

Learn the rules for keeping Backyard Chickens in the City

As part of City efforts to allow residents to get involved in their own urban food production, you can now keep chickens in your backyard on single family urban area lots that are more than 7,200 square feet. There are several important rules you will need to comply with in order to keep a backyard chicken coop from being a nuisance for your neighbours, including:

- A maximum of:
 - 12 head of poultry per acre, on lots greater than 1 Acre but less than 5 Acres; or
 - 4 hens per lot, on lots greater than 7,200 square feet but less than 1 Acre
- Roosters are not allowed in residential areas on lots less than 5 Acres.
- Ducks, turkeys, or other fowl other than hens are not allowed on lots less than 1 Acre.
- Eggs, meat, or manure cannot be used for commercial purposes on lots less than 1 Acre.
- Slaughtering of chickens on the property is not allowed on lots less than 5 Acres.

Steps to keeping backyard hens

There are four steps to follow if you want to keep chickens in your backyard:

1. Review the City bylaws to see if you qualify to keep chickens.
2. Learn how to care for hens.
3. Get a British Columbia Premises ID (BCPID) Registration number from the Ministry of Agriculture.
4. Register your property/hens with the City.

Step 1: Review the City bylaws

Part 4.7 of the [City Zoning bylaw](#) explains the requirements for keeping animals including backyard hens, and regulates the minimum lot size and coop location details for those looking to keep chickens. The [Surrey Chicken Keeping bylaw](#) explains the rules and requirements for the keeping of backyard hens, including the size and design of your coop; how to protect the health of people living in the area; as well as ensure that the hens are treated humanely.

Step 2: Learn how to care for hens

Next, you should read the following backyard chicken requirement guide documents, health guides, and frequently asked question sheets page prior to registering to keep hens:

- How to prevent and detect disease in backyard flocks and pet birds;
- Backyard Chicken requirements Guide and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs),
- Humane considerations for backyard hens;
- Resources for backyard hen owners.

Step 3: Get a B.C. Premises ID Registration (BCPID) number from the Ministry of Agriculture

A BC Premises ID is a unique nine character code assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture to properties who intend to keep livestock or poultry in the Province. In British Columbia, all Premises ID numbers start with BC (for example: BC449GP7N). There is no financial cost to register and obtain your premises ID # with the Ministry. There are three options for submitting your Premises Registration:

1. [Complete Online Premises ID Registration](#); or
2. [Download/email the Paper Form for Premises ID Registration](#) [PDF]; or
3. Mail your registration to: BCPID, Ministry of Agriculture 1767 Angus Campbell Road Abbotsford, BC V3G 2M3

A copy of the BCPID frequently asked questions sheet is available from the Ministry of Agriculture office or online at: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/food-safety/premises-id-for-livestock-poultry.

Once you receive your unique nine character code from the Ministry, you will then use that ID# to register your hens with the City.

Step 4: Register your hens with the City

After you review the backyard chicken guide documents and bylaw regulations, and receive your BC PID #, you can go ahead and register your property to keep hens with the City of Surrey. Once you receive validation that your registration has been received and authenticated by the city (via letter or email), you can go ahead and construct a coop and purchase your hens.

There are four options for submitting your Surrey Backyard Hen Registration:

1. Online at www.surrey.ca/community/13805.aspx; or
2. Email a digital PDF or scanned copy of your registration to: backyardhens@surrey.ca
3. Mail your registration to: Backyard Hens, City of Surrey 13450, 104 Avenue, V3T 1V8, Attn: Bylaws and Licensing Office.
4. Drop off your registration in person at the Surrey City Hall Bylaws and Licensing Office, 13450 104 Avenue

To inquire about the status of your Backyard Chicken Application, you may phone Bylaw & Licensing division Call Centre at 604-591-4370 and press (1) for Bylaw Complaints and Animal Control.

Questions or Concerns about backyard chickens?

If you have question or are concerned about backyard chickens being kept in your area, contact Surrey By-Law Enforcement Division at 604-591-4370 in order to register a chicken related complaint or register your inquiry online and select Bylaw Enforcement on the form, with such concerns as:

- Pests, insects, or wildlife drawn by the backyard chickens;
- Noise or smell from the chickens;
- Chickens that are injured, abandoned, stray / at large, or neglected;
- The owner is not registered for Backyard Chicken Program;
- The number of chickens exceeds bylaw guidelines;
- The chickens are not being cared for according to the Bylaw Requirements.

Enforcement

Domestic Hen keeping is enforced under the Surrey Zoning Bylaw the Surrey Chicken Keeping Bylaw and the Municipal Ticket Utilization Bylaw. Any person who violates any of the provisions of these Bylaws may be liable to a penalty of not less than \$100 Dollars and not more than \$1,000.00 dollars together with the cost of the prosecution. Each day that such violation exists will constitute a separate offence. Keeping hens without registration will result in a \$150 fine.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and/or Comments

Visit our webpage at www.surrey.ca/community/13805.aspx and review our [Frequently Asked Question \(FAQ\) Sheet](#) for more information on Backyard Chickens in Surrey.