

Memo



TO: Chair, Finance and Administration Committee

FROM: Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 8, 2021

SUBJECT: **Backyard Hens**

The Contract Planner reviewed the City of Surrey and the City of Duncan backyard hen regulations and the summary is presented below. Standards highlighted in yellow are those we believe are most appropriate for the Town of Lake Cowichan. It is unnecessary to have a registration system in place as this will likely prove to be an onerous and unnecessary task that will waste Town staff resources.

Considerations

1. Minimum lot size
 - Surrey: 7,200 sq. ft (670 m²).
 - Duncan: 450 m²
2. Number of hens
 - Surrey: 6 per lot
 - Duncan: 6 per lot
3. Free range
 - Surrey: no, hens must always be in coop
 - Duncan: yes, within enclosure
4. Roosters
 - Surrey: none permitted unless lot over 5 acres in size
 - Duncan: not specified as permitted
5. Location of coop and enclosure
 - Surrey: min. 3.0 m from dwelling; 1.2 m from any lot line; min. 3 m. from flanking street
 - Duncan: min. 3.0 m from dwelling door or window; min. 2.5 m from any lot line; located in rear yard; max. 3.0 m. in height
6. Size and design of coop
 - Surrey: 0.37 m² per hen in coop; 0.92 m² per hen outside enclosure; one nesting box and perch per hen;
 - Duncan: Perch of at least 15 cm per hen; secure construction from other animals including pests

Backyard Chickens

7. BC Premises ID Registration Number
 - Surrey: yes
 - Duncan: no
8. Register Hens with City
 - Surrey: yes
 - Duncan: no (previously required, but no longer)
9. Selling eggs
 - Surrey: no
 - Duncan: no
10. Slaughter
 - Surrey: not on site
 - Duncan: not permitted on site
11. Manure management
 - Surrey: fully contained
 - Duncan: must be fully enclosed, no excessive smells, not more than 3 m3, not disposed in City garbage or recycling
12. Permitted in single family improved lot only.
13. No person may keep Hens on Property unless the Hens are kept as a lawful accessory use of the Property in accordance with the Town's Zoning Bylaw, and the person keeping the Hens:
 - (a) is the registered owner of the Property on which the Hens are kept; or
 - (b) has the permission of the registered owner of the Property to keep the Hens.
14. The Owner must not keep any Hen:
 - (a) within a residential dwelling unit, or on a balcony or deck; or
 - (b) In a cage, unless for the purpose of transport of the Hen.
15. The Owner must ensure that each Hen remains at all times in a Backyard Hen enclosure.

If Council is agreeable to the foregoing highlighted recommendations, the appropriate land use bylaws and the animal control bylaws will be prepared for amendment.



Joseph A. Fernandez