

URBAN HENS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Interested in keeping backyard hens? Read on!

How many chickens can I keep?

Up to 6 chickens can be kept on a regular city lot. Properties located within the RU-1, RU-2 and RU-3 zones and in the Quinsam Livestock Boundary are permitted to keep up to 10 chickens per 0.4 hectares (1 acre).

How often do chicken coops need cleaning?

At minimum, coops should be cleaned and excess feed removed once a week to prevent odour, deter pests and ensure healthy living conditions. Also, plan an annual disinfecting of the coop and all of its furnishings. If you decide to store manure for composting, limit the manure pile to three cubic feet. (0.085m³).

What do I do with chickens that no longer lay eggs?

Once hens are past their prime, they can continue to lay eggs for many years, just not as frequently. Even once they have stopped laying eggs, hens are useful back-yard pest control agents, kitchen scrap consumers and family pets that continue to produce natural fertilizer. If you no longer want to keep hens, you can arrange to donate them to a farm or have them slaughtered at a licensed abattoir.

Can I let chickens wander freely around my property?

Chickens must be confined to enclosed coops and pens to prevent potential trespass on public and private property. You may want to invest in a predator-proof mobile coop that will allow chickens to forage in and fertilize your yard. Note: All Coops must be located according to ancillary building setback requirements as indicated in the Zoning Bylaw. For more information contact the City's Land Use Services at 250-286-5725.

Why do I have to obtain a licence as a hen owner?

The hen owner licence will help ensure that you are aware of resources required to raise healthy hens and important requirements (such as building construction, coop cleaning and flock safety). The licence will also help the City maintain accurate contact information to potentially reunite you with escaped chickens. A one time \$10 fee applies to obtain your licence in person at City Hall or online at www.campbellriver.ca

What happens to my chickens when I am away?

You must arrange for someone to look after your chickens while you are away. Try connecting with other hen owners or neighbours who appreciate access to fresh eggs.



How large can the chicken coop be?

A minimum of 0.92m (3 ft) in height and, for floor area, a minimum of 0.37 m² (4ft²) per hen is required. Maximum: 10 metres squared (107 ft²) in floor area and 3 metres (9'10") high. **Coops must be situated in back yards, respecting property setback requirements. Coops must also be at least 3 metres away from any dwelling windows or doors.**

How early can I let my chickens out of their coop?

Hens must be in their coop at night and can be let out after 7 a.m. This will help reduce threats from nocturnal predators and reduce noise and disturbance for neighbours.

What if chickens escape?

If your chickens are missing and there are no signs of a predator, be sure to notify Animal Control (1-888-754-1397). Neighbours will likely inform the City if a chicken is loose. Contact us to increase the chances of having your chicken safely returned.

Are there any human health risks?

Educate yourself on humane treatment, disease identification and predators before you start to keep chickens. More resources to help you are available on the City website, with links to mandatory requirements for keeping chickens, such as the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's [biosecurity procedures](#).

More questions?

Read the Urban Hen Regulations in the Animal Control Bylaw or email info@campbellriver.ca



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URBAN HENS: COMMON CONCERNS

Are chickens noisy?

With the exception of announcing when they've laid an egg with some limited clucking, hens are generally considered quite quiet. To minimize noise, hens must be locked in their coop at night and let out into their enclosed run no earlier than 7 a.m. Roosters and other noisy fowl are not permitted.

Do chickens smell?

Urban hen owners are required to clean coops on a regular basis. Failure to do this can result in a ticket and fine. If hen owners opt to compost the manure, they can store a maximum of 3 cubic feet (0.085m³) at a time in an enclosed structure.

Do chickens attract rats or predators?

Urban hen owners must register with the City and are given information about best coop-building practises. They are also advised that they are responsible for ensuring pests and predators cannot enter the coop and are required to clean up any food scraps and store feed in a rodent-proof container.

Can chickens be slaughtered in my neighbourhood?

Urban hens cannot be slaughtered or disposed of on residential property. Hen owners are required to deliver their birds to a farm, pound keeper, veterinarian, abattoir or other facility with the legal ability to dispose of them.

How close can a chicken coop be to my property line?

Chicken coops must meet the minimum setback requirements as indicated in the Zoning Bylaw. For more information contact the City's Land Use Services at 250-286-5725

What if my neighbours don't take care of their chickens?

Urban hen owners must treat their animals in accordance with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act*, which addresses the need for adequate food, water, shelter, ventilation, and veterinary treatment. The maximum penalty for violating this act can range from a \$75,000 fine to two years in prison. To report an animal in distress, please call the SPCA's Animal Cruelty Reporting Hotline at 1-855-622-7722.

What if my neighbours have too many chickens?

A maximum of 6 chickens can be kept on a residential property or property zoned Public Areas 1 (PA-1).

Can my neighbours sell their chicken eggs?

While the sale of meat and manure is only permitted in rural zones, the small scale sale of eggs is acceptable in the City.



Will the City know if my neighbours have chickens?

Urban hen owners are required to obtain a licence from the City of Campbell River. This enables the City to advise flock owners of their duties and responsibilities and will help ensure bylaws are enforced. Licences will also help the City track local food production statistics.

Will chicken coops be kept in good condition?

During registration, urban hen owners are given access to guidelines for building and maintaining chicken coops. Coops and pens must be properly maintained to keep chickens healthy and safe and to reduce potential disturbance in the neighbourhood.

What if my neighbours' chickens are on my property?

Chickens must be enclosed in coops and pens to prevent them from escaping. If chickens are out and about, please contact Animal Control at 1-888-754-1397.



More questions?

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