

Proposed Hen Bylaw Amendments

Current Bylaw	Proposed Amendments	Rationale
The keeping of up to four (4) hens.	The keeping of up to six (6) hens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introducing one hen to an existing flock is difficult, due to the pecking order behaviour amongst chickens. Therefore, it would be safer to introduce two or more hens to an existing flock, to eliminate the risk of pecking. Also, before new hens are introduced to a flock, they should be isolated. As such, isolating at least two hens together can enable socialization before being introduced to a flock. To increase warmth inside a hen coop, particularly during the colder months. To allow for more eggs. Hens tend to lay eggs less during the winter months, and the costs involved with building a hen coop and the number of eggs received does not balance out.
While the intent of a Coop in the current bylaw is to include both the fully enclosed structure and an attached coop run, the bylaw does not explicitly state this.	<p>A minimum of 10 square feet is required per hen of coop run space.</p> <p>A definition for Coop Run as “a securely enclosed, roofed outdoor area attached to and forming part of a Coop for Hens to roam”.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A coop run of adequate size enables hens to roam comfortably outdoors in a protected space. Municipalities including, but not limited to, Edmonton, Red Deer, and Grande Prairie, require a minimum of 10 sq. ft. (0.93 sq. m.) per hen.
A coop must contain a minimum of 1 nesting box for every 1 or 2 hens.	A coop must contain a minimum of 1 nesting box for every 3 hens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After consultation with a few hen keeping experts and a review of other municipalities, it appears that 1 nest box for every 3 hens is the most adequate. Edmonton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1 nest box per 4 hens Minimum 3 hens, maximum 6 hens

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Deer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ At least 1 nest box per coop ○ Maximum 4 hens • Grande Prairie: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sufficient number of nest boxes ○ Maximum 4 hens
Demonstration that all adjoining neighbours (properties that share a common property line) of the applicant have been notified of their application for a Hen Licence.	Adjoining properties that are undeveloped/vacant are not required to be notified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration encountered a few cases where some applicants have adjoining properties that are undeveloped, or developed but otherwise vacant.
A hen coop is to be located within the rear yard of a residential property.	Enable a hen coop to be located within the side yard (fenced with the rear yard) of a residential property, provided that the minimum setback requirements from the side yard property line and surrounding structures are met.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Land Use Bylaw defines a side yard is defined as part of a lot that is neither a front yard nor a rear yard, and is measured from the side property line to the nearest point of a foundation wall of the principal building. • Some residential lots are pie-shaped or irregular, and contain additional space within the side yard. • Should the residential property be a corner lot, this may allow a hen coop to be located on the opposite side of its neighbouring residential property, provided that the minimum setback requirements are met.
The annual Hen Licence fee is \$40.00.	Increase the annual Hen Licence fee to \$45.00.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The fee increase reflects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inflation over the years since the start of the program in January 2019. The rate of increase is based on the standard 1-2% a year. ○ The staff time required to review and process new applications and renewals.