



5 Steps to SMITHERS BACKYARD HEN KEEPING

Are you interested in keeping hens in the Town of Smithers? Follow the steps outlined in this guide to familiarize yourself with the town's requirements and regulations. This guide is for general information only. If you have any questions, please contact the Development Services Department at (250) 847-1600 or visit www.smithers.ca for more information.

1 Know Your Zoning.

Before purchasing chickens or investing in a coop or other infrastructure, the first step is to confirm that backyard hen keeping is permitted on your property. Zoning regulations determine where backyard hens may be kept within the Town. Backyard hen keeping is permitted in the LDR-1 and R-6 zones, and in the A-1 and R-7 zones where it is accessory to a permitted agricultural use or single-detached dwelling. To verify your property's zoning, visit www.smithers.ca or contact the Town of Smithers Planning Department.

2 Understand the Regulations.

At this stage you should familiarize yourself with the two bylaws that regulate backyard hen keeping. First, the Zoning Bylaw regulates what properties are permitted to house hens and defines Backyard Hen keeping as *"the keeping of hens, as they are defined in the Animal Control Bylaw, and as permitted in this bylaw, except in the case of an Agricultural, Commercial, or Industrial use, and as regulated by the Town of Smithers Animal Control & Licensing Bylaw No. 1780, 2015"*. Second, the Animal Control & Licensing Bylaw provides specific regulations regarding the location, size of flock and coop and other health requirements. Both bylaws are available online.

3 Research and learn about small flock poultry keeping and health.

There are many local, provincial and internet resources for new chicken keepers in Smithers. For example:

- 1) Smithers Farmers Institute
- 2) BC Ministry of Agriculture Poultry Facts Sheets and publication list
- 3) Backyard Chickens (www.backyardchickens.com)
- 4) Backyard Poultry Magazine (www.backyardpoultrymag.com)

4 Submit a Hen Flock Registration Form.

You are now ready to submit your Hen Flock Registration Form and pay the \$15 registration fee. Once you register, staff will confirm your zoning and will enter your flock into a registry.

5 Move your Hen Flock Home.

Once you have registered your Backyard Hen Flock, it's time to purchase your hens and start eating some fresh eggs! Be sure to keep a copy of your Backyard Hen registration papers and remember **roosters are prohibited!**

Backyard Hen Keeping Checklist

All Backyard Hen Keepers must comply with the following:

The keeping of hens for domestic purpose is permitted as an auxiliary use to a detached, single-family dwelling on any lot provided that the following conditions can be satisfied:

- ☐ Lot size must be greater than 550m² (5,920 ft²) and zoned **LDR-1, R-6, R-7, or A-1** zones, where 'agriculture' is a permitted principal use.
- ☐ The owner of the property resides on the property in a single-detached dwelling on the property where the hens are kept, or obtains written permission from the property owner.
- ☐ **Roosters are prohibited.**
- ☐ **The keeping of hens is limited to a maximum of:**
 - 6 hens as an auxiliary use to a detached, single-family dwelling;
 - 12 hens on a P-1 property in conjunction with a Community Garden;
 - 12 poultry for each 0.4 ha of parcel area in zones **A-1** or **R-7** for parcels outside the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR); Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) regulations apply for parcels in ALR.

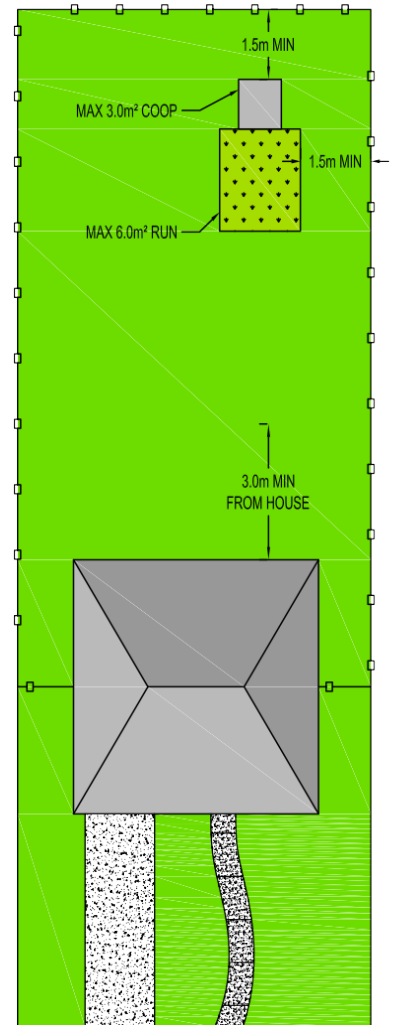
Hens must be kept in a run that is:

- ☐ Fenced on all sides and covered from above in a manner that will keep predators and vermin from entering and hens from escaping;
- ☐ Provide 1.0 m² (10.76 ft²) of roofed outdoor enclosure per hen;
- ☐ Sited at least 3.0 m (9.84 ft) from the principal building and 1.5 m (4.92 ft) from the side or rear property line, while being located in the backyard.

At least 1 coop must be provided in such a way that it:

- ☐ Kept clean and monitored daily for suitable cleanliness;
- ☐ Sited at least 3.0 m (9.84 ft) from the principal building and 1.5 m (4.92 ft) from the side or rear property line, while being located in the backyard;
- ☐ Allows at least 0.5 m² (5.3 ft²) of coop floor area per hen;
- ☐ Includes at least 1 perch no shorter than 15 cm per hen and 1 nest box per 4 hens.

- ☐ All hens must be provided sufficient food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, veterinary care and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dustbathing, and roosting; to maintain good health;
- ☐ Feed must be stored in such a manner as to not provide an attractant to bears, other wildlife, or vermin;
- ☐ Manure must be stored within a fully enclosed structure, with no more than 0.08 m³ (3 ft³) of manure stored at one time; All excess manure must be removed from the property;
- ☐ Biosecurity procedures must be followed as recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency;
- ☐ Hens are permitted for personal use only, and selling eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from hens is prohibited;
- ☐ Slaughtering hens in Town limits is prohibited unless at a certified facility;
- ☐ Flocks must be registered for a fee of \$15 with the Town of Smithers



I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand the above regulations related to Backyard Hen Keeping.

Signature of Applicant

Date



Schedule “C” Bylaw No. 1780
Town of Smithers
Hen Flock Registration

Hen Owner _____

Street Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number (Home) _____ **(Work)** _____

Email _____



I confirm that I reside on the above property, or that I have permission from the property owner.

Property Owner Name _____

Property Owner’s Phone Number _____

Property Owner’s Email _____



I confirm that I have read and understand the information regarding Backyard Hens under Bylaw No 1780.

One time Application Fee: \$15

Date Paid: _____

Entered into Flock Registry: _____

Approved by: _____