

City of Kingston Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Backyard Hens

Definitions:

“hen” means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four months old.”

“hen run” means covered secure enclosure that allows hens’ access to outdoors.”

“coop” means a fully enclosed weatherproof building where hens are kept and which the interior of includes nest boxes for egg laying, perches for the hens to sleep on and food and water containers.”

“owner” includes any person who possesses, harbours or keeps an animal or hen and, where an owner is a minor, includes the person who is responsible for the custody of the minor.”

“at large” means, in the case of a dog being in a place other than a property owned or occupied by its owner and not under the control of its owner or another person acting on behalf of the owner and, in the case of a hen, means being outside a coop or run.”

Regulations for the keeping of backyard hens and coops:

- The license fee for a hen coop is in accordance with By-Law 2005-10 which is renewable each calendar year (on or before December 31) with the Building and Licensing Department and registered in the identification system.
- A maximum of 6 hens are permitted on any residential property.
- All hens must be at least 4 months old.
- The keeping of roosters is prohibited.
- A tenant must obtain permission from the property owner to keep hens on the owner's property.
- The owner of the hens must reside on the property where the hens are kept.
- Applicants must advise their neighbours of their intention to obtain a hen coop permit prior to submitting application.
- Hens must be kept in their coops from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Hens must be kept in an enclosed hen run when not in their coop.
- Hen coops and runs shall be a distance of at least 1.2m from the rear lot line and at least 1.2m from any side lot line of the dwelling lot on which the hen coop is located.
- Hen coops and hen runs shall be located at least 15 m from any school.
- Hen coops and hen runs shall be located at least 7.5 metres from any church or business.
- Hen coops and hen runs shall be a minimum distance of 3 m from all windows and doors of dwellings that are located on an abutting property.
- Hen coops are not permitted in any front or side yard.
- Sales of eggs, manure and other products associated with the keeping of hens are prohibited.
- Hen coops and hen runs shall be maintained in a clean condition and the coop shall be kept free of obnoxious odours, substances and vermin.
- Stored manure shall be kept in an enclosed structure such as a compost bin in accordance with compost regulations, and no more than three cubic feet shall be stored at any one time.
- Manure shall be disposed of in accordance with Municipal by-laws. Hen waste must be solid and bagged.
- Home slaughter of hens is prohibited and any deceased hens shall be disposed of at a livestock disposal facility or through the services of a veterinarian.