

Backyard Poultry Information Guide

The Town of Ladysmith adopted a new Animal Control Bylaw (Bylaw 2024, No. 2167) that allows the keeping of backyard poultry in certain residential areas. The details and requirements for keeping backyard poultry are contained in the Animal Control Bylaw and the Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860. This guide provides a summary of key considerations for residents thinking about keeping backyard hens (female chickens and ducks) in the Town of Ladysmith.

Benefits and Poultry-Keeping Considerations

Backyard chickens and the keeping of other urban animals like ducks are supported in the Town's Official Community Plan to encourage food production and food security. Keeping backyard poultry can also provide opportunities for improved sustainability, community-building, food waste reduction, and education about local food systems and production.

Backyard hens and ducks can attract wildlife and increase incidences of human-wildlife conflicts. The Animal Control Bylaw includes regulations for the keeping of poultry that serve to manage associated risks of wildlife and vermin attraction.

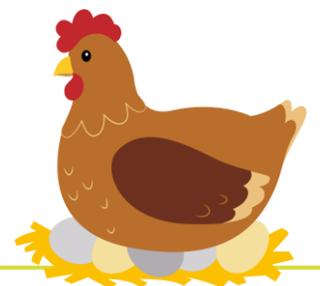
Diseases can pass between poultry and people, so be sure to follow good hygiene practices if you decide to adopt backyard hens.



Image: City of Penticton

Steps to Keeping Backyard Poultry

- Step 1** Review Town bylaws to see if you qualify to keep hens and ducks and make sure you understand the rules:
- [Animal Control Bylaw 2024, No. 2167](#) (includes Backyard Poultry Exclusion Areas as Schedule A).
 - Zoning Bylaw 2014, No. 1860.
- Step 2** Understand best practices and responsibilities for keeping urban hens and ducks. You can find additional resources on the Town website at <https://www.ladysmith.ca/business-development/backyard-poultry>
- Step 3** If your property is allowed to have backyard poultry, make sure your coop, pen, and all other backyard poultry accessories and practices meet the requirements set out in the bylaws.



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Key Rules and Regulations

Each single-family residential property outside of the Backyard Poultry Exclusion Areas can have up to six (6) hens (female chickens and ducks).

Roosters, drakes and chicks/ducklings are not allowed under the new bylaw. Backyard poultry must be kept in an animal/vermin-proof coop and pen. Other specifications for the keeping of backyard poultry are contained within the Animal Control Bylaw 2024, No. 2167.



Coops must provide adequate space, nesting, and perching areas. Details are included in the bylaw.



Pens must be fully-enclosed and provide adequate outdoor space. Continuous animal-proof fencing must enclose coops and pens.



Owners must follow the Canadian Food Inspection Agencies biosecurity procedures and seek veterinary care early, as needed.



Selling eggs is permitted given they meet BC's rules for ungraded egg sales. The eggs, once purchased, shall not be resold.



No slaughtering of poultry or selling of other poultry products.



No coop or pen shall be located in the front yard, within 1.0 metre of any property line or within 3.0 metres of any dwelling.



Enclosures, litter, and other equipment must be kept clean and well-maintained.

General Questions or Complaints

Bylaw Compliance | [Phone: 250.246.6446](tel:250.246.6446)

Zoning Bylaw Questions

Development Services | [Phone: 250.245.6415](tel:250.245.6415)

[Email: ds@ladysmith.ca](mailto:ds@ladysmith.ca)

For wildlife sightings and encounters, contact the Conservation Officer 24 Hour Hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

Best Practices

- Learn how to prevent and detect disease in backyard flocks.
 - Prevent contact with wild birds/other animals.
 - Routinely clean their environment.
 - Spot signs of disease and contact a veterinarian early.
 - Keep new hens isolated until you are sure they are healthy.
- Research how to provide good, healthy living standards for hens and ducks.
 - Chickens and ducks are social animals and a minimum of two female chickens, or two female ducks should be kept together to enhance their social wellbeing.
- Take biosecurity precautions to protect your own health.
 - Always wash your hands before and after handling hens, ducks, or anything in their environment.
 - Do not eat or drink within their living areas.
 - Do not allow hens or ducks to enter your home and keep your shoes used for poultry care outdoors.
- Take steps to reduce and remove wildlife attractants.



Image: Azure Farm

