

Urban Hen Keeping Guidelines

Urban Hen Keeping is managed under the Urban Hen Keeping Bylaw 15-2026. These guidelines will help ensure that urban hen keeping is a positive addition to the community by providing best practices and responsible regulations to minimize impact on surrounding neighbors and ensure the health and well-being of the hens being kept.

FLOCK SIZE:

- Hens are social animals and keepers must have a minimum of two (2) hens to a maximum of six (6).
- No roosters
- Hens must be a minimum of 16 weeks old when acquired so the keeper can determine the sex of the bird and avoid selecting a rooster.

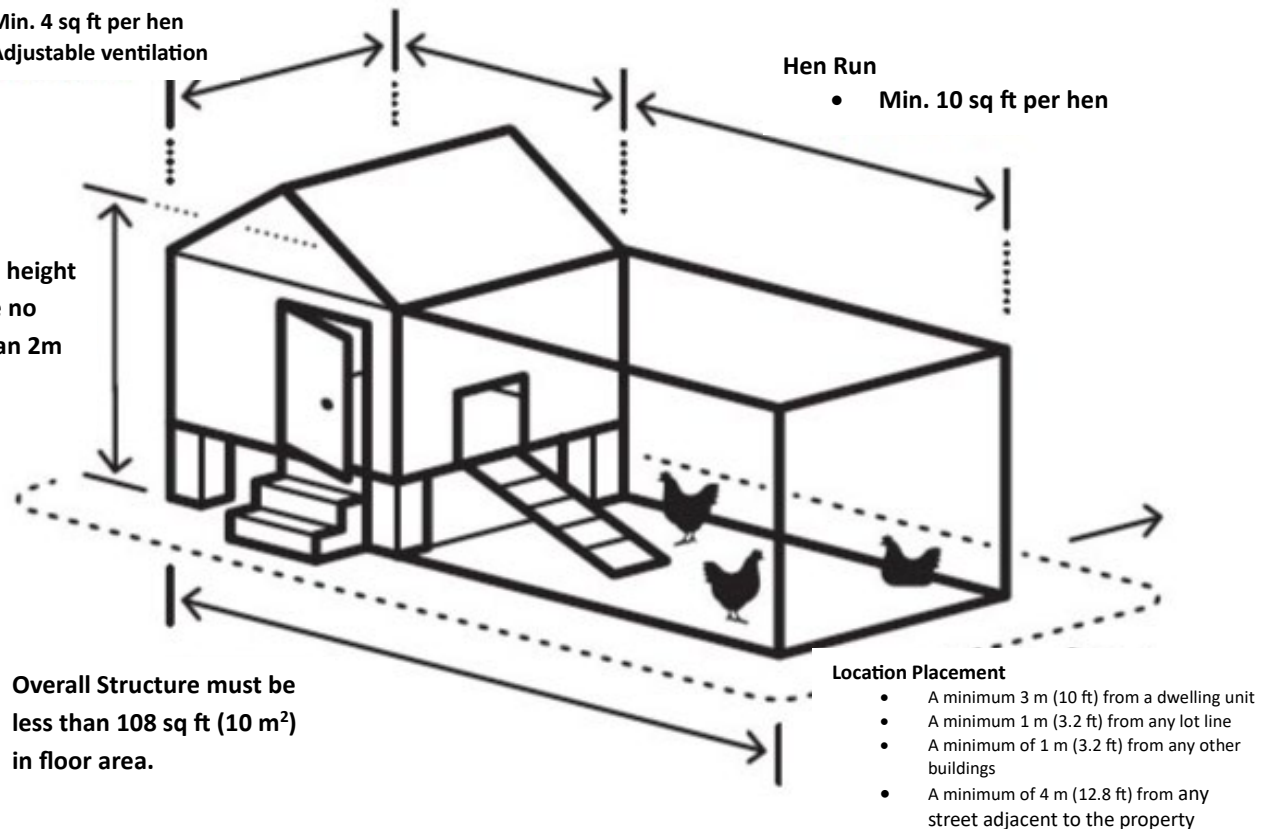
COOP AND RUN SIZE

One coop and one run per property is permitted.

Coop Area

- Min. 4 sq ft per hen
- Adjustable ventilation

Enclosure height should be no higher than 2m (6.5 ft)



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The coop must:

- Minimum of 2 hens, maximum of 6 hens.
- Contain a minimum of one nest box for every 3 hens 12'x12' size.
- Be minimum 4 sq feet per hen with direct access to the outdoor run with adjustable ventilation.
- Provide warmth through heat lamps, wall insulation, poly sheeting, heat mats or other means.
- Be constructed to prevent rodents and other nuisance animals from accessing the coop.

The run must:

- Be minimum 10 sq feet per hen.
- Located within the rear yard of the lot behind a detached or semi-detached dwelling.
- No more than 2 meters in height.
- Not attached to a house or any other building.

*If you plan on hardwiring your coop to provide power for lights, heating, etc. you need to apply for an electrical permit.

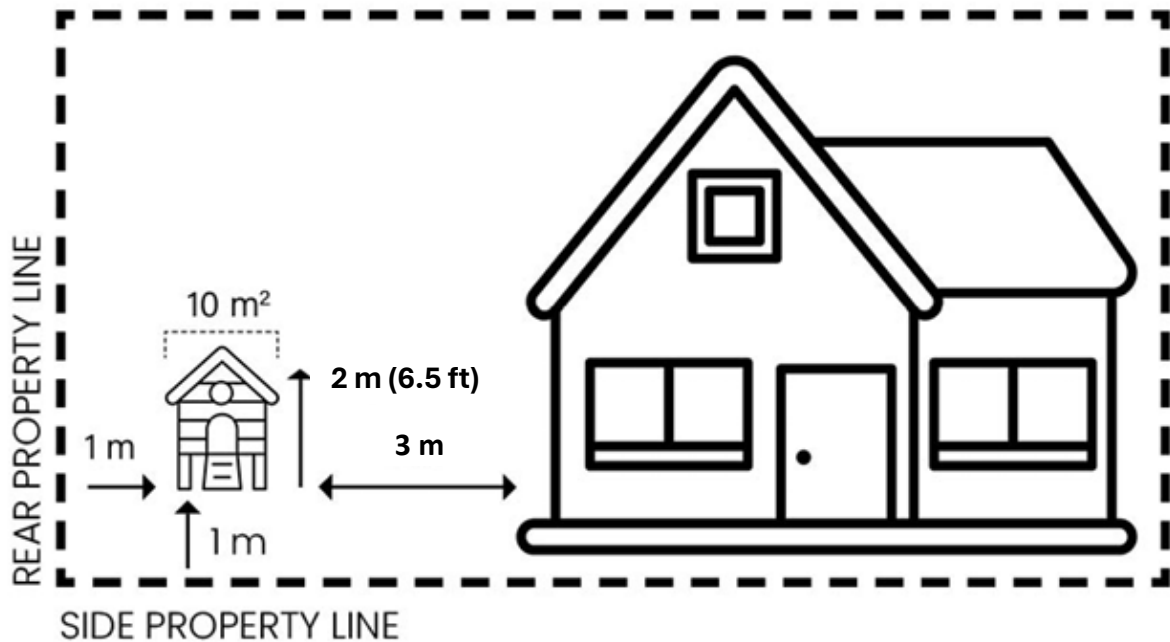
Coop Location

Below are general guidelines on where a coop may be placed on your property.

The coop must be:

- In the backyard of a property.
- A minimum of three (3) meters from principal buildings (house or garage).
- A minimum of one (1) meter from the rear and side property lines.
- No more than two (2) meters in height.

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Hen Keeper Responsibilities

Every hen keeper shall adhere to good management practices and maintain the coop and hens in conditions that ensure good health including:

- Providing food, water, shelter, adequate light, ventilation, warmth, veterinary care and opportunities to scratch, peck, dust bathe, roost and socialize with other hens.
- Hens may not be kept in a cage, kennel or other form of shelter except when transporting or quarantining hens to prevent or treat disease and only for as long as reasonably needed.
- Hens must be always kept in a secure location.
- Feed must be stored in a fully enclosed, tamper-proof container.
- Coops must be maintained in good repair and sanitary conditions free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances.
- Leftover feed, trash and manure must be removed in a timely manner.
- Manure must be stored in a fully enclosed container and no more than 85 liters of manure may be stored at any time.
- Slaughtering of hens within Town boundaries is prohibited (within town limits hens may only be euthanized at a veterinary practice or an abattoir).

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Hen Health

Avian influenza (AI) is a viral disease of birds. There are many different strains of the AI virus, and most of these have little or no effect on bird health. However, two types are known as H5 and H7, this can cause severe illness and death in affected birds.

Your backyard hens could be at risk of catching bird flu, when wild birds migrate to and through Canada in the spring and fall months, as wild birds naturally carry influenza viruses.

Preventative measures can help keep your animals healthy. Simple inexpensive practices can be very effective at keeping this serious disease away from your birds.

Signs of Avian Influenza (AI)

Infected hens may show one or more of these signs or symptoms:

- Sudden death
- Decreased food consumption
- Huddling, depression or closed eyes
- Respiratory signs (coughing, sneezing, gasping for air)
- Decreased egg production
- Watery greenish diarrhea
- Excessive thirst
- Swollen wattles and combs

Protect Your Hens

To minimize the risk of your hens contracting AI it is recommended you:

- Prevent contact with wild birds and other animals.
- Frequently clean poultry coops, waterers, feeders, your clothing and your footwear.
- Spot the signs and report early.
- Limit exposure to visitors.
- Keep new birds separate when introducing them to your flock.

If your hens are sick

Hen owners are legally responsible to notify authorities of serious bird disease such as bird flu. Call your veterinarian or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) animal health office if you suspect your birds have the bird flu.

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Food Safety

Eggs from backyard hens should be for personal use. Keepers must follow provincial and federal regulations for animal health and food safety to protect themselves and the community.

Inspections

Approved Urban Hen Keeping License holders shall make themselves, coops and hens available for inspection at a reasonable request of the Town of Bruderheim staff.

Revocable Permission

Should the Town of Bruderheim find a site, coop, hens or a keeper to be unsuitable at any time or in contravention of Town bylaws or any provincial or national regulation, the Urban Hen Keeping License may be revoked permanently and the owner shall be responsible to relocate the hens to a location outside of the Town of Bruderheim within 30 days. All costs and associated expenditures related to the removal are the sole responsibility of the hen keeper or property owner.

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