

# BACKYARD HEN KEEPING PROGRAM

## NEIGHBOUR NOTIFICATION LETTER



DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST & LAST NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

Hello Neighbour,

I am writing to inform you that I am applying to the City of Leduc for a hen keeping licence. As per the City's Backyard Hen Keeping Guidelines, I am providing you with notification of my intention to keep hens and partake in hen keeping activities.

The City of Leduc only grants hen keeping licences to applicants who meet the guidelines (see back of letter) and the Animal Licencing and Control Bylaw 1019-2019.

See the City's website [www.leduc.ca/hensandbees](http://www.leduc.ca/hensandbees) for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the City of Leduc Environment department directly through the Eco-Smart Hotline (780) 980-7107 or [ecosmart@leduc.ca](mailto:ecosmart@leduc.ca).

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS



**Questions? Contact the Eco-smart Hotline 780 980 7107**

# YARD SITE AND COOP REQUIREMENTS

## Yard Site and Hen Enclosure Specifications

- Hen enclosures must be in a fenced rear yard of single-detached dwellings.
- Approved rear yard sites must keep a minimum of three hens and must not exceed six hens. Hens must be at least 16 weeks old. Hen breeds appropriate for the regional climate are recommended.
- Roosters are not permitted.
- Changes to the number of hens at the rear yard site must be reported to the Environmental Inspector immediately.
- Hen enclosures must not exceed a maximum floor area of 9.2 m<sup>2</sup>.
- The hen enclosure must include a minimum of:
  - 0.37 m<sup>2</sup> of coop area per hen
  - 0.92 m<sup>2</sup> of run area per hen
- The coop must be walled, insulated, ventilated and roofed and the run must be attached to the coop, secure and covered, and may be either vegetated or bare earth.
- The hen enclosure must be located a minimum of:
  - 1.2 m from all adjacent property lines
  - 3 m from windows and doors of the residential structure on the property and any neighbouring residence
  - 1.5 m from the residential structure on the property
- The hen enclosure must be a maximum height of 1.8 m.
- The hen enclosure must have adequate ventilation, climate appropriate roosting platforms/bars, nest boxes, sufficient perch locations and be weather and predator proof.
- Note: Additional permitting may be required (e.g., electrical permit) through the City of Leduc Planning and Development Department in order to provide power/heat to the coop.

## Biosecurity and Disease Prevention

- The licence holder must follow biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) - National Biosecurity Standards and Biosecurity Principles for Poultry Service Industry Biosecurity Guide
- Hens and coops must be inspected regularly for signs of health problems or disease. The Environmental Inspector must be notified immediately of any disease that may affect the public or other hen keepers (e.g., potential reportable diseases) and the steps taken to rectify the situation.

## Care and Waste Specifications

- Licence holders must adhere to good management and husbandry practices and hens must be maintained to prevent diseases, distress, and welfare issues. Hens must be provided appropriate food, water (liquid, not frozen), shelter, light, warmth, ventilation, shade, veterinary care and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, pecking, dustbathing, roosting and socializing.
- Applicants must submit a checklist along with their application which identifies mitigations that will be implemented to prevent disease from occurring, and keep disease from spreading, should they occur. The checklist must include daily, weekly, monthly and seasonal tasks. A local veterinarian familiar with treating hens must be identified in the application.
- Hen enclosures must be kept in good repair and in sanitary conditions. Leftover feed, trash, and manure must be removed, discarded and/or properly composted to prevent nuisance odours.
- During the winter, runs must be wrapped (e.g., corrugated plastic, heavy polyethylene wrap or tarpaulin). The coop must be insulated and have adequate ventilation on the roof to reduce moisture and moderate temperature in the winter.
- On-site slaughter or euthanizing of hens is prohibited. If removal of a hen is required, the hen may be euthanized humanely by a veterinarian, rehomed or be taken to a licenced abattoir.

## Pest and Predator Control

- The hen enclosure must prevent hens from escaping and other animals entering. Hens must always remain in the enclosure which must remain locked. Free ranging within the licence holder's fenced back yard is only permitted under direct supervision.
- The coop must be constructed and maintained to prevent rodents from harbouring anywhere inside.
- The hen enclosure must be constructed and maintained to prevent access by predators (i.e., dogs, foxes, coyotes, owls, hawks, etc.).

## Nuisance Conditions

- Hen enclosures must be kept in good repair and in sanitary conditions to prevent negative impacts including but not limited to: attracting nuisance animals, the spread of food over the property and excessive smells or noise.