commercial purposes | No | No | 20 feet from doors or windows | None | 20 feet from doors or windows |
| Los Angeles | Unlimited | Yes | No | No | No | 20 feet | None | 35 feet; 100 feet for "crowing birds" |
| Denver | Unlimited | Yes | Yes | Yes | No | None | None | None |
| Chicago | Unlimited | Yes | No | No | No | None | None | None |
| Madison, WI | Four | No | Yes | Yes | No | None | None | 25 feet |
| Minneapolis | Unlimited | Yes | No | Yes | No | None | None | None |
| New York City | Unlimited | No | No | No | No | None | None | None |

Survey of Recommended Minimum Space Requirements for Poultry Keeping

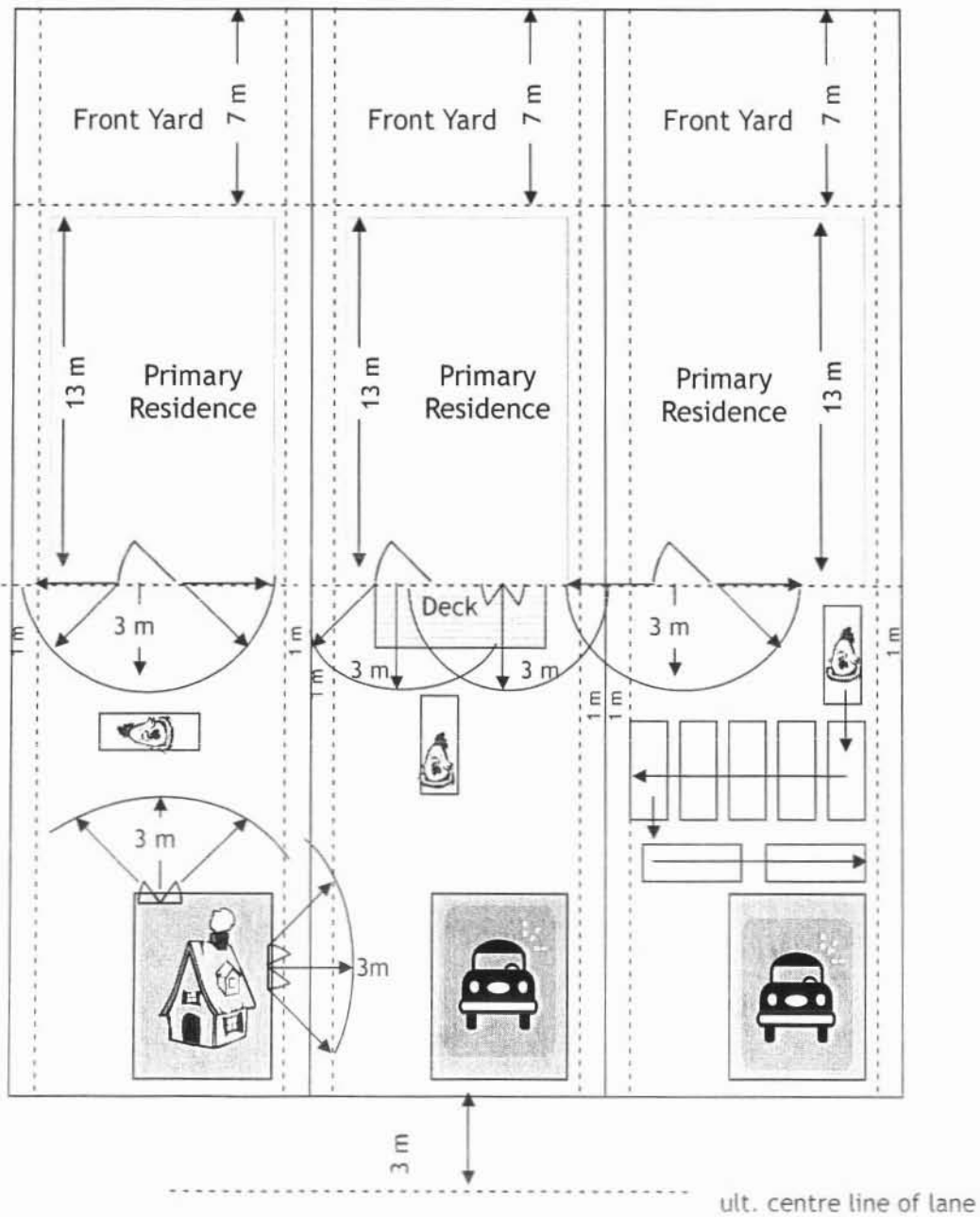
| Organization | Recommended Minimum Space Requirements – Interior floor space in sq. ft. per hen | Recommended Minimum Space Requirements – Exterior floor space in sq. ft. per hen | Notes |
|---|--|--|---|
| Cooperative Extensions | | | |
| Michigan State University Cooperative Extension | 1.5 -2 | | Plus feeding and watering areas |
| New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension | 2.5 – 3 | | Also 4 inches of feeder space, and 2 inches of water feeder space |
| Texas A&M University Cooperative Extension | 3 | | |
| Utah State University Cooperative Extension | 1.5 - 2 sq. ft./bird floor space plus 1 – 1.5 sq. ft. nest box area per 4 -5 hens | | Does not include interior space for feed/water |
| Virginia Cooperative Extension – Urban Fowl | 1 sq. ft./ 1 lb. body weight (=2 sq. ft. for bantams; 4 – 8.5 sq. ft. for other hens) 3 cu. ft. of air space / 1 lb. of body weight | | Laying hens typically weigh between 4 and 8.5 lbs., depending on breed; bantams average around 2 lbs. |
| Virginia Cooperative Extension – Commercial Flocks | 1.5 plus one 0.7 sq. ft. nest box per 5 birds | 8 | |
| University of California at Davis Cooperative Extension | 2 -2.5 for bantams and small breeds; 3 – 3.5 for larger breeds | | |
| University of Florida IFAS Extension | 1.5 – 3.0 | | |
| University of Georgia Cooperative Extension | 3 – 3.5 | | |
| University of Maryland Cooperative Extension | 3 | | |
| University of Minnesota Cooperative Extension | 3 | | Guidelines for small laying flocks |
| University of Missouri Extension | 3 (light breeds) 4 (heavy breeds) | | |
| University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension – "Producing Your Own Eggs" | 3 | | |

| Organization | Recommended Minimum Space Requirements - Interior floor space in sq. ft. per hen | Recommended Minimum Space Requirements - Exterior floor space in sq. ft. per hen | Notes |
|---|---|--|---|
| Other Government Agencies | | | |
| Canada Plan Service | 2 -3, depending on size of hen, plus 0.65 sq. ft. nest box per 5 birds | | For small-scale commercial operations |
| Canadian Agri-Food Research Council | 1 sq. cm./1 g body weight ex: 2 sq. ft. for 4 lb. bird 4 sq. ft. for 8 lb. bird | | For free-run, indoor commercial systems with litter floors |
| ATTRA – National Sustainable Agricultural Information Service | 2 -3 if adequate ventilation and insulation to prevent condensation; 4 – 8 if not | | For flocks without regular ranging |
| New South Wales Agriculture Department | 3.5 | | Plus 25 cm x 30 cm nest box |
| Municipalities | | | |
| City of Esquimalt | 4.3 | | |
| City of New Westminster | 4 | 2.5 sq. ft. of "runway" floor area | 8 cu. ft. of space in pen or shed |
| City of Colorado Springs, CO | 4 | "adequate" outdoor space | |
| City of Fayetteville, AR | | 100 | |
| City of Missoula, MT | 2 | outdoor enclosure required | |
| City of Rochester, NY | 4 | 2.7 | |
| Humane Organizations | | | |
| United Poultry Concerns | 8-10 | | |
| Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries | 4 | 10 | |
| Chicken Run Rescue | 4 | 10 | |
| Popular Websites | | | |
| Backyard Chickens.com | 2-3 | 4-10 | see FAQs and Raising Chickens 101 |
| BBC Green blog | 4 | 25 sq. ft./bird if run is not movable | |
| Chicken-yard.net | 3.5 (for 3 birds) 7 (for 5 – 7 birds) | | |
| Just Food (NYC) | 2 - 4 | 4 | |
| Mad City Chickens | 3 | 6 | |
| Professor Chicken.com | 4 | 10 – 12 | 6-8 sq. ft./bird if no outdoor run |
| SoPo Chickens | 4 | 10 | Does not include interior space for feed/water and nest boxes |
| Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries | 4 | 10 | |

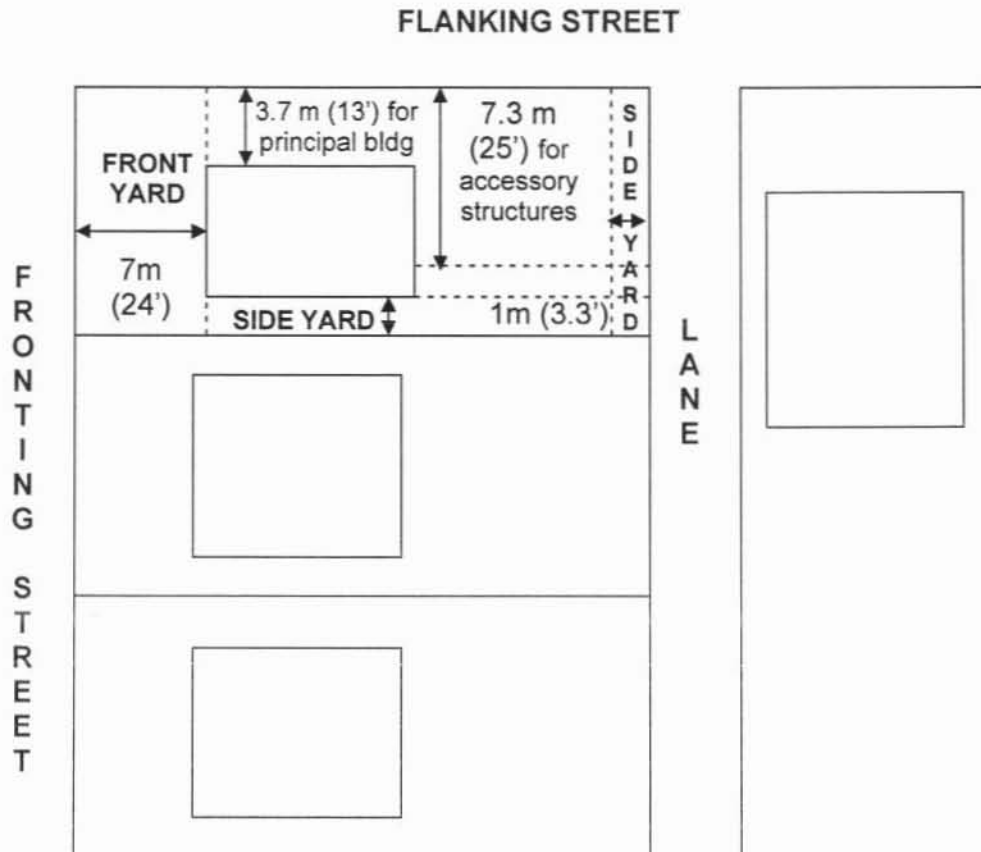
Building area, RS-1 Zone
(33' x 122' lot)



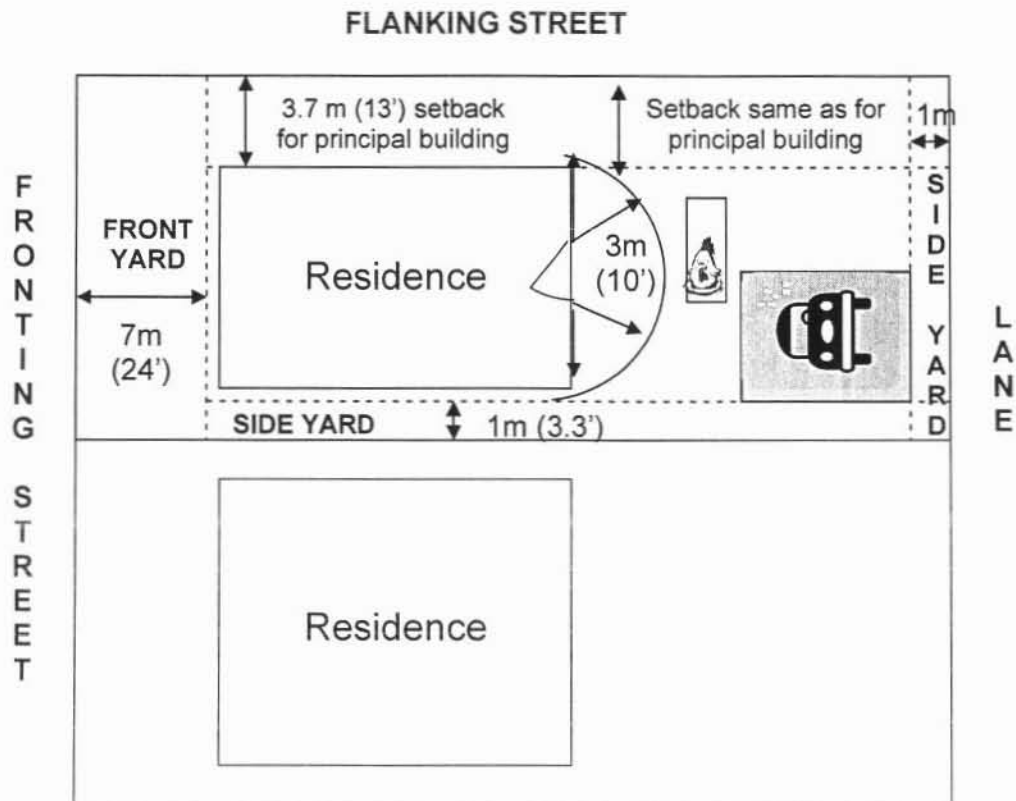
Proposed Setbacks for Hen Enclosures
shown on a 33' x 122' RS-1 Zone lot



Corner Flanking Lot Setbacks RS- and RT- Zones



Proposed Corner Flanking Lot Setbacks
RS- and RT- Zones



| Backyard Hens - Comments Received March 6, 2009 - October 4, 2009 | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Comments in Support | Comments Opposed | Other Comments |
| 26 | 3 | 5 |
| Reasons for Support | Reasons for Opposition | Other Comments |
| Food Security | Avian flu | Please keep me updated |
| Sustainability | Rats | Do not allow slaughter |
| Fresh eggs | Smell | Require adequate living standards |
| Alternative to factory farms | Noise | Will roosters be allowed? |
| | Salmonella | Do not allow slaughter |

| Backyard Hens - Comments Received on Draft Guidelines - October 2009 | | |
|--|---|----------------|
| Comments in Support | Comments Opposed | Other Comments |
| 16 | 2 | 2 |
| Comments Regarding Zoning Guidelines | Comments Regarding Animal Control Guidelines | |
| Allow relaxed setbacks for corner lots | Allow hens to free range in yard | |
| Reduce 10 foot setback from dwelling on lot | Reduce coop/enclosure space requirements | |
| Reduce 10 foot setback from neighbour dwelling | Allow ducks | |
| Increase setback from dwellings | Allow chicks | |
| Allow enclosures in side yards | Allow up to 6 hens | |
| | Require only one nest box for all hens | |
| | Provide list of local resources on web site | |
| | Require owner approval for keeping of hens on rental properties | |
| | Require approval from neighbours/other tenants | |
| | Have all registry materials in several languages | |
| | Include species name (<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>) | |
| | Clarify response in event of avian flu | |
| | Require measures to prevent predation | |

Background - Avian Influenza and Salmonella

Avian Influenza

Chickens, like other birds, are susceptible to forms of Type A influenza that are collectively known as “avian influenza” (AI). There are two forms of AI:

Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza (LPAI, or “low path”)

High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI, or “high path”)

LPAI produces relatively mild or no symptoms, and is widespread, particularly among wild birds. In contrast, HPAI produces severe symptoms but is less common, occurring in acute outbreaks. LPAI can mutate into HPAI after circulation in a concentrated poultry population.⁸ AI is not an airborne disease, but is transmitted via direct contact with birds and their droppings, feathers, and body fluids.⁹

Along with the two different forms of AI, there are many subtypes. Like other influenza viruses, these subtypes are identified by two surface antigens: H (hemagglutinin) and N (neuraminidase). Only the H5 and H7 subtypes are known to have become highly pathogenic in avian species, including domestic poultry.¹⁰ AI has spread to humans in rare instances.

The most severe occurrence of HPAI is an ongoing H5N1 outbreak that originated in China in 2003 and has spread throughout Asia and into Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. This virulent disease has resulted in the death (from disease and culling) of an estimated 150 million birds since 2003. During that time, there have been 467 confirmed human cases of H5N1 with 282 deaths. These cases, which have largely been attributed to direct contact with dead or sick birds, have occurred in 15 countries in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, all of which are considered developing countries by the United Nations Human Development Index.¹¹ No cases of human infection have occurred in countries with the highest standards of living, such as those in the more prosperous areas of Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, despite the presence of H5N1 in poultry and wild birds in those regions.

This outcome is consistent with the findings of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), which attributes spread of H5N1 to the practices more commonly found in poorer, less regulated areas. These include: poor sanitation; lack of veterinary inspection; live poultry markets; slaughtering in retail outlets; transport of diseased animals, contaminated cages, and dirty egg crates; contact between wild birds and aggregations of

⁸ World Health Organization (WHO). Avian Influenza Fact Sheet. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/avian_influenza/en/.

⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Questions and Answers - The Facts of Bird Flu. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from <http://www.fao.org/avianflu/en/qanda.html>.

¹⁰ Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Avian Influenza Fact Sheet. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/diseases/avflu/avflufse.shtml>.

¹¹ United Nations Development Programme. Human Development Report 2009 - HDI Rankings. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>.

free ranging backyard poultry; and a general lack of biosecurity measures.¹² In Western Europe, Kuwait, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, H5N1 has occurred in sporadic and highly localized outbreaks, sometimes involving only one bird, and rarely more than one farm. Wealthier Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Malaysia have controlled their outbreaks and their poultry are now considered disease-free. In contrast, in many parts of Indonesia and Vietnam, and in parts of Cambodia, China, and Thailand, H5N1 has become endemic among domestic birds.

High pathogenic H5N1 is not found in the Western Hemisphere, but there have been outbreaks of other HPAI subtypes. An outbreak caused by high pathogenic H7N3 occurred in the Fraser Valley in February 2004, resulting in the deaths (from disease and culling) of 17 million birds and an estimated \$471.6 million loss of revenue for Fraser Valley producers. The outbreak began in a large battery-style commercial operation with approximately 18,000 birds, and spread despite the culling of those flocks. By the end of the outbreak, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) identified HPAI H7N3 in 42 of the approximately 600 commercial poultry farms in the region and in 11 of the 553 backyard flocks, which together represented about 1.3 million birds.¹³ Infection of humans was limited to two individuals, who experienced conjunctivitis (pink eye) and mild flu-like systems.¹⁴

Since the 2004 Fraser Valley outbreak, awareness of AI has increased and government agencies from the federal to local levels have developed more extensive prevention protocols, surveillance programs, and emergency response plans for addressing AI. The CFIA responds to all reports of LPAI with targeted depopulation, quarantine, and testing programs. Should an HPAI outbreak occur, the CFIA would activate its “stamping out” policy which includes culling of all infected and exposed animals; surveillance and tracing of potentially infected or exposed animals; strict quarantine and animal movement controls to prevent spread; strict decontamination of infected premises; and zoning to define infected and disease-free areas.

For backyard chicken owners, the CFIA recommends five biosecurity measures:

1. Prevent contact with wild birds and other animals
2. Clean, clean, clean
3. Spot the signs (of disease) and report early
4. Limit exposure to visitors
5. Keep new birds separate when entering your flock

Thus, although the H5N1 subtype has caused virulent disease among birds in parts of Asia, Africa, and Europe, health authorities in Canada consider the risk of H5N1 reaching North

¹² The Lessons We Learned in 2005 from the 2004 Outbreak of HPAI (H7N3) in BC Poultry, Dr. Victoria Bowes, Avian Pathologist, Animal Health Centre, BC Ministry of Agriculture & Lands, Abbotsford, British Columbia, presented at the INSA Science Days, May 2, 2006 Quebec City, QC

¹³ Lees W, Chown L, Inch C. A short summary of the 2004 outbreak of high pathogenicity avian influenza (H7N3) in British Columbia, Canada. Ottawa, Ontario: Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Animal Products, Animal Health and Production Division; 2004.

¹⁴ Tweed SA, Skowronski DM, David ST, Larder A, Petric M, Lees M, et al. Human illness from avian influenza H7N3, British Columbia. *Emerg Infect Dis* [serial on the Internet]. 2004 Dec [date cited]. Available from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol10no12/04-0961.htm>.

America, or other HPAI subtypes spreading among backyard hens, to be extremely limited, particularly if biosecurity measures, such as those recommended by the CFIA, are followed.

Salmonella

Salmonella is another health concern associated with poultry and eggs. *Salmonella* lives in the intestines of infected chickens, and can be shed in large numbers in the droppings. Although *Salmonella* can be found among adult chickens, it is most commonly shed by chicks. Once shed, bacteria can spread across the chicken's body as the bird cleans itself and throughout the immediate environment. Humans who handle the birds or clean their enclosures can then be exposed to the bacteria, which can cause severe gastrointestinal illness if ingested. Health authorities recommend proper hand washing and other sanitation measures, such as changing clothes and boots, immediately after contact with poultry and their enclosures. They also recommend that children under 5 and those with compromised immune systems avoid exposure to chickens, particularly chicks. Regular cleaning of enclosures can also reduce the presence of *Salmonella*.¹⁵

The guidelines recommended to reduce the risks of avian influenza will also help minimize the risk of *Salmonella* poisoning from contact with chickens. This risk is further reduced by the recommended prohibition of hens less than four months old, as chicks shed much more *Salmonella* than older birds. In addition, transmission of the bacteria will be limited by the recommended prohibition on commercial sale of eggs or other hen products. The risk of *Salmonella* poisoning thus mainly affects those who are keeping hens, and their friends and families. Minimizing the spread of *Salmonella* is therefore largely a matter of personal responsibility that can be accomplished through good hygiene and proper precautions before and after handling of hens. It should be noted that other pets, particularly reptiles such as turtles and snakes, but also birds, hamsters, cats, dogs, and other animals, also shed *Salmonella* bacteria.

¹⁵ National Center for Infectious Diseases, Healthy Pets Healthy People Program. Health Risks Associated With Raising Chickens. Retrieved January 14, 2010, from http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pdf/intown_flocks.pdf.

| City | No. Allowed | Requirements | Complaints |
|-----------------|-------------|--|--|
| Central Sannich | 5 | On a parcel of land greater than 1858 m2 | No complaints. Some At Large calls and chickens where not zoned in other municipalities but not this one. |
| Nanaimo | 4 | On a lot is less than 450 m2 | Receive approx 6 complaints a year. Related to smell most then noise and rodents. |
| Nanaimo | 6 | On a lot less than 0.4 Hectares | |
| North Sannich | 10 | On a lot 1100 to 4000 m2 Not in multiple family | No complaints. Some At Large calls and chickens where not zoned in other municipalities but not this one. |
| Sooke | 6 | On lots more than 600 m2 | Very rare to get a complaint. Those have been Roosters; chicken coop too close to the fence/ setbacks; smells. |
| Vancouver | | .37m2 coop floor each .92m2 roofed outside. No cage Permit required. | Have about 20 complaints a year mostly noise related due to roosters. Some odour complaints but most are unfounded |
| Vernon | 3 | Lot must be 12 M front 20 M deep. A Permit is required. No roosters | A few complaints about noise/roosters. |
| Victoria | Unlimited | No regulations. No roosters | 4-5 a year. No type identified. Waiting on reply. |

| | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---|
| Abbotsford | 0 | In residential - they have agriculture zoning | Public have been requesting. Noting from Council as of yet. |
| Burnaby | 0 | In residential - they have agriculture zoning | |
| Coquitlam | 0 | Only allowed house hold pets. Health bylaw prohibits hens | |
| Dawson Creek | 0 | | Receiving many requests from public. Would like our results. |
| Penticton | 0 | | |
| Prince Rupert | 0 | | Council working on same project. Would like results. |
| Smithers | 0 | | Before Council week of 05/21/12 voted down 4-3 vote. Issues cited attracting predators..roosters are quite a noise concern, smell and containment issues. |
| Richmond | 0 | On less than 2000 m2 - they have agriculture zoning | |



PUBLIC HEARING

Keeping of Backyard Hens

What: A Public Hearing for Bylaw 8211, a proposed bylaw to regulate and allow for the keeping of backyard hens.

When: 7 pm, Tuesday, May 16, 2017

Where: Council Chambers, District of North Vancouver Municipal Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, BC

What changes?

Bylaw 8211 proposes to regulate and allow for the keeping of backyard hens in a safe, humane, and sanitary manner that is sensitive to the needs of neighbouring properties and the environment. The bylaw will permit from two up to six hens in the District of North Vancouver in any of the Single-Family Residential Zones (RS), subject to compliance with the bylaw.

How can I provide input?

We welcome your input Tuesday, May 16, 2017, at 7 pm. You can speak in person by signing up at the hearing, or you can provide a written submission to the Municipal Clerk at input@dnv.org or by mail to Municipal Clerk, District of North Vancouver, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver, BC, V7N 4N5, before the conclusion of the hearing.

Please note that Council may not receive further submissions from the public concerning this application after the conclusion of the public hearing.

Need more info?

Relevant background material and copies of the bylaw are available for review at the Municipal Clerk's Office or online at dnv.org/public_hearing from April 11 to May 16. Office hours are Monday to Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, except statutory holidays.

Who can I speak to?

Cristina Rucci, Social Planner, at 604-990-2274 or ruccic@dnv.org



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