



QUESTION & ANSWER

Urban Hens

How do I apply for an Urban Hen License?

- You must be 18 years of age
- You must complete an application with the Town of Okotoks
- You must complete an Introductory Hen Keeping Course
- You must provide contact information for a licensed veterinarian that provides care for your hens
- You must provide an Adjacent Properties Notification Form
- You must pass a site and chicken coop inspection at your property/place of residence

Is there a fee for an Urban Hen License?

There is a \$50 fee for an Urban Hen License. Please note, license fees are not reduced or prorated no matter the month of purchase and license fees that have been paid in full will not be refunded or rebated.

What qualifies as an urban hen?

An urban hen is a domesticated female chicken that is at least 16 weeks of age.

How long is my Urban Hen License valid for?

Urban Hen Licences are valid for the period of January 1 to December 31 of the year in which it is issued and must be renewed annually prior to January 31 of each subsequent year.

Can I sell eggs or products derived from my urban hen?

The sale of eggs, manure, meat or other products derived from an urban hen is not permitted.

How many urban hens does an Urban Hen License permit?

You are allowed a maximum of four hens. Roosters are not permitted.

What are the requirements for the chicken coop?

Each hen needs at least 0.37m² (4 sq. ft.) of interior floor area, and at least 0.92m² (10 sq. ft.) of outdoor enclosure. You need to ensure that the coop is located in the rear yard of the property at a minimum of 3.0m (10 ft.) from the dwelling; a minimum of 1m (3.28 ft.) from any lot line and a minimum 3.6m (11.81 ft.) from any street adjacent to the property. In the coop, you will need at least one nest box per coop and one perch for each hen that is at least 15cm (6 in) long. The hens must be kept in the coop at all times.

How often do chicken coops need cleaning?

At minimum, coops should be cleaned and excess feed removed once a week to prevent odour, deter pests and ensure healthy living conditions. An annual disinfecting of the coop and all of its furnishings is also recommended. Manure can be stored in a closed container with no more than 85 litres (3 cubic feet) of manure at one time.

Who do I contact if I have a concern about a neighbour's chickens?

Please contact Okotoks Municipal Enforcement or the Humane Society if you witness any form of cruelty or lack of care towards animals.

My neighbor has hens and I don't want them there. How can I get them removed?

If they are violating a Bylaw, a Town of Okotoks Bylaw or Peace Officer will investigate. If no offence is occurring and they have a valid Urban Hen License, the Town will not investigate.