



# **GUIDE TO KEEPING BACKYARD CHICKENS (HENS ONLY) ON VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE RESIDENTIAL ZONED PROPERTIES**



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Hen registration forms are available on the Village of Fruitvale's website at [www.village.fruitvale.bc.ca](http://www.village.fruitvale.bc.ca) under the Bylaws and Policies tab.

Province of BC Premises Identification forms are available online at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/premises-id>

If you have any questions regarding keeping backyard hens, please email the Village of Fruitvale at [info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca](mailto:info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca) or call 250-367-7551.



## THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE

### BYLAW 922, 2020

A Bylaw to Provide for the Regulation, Restriction, and Prohibition of the Keeping of Animals in the Village of Fruitvale

WHEREAS it is deemed desirable to regulate the keeping of animals and poultry in the Village of Fruitvale;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Village of Fruitvale deems it advisable to enact regulations regarding same;

NOW THEREFORE, Council of the Corporation of the Village of Fruitvale, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

#### **PART 1 – TITLE**

This Bylaw shall be known and cited for all purposes as "Animal Responsibility Bylaw No. 922, 2020".

#### **PART 2 – SEVERABILITY**

Each section of this Bylaw shall be severable. If any provision of this Bylaw is held to be illegal or invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, the provision may be severed, and the illegality or invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Bylaw.

#### **PART 3 – DEFINITIONS**

In this Bylaw, unless the context requires otherwise:

**"Agents"** means those persons other than the Village and BC SPCA who have been authorized by the Village to sell Dog licenses.

**"Animal"** means a mammal, bird, or reptile, but does not include human.

**"Animal Control Officer"** means a Special Constable or other designated employee of the BC SPCA acting in the capacity of Poundkeeper for the Village.

**"Assistance Dog"** means a Guide Animal, as defined in the *Guide Animal Act of British Columbia* and amendments thereto, trained or in training as a practical companion for a person who lives with a disability and whilst acting in that capacity.

**"At Large"** means being elsewhere than on the premises of its Owners and not secured on a leash to a competent person.

**"BC SPCA"** means The British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, West Kootenay & District Branch.

**"Bees"** means bees of any species.

**"Village"** means The Corporation of the Village of Fruitvale.

**"Collector"** means the Collector of The Corporation of the Village of Fruitvale and may include the BC SPCA and any other person being so authorized by Council.

**"Competent Person"** means a person of sufficient age, capacity, height, and weight to ensure an Animal under their control will be obedient to their commands or to physically restrain the Animal if required.

**"Coop"** means a weather-proof structure with walls and a roof used for the shelter of Hens.

**"Dangerous Dog"** means a Dog which has been deemed to be dangerous by the Poundkeeper, Animal Control Officer, or Police Officer as defined herein and includes:

- a) any Dog with a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack without provocation either domestic animals or humans;
- b) any Dog which has bitten another domestic Animal or human without provocation;
- c) any Dog that the Poundkeeper, Animal Control Officer, or Police Officer has reasonable grounds to believe is likely to kill or seriously injure a person; or
- d) any Dog which is owned primarily, or in part, for the purpose of Dog fighting or has been or is being trained for Dog fighting.

**"Dog"** means any animal of the zoological family "Canidae" over the age of four (4) months.

**"Domestic Animal"** means an animal that is:

- a) tame or kept, or that has been or is being sufficiently tamed or kept, to serve some purpose for the use of people, and
- b) designated by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council to be a domestic animal.

**"Exotic Animal"** means:

- a) alien invasive species as defined by the Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation, BC Reg 144/2004;
- b) controlled alien species as defined by the Controlled Alien Species Regulation, BC Reg 94/2009; and
- c) wildlife species identified in Schedule "B" or "C" to the Designation and Exemption Regulation, BC Reg 168/90.

**"Hen"** means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four (4) months old.

**"Hobby Kennel"** means a Kennel where a maximum of five Dogs are kept for breeding or show and where the Owner is a member of the Canadian Kennel Club, or for the boarding or training of Dogs.

**"Impounded"** means seized, delivered, received or taken into the Pound or in the custody of the Poundkeeper.

**"Kennel"** means any building or structure for the accommodation of four (4) or more Dogs with any fenced animal runs.

**“Kennel License”** means a business license issued for the keeping or harbouring of four (4) or more Dogs in a Kennel.

**“Leash”** means a line or chain, or use of a line or chain, that does not exceed 6 feet (1.83 metres) in length and is of sufficient strength to restrain a Dog without breaking.

**“License”** means a license issued by the Village for a Dog.

**“Notice of Offence”** means a “Bylaw Notice” but may also mean a Municipal Ticket Information, Notice of Bylaw Infraction or other ticketing provisions as may be authorized from time to time by the Council of the Village.

**“Outdoor Enclosure”** means an open-air area attached to and forming part of a Coop having a bare earth or vegetated floor for Hens to roam, that has a roof and is enclosed with chicken wire or other fencing material.

**“Own”** means the Ownership, custody, control, possession, or harbouring of any animal within the Village.

**“Owner”** means a person who owns, or has in their custody, or under their control, or harbours, any animal within the Village.

**“Park”** means and includes a public park, playground, beach, wading pool, and other public recreational places or facilities under the care, custody, and jurisdiction of the Village or the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary.

**“Police Officer”** means a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police or any other member of a police force having jurisdiction in British Columbia.

**“Poultry”** means domestic fowl, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks or geese, raised for eggs.

**“Pound”** means any building or enclosure established as a Pound by the Village and includes the facilities of the BC SPCA.

**“Poundkeeper”** means the person appointed from time to time under this or any other bylaw for the purpose of enforcing and carrying out the provisions of this bylaw and shall include the BC SPCA.

**“Premises”** means the place or address of the Owner referred to in any application for a license.

**“Puppy”** shall mean any animal of the family “Canidae” of the age of four (4) months or younger.

**“Rooster”** means a male chicken.

**“Special Constable”** means a BC SPCA employee or municipal employee authorized to exercise the authorities of a Special Constable pursuant to Section 9 of the *Police Act*.

**“Unlicensed Dog”** means any Dog for which the license fee for the current year has not been paid or any Dog which is not wearing a license tag for the current year.

**“Village”** means the Village of Fruitvale or the area within its jurisdiction.

## **PART 4 – APPLICATION**

### **PART 4A – ANIMAL WELFARE**

#### **Animal Cruelty**

1. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Bylaw, no person shall:
  - a. abandon any animal;
  - b. in any way use poison, air pellet guns, bows and arrows, firearms, sling shots, or similar on any animal;
  - c. tease, torment, beat, kick, choke, or provoke an animal;
  - d. cause, permit, or allow an animal to suffer; or
  - e. train or allow any animal to fight.

#### **Keeping of Animals**

2. No Household shall keep more than six (6) Companion Animals, consisting of a combination of Dogs, cats, rabbits, or any other type of SPCA approved companion animal. Urban chickens and Bees are not considered as companion animals.

#### **Basic Animal Care Requirements**

3. The Owner of an Animal must ensure that the Animal is provided with:
  - a. sufficient, clean, potable drinking water;
  - b. suitable food of sufficient quantity and quality to allow for normal growth and the maintenance of normal body weight;
  - c. clean and disinfected food and water receptacles that are located so as to avoid contamination by excreta;
  - d. the opportunity for regular exercise sufficient to maintain good health; and
  - e. necessary veterinary care to maintain the health and comfort of the Animal or when the Animal exhibits signs of pain, injury, illness, or suffering.

#### **Outdoor Shelter Requirements**

4. An Owner of an Animal must ensure that the Animal has protection from all elements and must not allow the Animal to suffer from hyperthermia, hypothermia, dehydration, discomfort, or exertion causing unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury.
5. A person must not keep an Animal outside, unless the Animal is provided with a shelter that provides:
  - a. protection from heat, cold, and wet that is appropriate to the Animal’s weight and type of coat;

- b. sufficient space to allow the Animal the ability to turn about freely and to easily stand, sit, and lie in a normal position that is at least two times the length of the Animal in all directions, and at least as high as the Animal's height measured from the floor to the highest point of the Animal when standing in a normal position, plus 10%;
  - c. protection from the direct rays of the sun at all times; and
  - d. bedding that will assist with maintaining normal body temperature.
6. A person may not confine a Dog to a pen for a period in excess of 10 hours within any 24-hour period.

**Sanitation Requirements**

7. A person must not keep an Animal in a shelter, pen, cage, or run unless the shelter, pen, cage, or run is clean, sanitary, and free from vermin.

**Tying Animals**

8. A person must not cause, allow, or permit an Animal to be:
- a. tethered to a fixed object or vehicle where:
    - i. a choke collar forms part of the securing apparatus, or
    - ii. a rope, cord, or chain is tied directly around an Animal's neck; or
    - iii. the Animal's collar or harness is not properly fitted or is attached in a manner that could injure the Animal or enable the Animal to injure itself by pulling on the tether.
  - b. tethered to a fixed object, except with a tether of sufficient length to enable the Animal to sit, stand, and lie normally;
  - c. tethered to a fixed object for longer than 4 hours within a 24-hour period;
  - d. tethered to a traffic control device or support thereof, any fire hydrant or fire protection equipment, handrails or any other object in such a way as to obstruct the public or create a nuisance; or
  - e. tethered within 3 meters of an entrance or exit from any public building.

**Transport of Animals in Motor Vehicles**

9. No person shall:
- a. transport any Animals in a motor vehicle outside the passenger compartment or in an uncovered passenger compartment unless the Animal is adequately confined in a Pen or cage which is securely fastened to the vehicle, or secured in a body harness or other manner of fastening adequate to prevent the Animal from jumping or falling off the vehicle or otherwise injuring itself; or
  - b. keep an Animal confined in an enclosure, including a motor vehicle, without adequate ventilation by means of open windows or operating mechanical device that supplies fresh or cooled air to prevent the Animal from suffering distress, discomfort, or heat related injury. Such enclosed space or vehicle, if stationary, shall always be in an area providing sufficient shade to protect the Animal from direct rays of sun and prevent the Animal from exhibiting signs of distress.

**Traps**

10. A person must not use, set, or maintain a trap, or device that is designed to capture an Animal by the foot, leg, or neck.

**Animal Performances**

11. No person shall operate or carry on a public show, exhibition, carnival, or performance, whether temporary or permanent, in which Animals are required to perform tricks, fight, participate in, or otherwise accompany exhibitions or performances for the entertainment of an audience; however, nothing in this Section shall prohibit or restrict the following:
  - a. exhibitions, parades, or performances involving horses or ponies or in which individuals ride horses or ponies;
  - b. exhibitions involving Dogs;
  - c. displays or showings of animals in agricultural fairs or pet shows; or
  - d. magic acts;provided that the exhibition, parade, or performance in no way causes an Animal to be treated in an inhumane manner.

**PART 4B – DOGS****Keeping of Dogs**

12. No person shall keep more than three (3) Companion Dogs over the age of 8 weeks. This Section does not apply to a person operating a:
  - a. Kennel or Hobby Kennel;
  - b. licensed veterinary clinic; or
  - c. working cattle ranch or farm.

**Exemptions**

13. This Bylaw does not apply to a Dog belonging to and actively working for a government law enforcement agency having jurisdiction in BC.
14. Any Owner of a Dog used as a certified guide animal pursuant to the *Guide Animal Act* is exempt from the licensing fees set out in this Bylaw.

**Exercising Dogs from a Motor Vehicle or Bicycle**

15. A person must not:
  - a. exercise a Dog by allowing it to run next to a moving motor vehicle; or
  - b. exercise a Dog by allowing it to run next to a bicycle, unless the Dog is attached to the bicycle by an apparatus that always allows the person to retain two-handed control of the bicycle.
16. Section 15(b) does not apply to a person exercising a Dog in a Designated Off-Leash Dog Area if the Dog is not tethered and bicycle riding is allowed in the area.

**Dogs on Private Property**

17. The Owner of a Dog must not allow the Dog to trespass on any private property.

**Dogs in public places**

18. The Owner of a Dog must not allow the Dog to be in a public place unless the Dog is on a Leash with one end securely affixed to a collar or harness securely attached to the Dog, and the other end held by a Competent Person.
19. Every Owner of a Dog must ensure that any person who has care, custody, or control of their Dog is a Competent Person.



20. Despite Section 18, the Owner of a Dog may allow the Dog to be off-leash in areas designated by signage as off-leash areas, so long as the Dog is under the effective control of a Competent Person such that it will obey verbal or hand commands to come when directed to do so.
21. No person may permit a Dog in their care or custody to obstruct other users of a pathway or Village sidewalk.

**Dogs damaging public property**

22. The Owner of a Dog must not allow the Animal to damage or destroy any building, structure, tree, shrub, plant, or turf in a public place.
23. The Owner of a Dog must compensate the Village for any and all damage done by that Dog to Village property in violation of Section 30.

**Dogs chasing or harassing**

24. No Owner may permit their Dog to chase, harass, molest, attack, injure, or kill a Person or Animal.

**Dogs in heat**

25. Every Owner of a female Dog in heat must ensure that the Dog remains within an enclosed building or Pen until she is no longer in heat.
26. The Owner of a female Dog in heat may allow the Dog to leave the building or Pen in order to urinate or defecate on the Owner's private lands, or go for a walk, if a Competent Person:
  - a. firmly holds the Dog on a Leash, and
  - b. immediately returns the Dog to the building or pen upon completion of the urination, defecation, or walk.

**Noisy Dogs**

27. In addition to the requirements of the Anti-Noise Bylaw, the Owner of a Dog must not allow the Dog to bark, howl, or cry
  - a. for ten minutes or more without significant periods of rest; or
  - b. otherwise in such a manner as to cause a nuisance.
28. In addition to the requirements of the Anti-Noise Bylaw, No Owner may permit their dog to bark during evening hours.

**Dog Waste**

29. The Owner of a Dog must not allow the Dog to defecate:
  - a. in a public place; or
  - b. on any private property other than the property of the Owner unless the Owner immediately removes the excrement and lawfully disposes of it.
30. Dog waste disposal. Dog waste is to be taken to household and disposed of properly or in a designated dog waste bin provided by the Village.

**Dog Grooming**

31. A person who grooms a Dog in a public place must remove and lawfully dispose of any hair or other debris that result from the grooming process.

**Obtaining Dog licences**

32. Every Owner of a Dog shall hold a valid licence for each Dog owned and shall procure the same by making an application to the Village and supplying the following information:
  - a. Name;
  - b. Breed;
  - c. Colour;
  - d. Sex; and
  - e. A certificate signed by a qualified veterinary surgeon if the Dog has been spayed or neutered.
33. When a Dog has been deemed to be dangerous, an Owner shall provide proof of spay or neuter of the Dog and proof of liability insurance in the sum of \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) specific to the Dangerous Dog before a licence may be issued for a Dangerous Dog.
34. The Owner of a Dog over the age of 4 months must hold a valid licence issued by the Village for the Dog.
35. Every licence expires on December 31 of the calendar year for which the licence is issued.
36. A person may obtain a licence for a Dog by:
  - a. applying to the Village for a licence: and
  - b. paying the fee prescribed in Schedule A.
37. Where an Owner has a valid Dog licence issued by another municipality, on surrender of such license to the Collector and payment of \$5.00, the owner shall receive a replacement license for the current year. A reduced fee for replacement of a license issued in another municipality shall not apply to a Dog previously deemed dangerous in another municipality and the full license amount shall apply to such Dog.
38. An Owner may obtain a replacement licence tag if a valid licence tag is lost or destroyed by paying the replacement dog tag fee.

**Collars and licence tags**

39. A licence consists of a written receipt and a licence tag designed to be attached to a Dog collar.
40. The Owner of a Dog over the age of 4 months must not allow the Dog to be anywhere except on premises normally occupied by the Owner unless the Dog wears a collar with a valid licence tag attached to the collar.
41. If a Dog does not wear a collar to which the licence tag is attached in a conspicuous place, it shall be presumed not to be licensed until the contrary is proven.
42. A person must not remove a collar or licence tag from a Dog, unless that person is:
  - a. the Owner;
  - b. a person authorized by the Owner;
  - c. the Poundkeeper; or
  - d. an Animal Control Officer.

## **PART 4C - KENNEL REGULATIONS**

### **Enclosures and Structures**

43. Any Kennel and run area must be regularly cleaned and sanitized and all excreta removed at least once a day.
44. No Kennel is permitted within fifty (50) metres of any dwelling house, church, school, or public building, other than that occupied by the Owner of a Kennel duly licensed by the Village.
45. No person shall keep or maintain a Kennel without first having applied for and obtained a Kennel licence. The application for such licence shall be accompanied by the fee, which shall be in addition to any other fee provided for by this Bylaw.

### **Kennels and Hobby Kennels**

46. All persons operating a Kennel or Hobby Kennel within the Village must have a valid licence issued pursuant to this Bylaw and must comply with this Bylaw.
47. No person shall use any premise as a Kennel or Hobby Kennel for the keeping, training, care, breeding, hospitalization, or boarding of Dogs on any parcel of land within the Village unless the parcel is specifically permitted by the Village of Fruitvale Zoning Bylaw.
48. Any person operating a Kennel must first obtain a Village business licence and satisfy all other applicable Village bylaws and provincial regulations.
49. Any person or persons operating a Hobby Kennel must be engaged only in the breeding of their own Dogs, must hold a current membership with the Canadian Kennel Club, and shall have no more than five Dogs, all of which must be licensed.
50. Floors of all structures or rooms used in a Kennel or Hobby Kennel to accommodate Dogs shall be of a sanitary construction, provided with drainage, and approved by the local health authorities.

## **PART 4D - DANGEROUS DOGS**

### **Designating dangerous Dogs**

51. An Animal Control Officer may designate a Dog as a Dangerous Dog if the Dog:
  - a. bites a human or animal without provocation;
  - b. has a known propensity, tendency, or disposition to attack a human or animal without provocation; or
  - c. has previously been designated as a Dangerous Dog and endangers the safety of a human or animal.
52. A designation under Section 51 may be for any period that an Animal Control Officer considers appropriate, considering:
  - a. the circumstances of the incident,
  - b. the severity of the incident, and
  - c. any previous incidents.
53. After designating a Dog as a Dangerous Dog, an Animal Control Officer must inform the Owner of the Dog in writing of:
  - a. the designation and its length; and
  - b. the responsibilities of the Owner of a Dangerous Dog.

**Dangerous Dog licences**

54. When a Dog has been deemed to be dangerous, an Owner shall provide proof of spay or neuter of the Dog and proof of liability insurance in the sum of \$1,000,000 (One Million Dollars) specific to the Dangerous Dog before a licence may be issued for a Dangerous Dog.

**Control of Dangerous Dogs**

55. Except as allowed under Section 56 and subject to Section 57, the Owner of a Dangerous Dog must not allow the Dangerous Dog to be in a public place or on any private lands and premises unless the Dog is:
- a. firmly held by a person competent to restrain the Dog on a leash not exceeding 2.4 metres in length, and
  - b. properly fitted with a humane basket muzzle that allows the Dog to pant and drink.
56. A person may allow a Dangerous Dog to be in areas of private lands or premises that are exclusively owned or occupied by that person so long as the Dog is securely confined:
- a. indoors;
  - b. on a deck that is no less than 3 metres above ground level; or
  - c. in a rear yard and inside a pen, enclosure, or fenced area that
    - i. is adequately constructed to prevent the Dog from escaping,
    - ii. is locked to prevent casual entry by another person, and
    - iii. has been inspected and approved by an Animal Control Officer.
57. A person must not allow a Dangerous Dog to be:
- a. on school grounds,
  - b. within 30 metres of any playground apparatus.

**Duties of a Dangerous Dog Owner**

58. The Owner of a Dangerous Dog must:
- a. allow an Animal Control Officer or the Poundkeeper to photograph the Dog, on demand;
  - b. provide an Animal Control Officer or the Poundkeeper with the Owner's new address within two working days of moving to a new residence;
  - c. provide an Animal Control Officer or the Poundkeeper with the name, address, and telephone number of the new Owner within two working days of selling or giving away the dog;
  - d. provide an Animal Control Officer or the Poundkeeper with a veterinarian's certificate of the death within two working days of the death of the dog; and
  - e. immediately advise an Animal Control Officer or the Poundkeeper if the dog is loose or has bitten or attacked any person or animal.

**PART 4E – CATS****Keeping of Cats**

59. No person shall keep more than three (3) Cats as Companion Animals over the age of 12 weeks. This Section does not apply to a person operating a:
- a. licensed veterinary clinic; or

- b. working cattle ranch or farm.

### **Identification of the Keeping of Cats**

- 60. Every Owner of a Cat shall affix, and keep affixed, sufficient identification on the Cat by means of a collar, harness, traceable tattoo, microchip, or other suitable device, such that a Person finding the cat At Large in the Village can identify and contact the Owner.
- 61. Every Owner of a Cat apparently over the age of 6 months, shall upon request by the Animal Control Officer, provide evidence to the Animal Control Officer's satisfaction, that such Cat has identification in accordance with Section 4 of this Bylaw.
- 62. Every Owner of an outdoor Cat must have the Cat spayed or neutered.

## **PART 4F – RABBITS**

### **Keeping of Rabbits**

- 63. A maximum of three (3) Rabbits are permitted on lands within the Village.
- 64. Every Owner of an outdoor Rabbit must have the Rabbit spayed or neutered.

### **Outdoor Shelter Requirements**

- 65. An Owner of a Rabbit must ensure that the Rabbit has protection from all elements and must not allow the Animal to suffer from hyperthermia, hypothermia, dehydration, discomfort, or exertion causing unnecessary pain, suffering, or injury.
- 66. A person must not keep rabbits in an outdoor pen, cage, or run, unless the pen, cage, or run is securely enclosed to prevent the escape and to ensure the safety of the rabbits from predators
- 67. A person must not keep an Animal outside, unless the Animal is provided with a shelter that provides;
  - a. protection from heat, cold, and wet that is appropriate to the Animal's weight and type of coat;
  - b. sufficient space to allow the Animal the ability to turn about freely and to easily stand, sit, and lie in a normal position that is at least two times the length of the Animal in all directions, and at least as high as the Animal's height measured from the floor to the highest point of the Animal when standing in a normal position, plus 10%;
  - c. protection from the direct rays of the sun at all times; and
  - d. bedding that will assist with maintaining normal body temperature.

## **PART 4G – OTHER ANIMALS**

### **OTHER COMPANION ANIMALS**

#### **Keeping of other companion animals**

- 68. A maximum of three (3) three other companion animals such as pigs, lizards, snakes, large turtles, rabbits are permitted on lands within the Village.

**Other Animals in public places**

69. The Owner of a snake or other reptile must not allow the snake or other reptile to be in a public place unless the Animal is securely confined in a cage or other container.
70. The Owner of an Other Animal, must not allow the Animal to be in a public place unless the Animal is under the direct control of a Competent Person.
71. Every Owner of an outdoor animal that fits into the other animal category must seek SPCA approval first and then Village approval before allowing the animal to be considered as an outdoor animal.

**Prohibited Animals**

72. No person shall either on a temporary basis or permanent basis:
  - a. breed;
  - b. possess;
  - c. ship;
  - d. release;
  - e. exhibit for entertainment; or
  - f. display in public;any Exotic Animal.
73. Despite the prohibitions in Section 72 of this Bylaw, an Exotic Animal may be kept at or on:
  - a. premises operated by the BC Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ("BC SPCA");
  - b. a veterinary hospital under the control of a veterinarian registered as a member of the BC Veterinary Medical Association; or
  - c. premises operated by the RCMP or municipal police forces;but a person must not permit an Exotic Animal to run At-Large.

**PART 4H – URBAN CHICKENS****Keeping of Chickens**

74. A maximum of 4 Hens are permitted on lands within the Village.
75. No person is permitted to keep any rooster on lands within the Village except on lands zoned to allow for agriculture.
76. No person shall Own, keep, or harbour any Hens upon a two-family residential property, such as a duplex, unless the rear yard of the two-family property is fully fenced, and the portion of the rear yard intended solely for use by the Hen Owner is also separated by fencing.
77. No person owning, keeping, or harbouring Hens upon a residential zoned parcel shall sell any manure derived from the keeping of Hens, but may give the manure to another party without receiving any compensation in return.
78. No property Owner or person owning, keeping, or harbouring Hens upon any residential zoned parcel shall suffer or permit:
  - a. the slaughtering of any Hen upon the property.
  - b. the burial of any Hen upon the property; or
  - c. the disposal of any Hen in an unlawful manner.

**Registration of hens**

79. A person may not keep a Hen unless that person first submits a completed Hen registration application to the Village and receives validation from the Village.
80. The Village may not validate a Hen registration application form unless satisfied that:
  - a. the applicant is the Owner of the lot and resides on the lot on which the Hens will be kept, or the applicant resides on the lot and has written consent from the Owner of the lot to keep Hens on the lot;
  - b. a valid British Columbia Poultry Premises Identification number obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture is provided to the Village for the lot; and
  - c. all other required information on the Village's Hen application form has been provided.
81. A validated Hen registration is not transferable from one person to another or from one lot to another.
82. Every validated Hen registration under this Bylaw will terminate if the Owner or occupier of the lot named in the registration changes.

**Coops and enclosures**

83. A person who keeps Hens shall:
  - a. ensure that a Coop and Outdoor Enclosure is provided on the lot;
  - b. ensure the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure are situated within a completely fenced rear yard with a minimum fence height of 1.2 metres and not greater than 2 metres;
  - c. ensure that the Coop is sited within the required setbacks identified in "Village of Fruitvale Zoning Bylaw No. 846," as amended;
  - d. provide each Hen with at least 0.37 square metres (4 square feet) of interior, fully enclosed Coop floor area and at least 0.92 square metres (10 square feet) of fully enclosed Outdoor Enclosure area;
  - e. provide each Hen with at least one nest box and one perch, that is at least 15 centimetres (6 inches) long, within a Coop;
  - f. maintain the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure in good repair and in a sanitary condition, free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances;
  - g. ensure the Coop is not visible from any highway or street; and
  - h. ensure the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure are secured from sunset to sunrise.
84. No person owning, keeping, or harbouring Hens on any residential zoned parcel shall suffer or permit the Hens to remain outside of the fully enclosed indoor portion of the structure, pen, or enclosure (as described in Section 83 during night time hours (between dusk and dawn)).

**PART 4I – BEES****Keeping of Bees**

85. A person who keeps bees must:
  - a. provide adequate water for the bees on the person's property; and
  - b. maintain the bees in a condition that will reasonably prevent swarming.

86. The keeping of Bees is permitted in all Zones of the Village.
87. A person who keeps Bees must:
  - a. locate the beehive in the rear yard of the property, or in the best location as determined by the Regional Apiary Inspector.
  - b. provide adequate water for the bees on the person's property;
  - c. maintain the Bees in a condition that will reasonably prevent swarming; and
88. Any beehive must be sited so as to allow a clear flight path of at least 7.5 metres straight ahead from the front of the beehive to any property line and 3.0 metres for the side and rear of the beehive to any property line, except where the beehive is:
  - a. sited behind a solid fence that is 2.0 metres in height running parallel to any property line and extending at least 6.0 metres beyond the front of the beehive in both directions, in which case the 7.5 metre setback may be reduced to 3.0 metres, and the 3.0 metre setback may be reduced to 1.0 metre; and
  - b. elevated such that the underside of the beehive is raised a minimum of 2.5 metres above ground level, in which case the 7.5 metre setback may be reduced to 3.0 metres.
89. A maximum number of beehives/colonies permitted on any parcel of land is two (2).

#### **PART 4J – WILDLIFE**

##### **Feeding wildlife**

90. A person must not intentionally feed or leave food out for the purposes of feeding
  - a. deer;
  - b. racoons;
  - c. squirrels;
  - d. feral rabbits;
  - e. bears, coyotes, cougars, wolves, or other animals designated as dangerous wildlife under the *Wildlife Act*, RSBC 1996, c. 488; or
  - f. Feral Cats or Cats without identification.
91. A person must not keep, or allow to be kept, any animal feed outside a building unless it is stored in a fully enclosed container that is capable of keeping out rats, bears, raccoons, and other wildlife.

#### **PART 4K - SEIZING AND IMPOUNDING ANIMALS**

##### **Authority to seize and impound**

92. An Animal Control Officer may seize
  - a. a Dog if the Owner does not hold a valid licence for the Dog as required by this Bylaw,
  - b. an animal that is in a public place in contravention of any Section of this Bylaw,
  - c. an animal that is on any private lands or premises without the consent of the occupier or Owner of the lands or premises, or



- d. an animal that is on unfenced land and not securely tethered or contained.
93. The Poundkeeper shall impound any animal seized under Section 92 and delivered to the pound by an Animal Control Officer and may impound any animal brought to the pound by any other person.

**Releasing an animal before its arrival at the pound**

If the Owner or the agent of the Owner appears and claims an animal that has been seized at any time before the animal has been taken to the pound, an Animal Control Officer must release the animal to the Owner or agent if the person:

- a. proves Ownership of the animal to the satisfaction of the Animal Control Officer or, in the case of an agent, satisfies the Animal Control Officer of the agent's authority to redeem the animal;
  - b. pays any applicable licence fees; and
  - c. pays to the Animal Control Officer half of the applicable impoundment fee described in Schedule A.
94. Section 94 does not apply if the animal that has been seized is a Dangerous Dog.

**Informing the Owner of impoundment**

95. If the Poundkeeper knows the name and address of the Owner of an animal which has been impounded, the Poundkeeper will inform the Owner verbally or by mail within 24 hours of the impoundment.

**Redeeming an animal from the pound**

96. The Owner of an impounded animal or the Owner's agent may redeem the animal from the pound by
- a. proving Ownership of the animal to the satisfaction of the Poundkeeper or, in the case of an agent, satisfying the Poundkeeper of the agent's authority to redeem the animal, and
  - b. paying to the Poundkeeper
    - i. any applicable licence fees,
    - ii. the applicable impoundment fees prescribed in Schedule A,
    - iii. the applicable maintenance fees prescribed in Schedule A for each day or part of a day that the animal was impounded,
    - iv. the costs of any special equipment, resources, or boarding facilities required to seize, impound, or maintain the animal, and
    - v. any veterinary costs incurred in respect of the animal during the impoundment period.
97. Despite Section 97, the Poundkeeper may detain a Dangerous Dog for a period of up to 14 days before allowing the Owner or the Owner's agent to redeem the animal.

**No liability for injury to the animal**

98. No provision of this Bylaw shall be construed as making the Poundkeeper, an Animal Control Officer, or the Village liable to the Owner of any animal for injury to, sickness, or death of the animal.

**Disposition of unredeemed animals**

99. An animal becomes the property of the Village if it is not redeemed within 96 hours after
- a. its impoundment, or
  - b. the expiration of an impoundment period set under Section 979.
100. If an animal becomes the property of the Village under Section 100, the Poundkeeper may
- a. sell it on behalf of the Village,
  - b. give it away, or
  - c. put it to death in a humane manner.

**Euthanization of impounded animals**

101. The Poundkeeper may have an impounded animal humanely euthanized at any time if
- a. a registered veterinarian certifies that the animal is suffering from an infectious or contagious disease, or
  - b. the Poundkeeper is satisfied that the animal has been so seriously injured that its death is imminent.

**Prohibition against breaking into the pound**

102. A person must not
- a. break open or in any manner directly or indirectly aid or assist in breaking open the pound,
  - b. enter the pound without the permission of the Poundkeeper, or
  - c. take or release any animal from the pound without the consent of the Poundkeeper.

**Prohibition against hindering the Poundkeeper or officers**

103. A person must not hinder, delay, or obstruct
- a. the Poundkeeper,
  - b. an Animal Control Officer, or
  - c. a Bylaw Enforcement Officer
- in the performance of their duties under this Bylaw.
104. Without limiting the generality of Section 104, a person must not
- a. release an animal from a trap set by an Animal Control Officer, or
  - b. tamper with, damage, move, or remove a trap set by an Animal Control Officer.

**PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT**

105. This Bylaw may be enforced by an Animal Control Officer, and any other person or class of persons designated by Council to enforce Village bylaws.

**Provision of information**

106. If a person occupies premises where a Dog is kept or found, the person must provide the following information when requested by an Animal Control Officer, bylaw officer, or police officer:
- a. the person's name, address, and telephone number;

- b. if the person is not the Dog Owner, the Dog Owner's name, address, and telephone number;
  - c. the number of Dogs kept on the premises;
  - d. the breed, sex, age, name, and general description of each Dog kept on the premises;
  - e. whether each Dog kept on the premises is licenced.
107. If a person has apparent custody of a Dog, the person must provide the following information when requested by an Animal Control Officer, bylaw officer, or police officer:
- a. the person's name, address, and telephone number;
  - b. if the person is not the Dog Owner, the Dog Owner's name, address, and telephone number;
  - c. the place where the Dogs owned or in the custody of the person are kept;
  - d. the breed, sex, age, name, and general description of each Dog owned or in the custody of the person;
  - e. whether each Dog owned or in the custody of the person is licenced.

**Entering property for inspection**

108. In accordance with Section 16 of the *Community Charter* but without limiting Section 49 of the *Community Charter* an Animal Control Officer at reasonable times may enter onto and into real property to inspect and determine whether the requirements and prohibitions of this Bylaw are being complied with.

**Offences**

109. No person shall hinder, delay, or obstruct in any manner, directly or indirectly, an Animal Control Officer from carrying out their duties and powers under this Bylaw, including, without limitation:
- a. providing false information;
  - b. unlocking or unlatching or otherwise opening a vehicle or enclosure in which an impounded Animal has been placed;
  - c. removing or attempting to remove any Animal from the possession of an Animal Control Officer; or
  - d. removing, or attempting to remove, an Animal from the Pound except in accordance with this Bylaw.
110. A person commits an offence and is subject to the penalties imposed by this Bylaw, the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw, and the *Offence Act* if that person
- a. contravenes a provision of this Bylaw,
  - b. consents to, allows, or permits an act or thing to be done contrary to this Bylaw, or
  - c. neglects or refrains from doing anything required by a provision of this Bylaw.
111. Each day that a contravention of a provision of this Bylaw continues is a separate offence.

**PART 5 – REPEAL**

The Village of Fruitvale Dog Tax and Regulation Bylaw No. 728, 2006 and all amendments thereto, are hereby repealed.

The Village of Fruitvale Bee Keeping Bylaw No. 911, 2019 and all amendments thereto, are hereby repealed.

**READ A FIRST TIME** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

**READ A SECOND TIME** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

**READ A THIRD TIME** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

**RECONSIDERED, FINALLY PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2020.

Original signed  
Mayor

Original signed  
Chief Administrative Officer

Certified a true copy of the Village of Fruitvale By-law entitled "Animal Responsibility Bylaw No. 922, 2020".

Dated this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

Original signed  
Chief Administrative Officer

**THE CORPORATION OF THE VILLAGE OF FRUITVALE**  
**Schedule "A" to Bylaw 922, 2020**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Dog Licence Fees	Spayed or neutered Dog	\$25.00
	Unspayed or unneutered Dog	\$75.00
	Dangerous Dog	\$200.00
	Duplicate Licence	\$5.00
	Surrender of license from another Municipality for Village license	\$5.00
Kennel Licence	Kennel Licence	\$60.00
Impoundment Fees	First time impoundment in a licensing year	\$30.00
	Second time impoundment in a licensing year	\$60.00
	Third time impoundment in a licensing year	\$100.00
	Unlicensed Dog	\$150.00
Impoundment Fees (for Dangerous Dogs)	First time impoundment in a licensing year	\$200.00
	Second time impoundment in a licensing year	\$500.00
	Third time impoundment in a licensing year	\$1,000.00
	Unlicensed Dog	\$750.00
Pound Maintenance	Impoundment fee per day, or part day, after the first day	\$10.00
	Impoundment fee for a Dangerous Dog per day, or part day, after the first day	\$30.00

# HEN REGISTRATION FORM



Hen Owner \_\_\_\_\_  
First name Last Name

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Municipality

\_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Cell Work

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

☐

I confirm that I reside at the above property.

☐

I confirm that I have read and understand the information regarding  
Backyard Hen Registry.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to:

Village of Fruitvale Office  
1947 Beaver Street  
Fruitvale, BC V0G 1L0

OR Email to [info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca](mailto:info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca)

Questions: Email [info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca](mailto:info@village.fruitvale.bc.ca) or call 250-367-7551

**Village of Fruitvale Backyard Chickens**

# Premises Identification



**Premises Identification (ID)** is one of the three pillars of the national livestock traceability system, along with animal identification and animal movement. An effective livestock traceability system allows Canada's livestock and poultry industries to respond quickly and keep operating during animal disease events. Premises ID also supports fast and accurate responses to non-disease emergencies that threaten livestock, such as floods, forest fires, or environmental contamination events.

**What is a premises?** A premises is any parcel of land where livestock, poultry or other farm animals are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of.

## Who Should Apply?

Anyone responsible for the care of a farm animal should have a premises ID for the location where the animal is kept. We are all in this together and we all have a responsibility to do our part to support agriculture in BC by protecting the health and safety of farm animals. Natural disasters and animal diseases don't discriminate and can affect any animal at any time. A disease detected on your farm can quickly impact your neighbours and could unintentionally result in serious and potentially devastating impacts on animals.

## APPLY FOR A PREMISES ID ACCOUNT

### Online

As of March 2016, you can create your own account and register your premises online:

<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ext/pid-ext/welcome.page>

### Paper

You can mail, email, or fax a paper registration form to the Ministry. Instructions and a link to download the paper registration form are available here:

[www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram)

## UPDATE A PREMISES ID ACCOUNT

Effective emergency management depends on accurate information. We ask that you update your premises ID account when there are significant changes to your contact information, or the nature of your farm or operation.

### Online

You can update your information yourself by using your online access user ID:

<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ext/pid-ext/>

### Mail, Phone, Email

You can communicate information changes to the Ministry via mail, phone, or email and our program staff will update your registration on your behalf.

### Have a Premises ID but not an online account?

You can create an Online Access User ID by entering an email and creating a password on this web page:

<https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ext/pid-ext/sign.page>

For verification, you will also need to enter a phone number submitted on the paper registration form and the 10-digit "Account Number" generated by the system.

Because there is no link between the Premises ID Program and the Land Title Office, please notify us of property sales so we can update the registry.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is a Premises ID?

A Premises ID is a unique nine-character code assigned to a single legal land description or land use permit. In British Columbia, all Premises ID numbers start with **BC** (for example: **BC449GP7N**).

### Why use a Premises ID?

Use of the Premises ID eliminates confusion for emergency responders. Multiple or incomplete addresses, complicated legal land descriptions, and duplicate or changing farm names can all hinder emergency management efforts.

### What does it cost to register?

There is no cost to register your premises. We thank you for taking time to complete the registration.

### What is my "Account Number"?

If you applied after March 2016, your "Account Number" can be found on the registration letter or email you received to inform you of your Premises ID.

If you applied before March 2016 or if you have lost or forgotten your "Account Number," please reach out to a Premises ID Program Representative.

### What information is collected?

- Address, legal land description or land use permit with geographic coordinates
- Emergency contact information
- Premises type (e.g. farm, community pasture, auction market, abattoir, feedlot, fairground)
- Animal type and maximum capacity for all species that that may be on the premises.

### What is meant by "maximum capacity"?

Maximum capacity is not the actual number of animals on the premises at a given time. It is an estimate of the highest number of animals of a given species that the premises could reasonably accommodate. This is used by emergency responders to understand the scale of an operation.

### How long will it take to receive my Premises ID and how will I be notified?

Our goal is to notify you by email of your Premises ID within two business days of the receipt of your registration. You will receive your Premises ID immediately if you register online using the nine-digit parcel identifier (PID) from your property assessment notice. If you register with a paper form or use a civic address to specify your location during online registration, Ministry staff will complete your registration for you.

### What if I move?

A premises ID is associated with a specific geographical location, not an individual. Upon registration, a premises ID number is assigned to the legal land parcel where the animals are located. Once created, a premises ID number remains permanently with that land parcel and is not transferrable to another location. If you move your animals to a new property, you will be assigned a new premises ID number when you update your account with your new address.

### How is my personal information protected?

Protection of personal information is critically important to the Premises ID Program. Per the *Animal Health Act*, premises ID information cannot be disclosed for any purpose except those prescribed in the act. These purposes are strictly limited to use in responding to animal disease or environmental disasters affecting animal health.

### What is the difference between Primary Premises and Linked Premises?

The **Primary Premises** is the single parcel defined as the main location of an agricultural operation, also known as the main ranch or home site.

**Linked Premises** are additional parcels of land within an agricultural operation where livestock may be present. From an animal health perspective, the Primary Premises and all Linked Premises form a single epidemiological unit because of the regular movement of animals between them.

### Who can answer my questions?

Ask a Premises ID Program representative at the Ministry of Agriculture in Abbotsford (1-888-221-7141 or 604-556-3001) or send an email to [BCPID@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCPID@gov.bc.ca).



# Hen Basics



***The following information came from the District of Saanich and is used with their permission. This information should be used as a starting point for understanding the best management practices for the keeping of chickens in an urban area.***

## CHICKEN FACTS

- \* Chickens are ground dwelling birds, but can fly for short distances. They are very social creatures that depend on one another for companionship and security. Chickens can live 14 years or more.
- \* Layers need approximately 15 hours of light a day in order to keep laying. You may wish to provide an artificial light source during the darker winter months or you may wish to give your hen the natural break during the winter.
- \* Egg laying for a hen generally starts at 6 months old. Domesticated hens have been bred to lay one egg a day, but by 18 months of age, egg laying generally diminishes and many adult or senior hens stop laying altogether. Purebred chickens or heritage breeds tend to lay eggs longer.
- \* The majority of a hen's waking hours are spent active, grazing, foraging for food (plants, bugs and occasionally small rodents), dust bathing, preening, playing and napping.
- \* Chickens are sociable creatures.

## Needs & Behaviour

- \* Hens need living space that is dry, draft free and provides safety from both predators and pests.
- \* Chickens are social animals. Generally, 3-5 compatible chickens can be well maintained in a typical city environment. Individual bird's age and temperament can affect compatibility. Overcrowding, boredom and barren pens are the most common cause of behavior problems.
- \* Taking a dust bath is the closest thing to heaven for a chicken. They bathe in the sun and in loose dry soil depressions in the dirt which cleans their feathers and helps rid them of parasites. Birds will usually dig their own hole for dust baths. If they are unable to dig their own dirt bath area you will need to provide one. Keep the soil in the dust bath loose and add play sand if it is a heavy clay soil. Adding a little poultry dust, diatomaceous earth or wood ash increases the effectiveness of parasite control. Large heavy rubber feed buckets filled with play sand are a welcome addition to the indoor coop in the winter.

## Costs

- \* Besides construction of a chicken coop and pen, and purchase of the hens start up costs also include food storage, security locks, lighting, and feed & water dishes.
- \* Ongoing costs include building maintenance & cleaning, bedding, food, nutritional supplements, parasite control, grooming, vet care, and care when you are away over a longer period of time.

# Hen Basics



## Humane treatment

- \* Never handle a chicken by wings, feet or legs. Herd birds to a corner using slow deliberate movement. Fast=predator, slow=less threat. Place hands over top part of wings (shoulders) and hold securely but do not squeeze too hard. Pick up and hold under arm to keep wings in place. Support feet with other hand if bird will tolerate. To restrain for transport or examination, drape a towel over shoulders cape style and wrap around body.
- \* Are they breathing heavily? Check that they have enough shade to find a spot where they can cool off.
- \* Are they losing feathers? The proverbial "pecking order" may be in effect. If any of the chickens are bleeding, consider separating it, as other chickens will continue to peck at the wound. Loss of feathers could mean that a hen is moulting. Moulting is the natural shedding and renewal of feathers and occurs about once a year. It is a difficult time for birds, since it involves hormonal fluctuations and increased energy requirements. Moulting normally occurs at the end of an intensive laying period and can take about seven weeks for the new feathers to complete the growth cycle.

## Feed

- \* Feed supply stores are a good source for pelleted poultry feed (for large breeds) or crumble (for bantam breeds). You can get regular or organic, just make sure it is the larger pellets for adults or a starter mix for chicks.
- \* Always make sure the food and water are fresh, cool, and clean.
- \* Put the feed in a covered feeder and replace it regularly, as it does go stale. Never let your chickens eat damp feed! Chickens also love table scraps.
- \* Food receptacles should be made of non-corrosive material that is easily cleaned. This minimizes spillage, prevents contamination with droppings and keeps food the dry. The containers should be large enough for all the birds to comfortably eat at once or numerous enough to prevent competition or intimidation.
- \* They are effective weed eaters and insect control. Fresh and cracked corn is a favourite as well as tomatoes, apples, anything baked, and whole grains.
- \* Steer clear of giving your chickens onions and garlic, as it can flavour the eggs.
- \* Chickens are inquisitive and voracious eaters of vegetation and many ornamental garden plants can be toxic to them. Learn which of your plants might be harmful and be sure your hens cannot reach them through the fencing.
- \* Clean up uneaten food and any kitchen scrapes that you may give them soon after they feed in order to avoid attracting nuisance animals.
- \* Also provide crushed oyster shells as a source of calcium.

# Hen Basics



## Water

- \* Water receptacles should be made of non-corrosive material that can be cleaned and disinfected with a solution of chlorine bleach, prevent contamination with droppings and is spill and leak proof.
- \* The containers should be large enough for all the birds to comfortably drink at once and hold enough water for all birds for an entire day.
- \* Food should be slightly positioned higher than the water or far enough away to prevent contamination with food.
- \* In the cold weather you will need to ensure that their drinking water does not freeze.

## Health Basics

- \* Prevent contact with wild birds and other animals;
- \* Clean the coop regularly;
- \* Keep the coop dry and ventilated;
- \* Keep new and returning birds separate from the rest of the flock for a period (approximately 10 days);
- \* Be on the look out for signs of disease. Some possible symptoms to look for indicating injury/illness/disease include: Coughing, wheezing, labored breathing, warts/scabs, swollen joints, loss of feathers, reduced egg production, thin egg shells, fever, enlarged abdomen.

## INTRODUCING NEW HENS

When bringing in new birds a 2 week quarantine in a separate area is recommended to watch for signs of illness and parasites. Avoid noisy, high traffic areas and allow the bird to acclimate before introducing to other birds, animals and family.

## Breeds

Visit <https://www.smallfarmcanada.ca/> more specifically <https://www.smallfarmcanada.ca/livestock/poultry/finding-your-perfect-match-best-poultry-breeds-for-small-far/> to learn the best poultry breeds.

## CHICKEN COOP

- \* The key is to make your coop a safe, dry and draft free place for the chickens to lay their eggs, roost, eat, drink and sleep.
- \* The coop needs to be a closed structure which provides shelter from cold, heat, wind, rain, snow, and predators.
- \* Coop and pen should be located in an area that provides shade, direct sunlight, good drainage and protection from prevailing winds and will not present a problem to neighbours.

# Hen Basics



## Ventilation and Light:

- \* To stay healthy, your chickens need plenty of ventilation and light.
- \* Chickens have a thick coat of feathers to keep them warm, but they are vulnerable to poor air quality and pathogens in the litter.
- \* Chickens may be unwilling to eat in the dark which means they can starve even if there is plenty of food available.
- \* Doors, windows and vents near the ceiling supply oxygen, remove heat, harmful gasses and dust particles, and dilute disease causing airborne organisms. However, if they are huddling together in a particular spot it could be the sign of a draft at their level that will need to be blocked.
- \* Design and construct your chicken coop with good ventilation through the roof eaves and windows that open making sure that openings are pest and predator proof (cover with at least ½ inch metal screen). Windows or skylights will provide the light they need.
- \* To keep your chicken coop cool on hot summer days locate your coop in a shaded area.

## Doors

- \* Doors for chickens should be just large enough for the largest bird and can be positioned anywhere from ground level to about 2 feet high with a stable ramp with cleats.
- \* Doors must be able to be secured against predators at night.
- \* Do not forget to provide easy human access so you can collect eggs and clean the entire coop.

## Bedding

- \* Regardless of the floor type, bedding material strewn on the surface is needed to absorb feces and spilled water to keep the chicken's feet dry.
- \* Material for the floor should be clean, non-toxic, biodegradable, and easily replaceable.
- \* Play sand, leaves, straw or hay, shredded paper, or wood shavings work best and can be composted.
- \* It is important to rake out the bedding and replace it frequently to reduce odor and fly activity.
- \* Make sure that the bedding material is never left long enough to become moldy.

## Floor

- \* The floor should not collect and hold moisture. It should be easy to clean, be able to retain heat in cold weather and keep out rodents and predators.
- \* A wood floor is adequate provided it is at least a foot off the ground, insulated and sealed properly, but wood is difficult to sanitize because it is porous.
- \* A concrete floor discourages rodents and predators and is easy to sanitize.

# Hen Basics



## Roost

- \* Chickens need somewhere for the chickens to perch at night. Determining the right chicken coop roost height is important in keeping your chickens comfortable and healthy.
- \* Chickens do not usually sleep on floors. Their nature makes them look for an elevated place to sleep to protect themselves from predators.
- \* The best material to use for perches or roost bars is wood. Lumber or branches can be used. They should be strong enough and mounted securely enough to hold all birds. The surface should be rough for good grip with no splinters or sharp edges.
- \* For medium sized birds, 2" or 4" flat or 1 1/2" diameter is best for foot comfort.
- \* The longer the roost the better to prevent competition.
- \* They should be set 18" from wall, 2-4 feet off the floor. If mounted higher, rung steps are needed spaced 8---12 inches apart.
- \* You may wish to provide removable litter boxes or planks directly below the roost for easy cleaning.

## Roof

- \* The coop roof should be made of a material that will not collect and hold heat.
- \* The roof surface should at least be covered with an insulating tar paper to protect from heavy rains.
- \* The roof should be slightly inclined, to allow water to run off and if it overhangs it will protect from downpours.
- \* A few small openings along the eaves allow moisture to escape and provide fresh air.

## Nest box

- \* Provide one nest box for every 2-3 hens.
- \* The boxes should be filled with 2-4 inches of straw, wood shavings, litter or grass.
- \* Chickens prefer wooden nest boxes with covered opening for privacy. Place the boxes on or as low to the floor as possible. If set higher they require a perch in front of the opening.

## Cleaning

- \* A good hosing off of the coop once a year with a spray of a vinegar or environmentally friendly cleaning solution is required.
- \* Once every week or two (depending on how many chickens you have in how little space), clean out the coop, wipe down the perches, and scrub down their feeders.
- \* If the chickens are laying, thoroughly clean their nest boxes, especially if an egg cracked at one point.
- \* Keeping their environment clean will also keep your neighbors from complaining.
- \* Chicken manure does have an odor of ammonia so it does need to be absorbed by bedding.

# Hen Basics



## Outdoor Run

- \* The fenced area surrounding the coop that provides secure access to exercise, sunlight, earth and vegetation and is freely available to the birds when they are unsupervised during the day.
- \* Give your chickens room to roam, give them a good spot to get out of the weather and up off the ground.
- \* It needs to be constructed to prevent the bird's escape and prevent entry by intruders/predators. Predators of chickens in an urban area include: dogs, cats, and raccoons. It's best to build the strongest deterrents possible.
- \* Don't use chicken wire, as it is too flimsy and is easily torn into.
- \* Chain link panels or welded or woven fencing on a sturdy frame reinforced at the bottom is better.
- \* Protect against burrowing vermin such as rats, mice or raccoons by burying about 6 inches of the fencing wire below ground level and curling it outwards. Then when pests try to dig under the wire to get in your coop, they run into the wire instead.
- \* The outdoor pen must also be enclosed to keep hens in and predators out. Covering the pen with a roof such as corrugated fiberglass can provide shade and rain shelter.
- \* Regular inspection is key to security.
- \* Providing a wind and rain/snow break will give the birds a protected area to be outdoors even in winter.
- \* If the coop is elevated 2 feet so the chickens can use the space underneath, the coop and pen should not occupy the exact same footprint.
- \* Do not forget to provide adequate opening and space for a person to be able to clean the entire outdoor pen area and to be able to catch hens if needed.

## SOURCES

<https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/community/agriculture-food-security/backyard-chickens.html> - District of Saanich

<http://www.chickenrunrescue.org/> Mary Britton Clouse. 2010.

<http://vancouver.ca/commsvcs/LICANDINSP/animalcontrol/chicken/index.htm>, City of Vancouver, Animal Control.

Management Guide for the Backyard Flock Jean E. Sander, Extension Veterinarian and Michael P. Lacy, Extension Poultry Scientist Cooperative Extension Service. The University of Georgia College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Revised by Claudia Dunkley, Extension Poultry Scientist. 2009, <https://cpif.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Management-Guide-or-the-Backyard-Flock.pdf>



# Quick Reference



## QUICK REFERENCE

### to Village of Fruitvale Poultry Regulations

For full list of regulations please refer to Village of Fruitvale Animal Responsibility Bylaw No. 922 at <http://www.village.fruitvale.bc.ca/content/municipal-services-bylaws-policies-development-forms-and-maps>

#### Keeping of Chickens

- A maximum of 4 Hens are permitted on lands within the Village.
- No person is permitted to keep any rooster on lands within the Village except on lands zoned to allow for agriculture.
- No person shall Own, keep, or harbour any Hens upon a two-family residential property, such as a duplex, unless the rear yard of the two-family property is fully fenced, and the portion of the rear yard intended solely for use by the Hen Owner is also separated by fencing.
- No person owning, keeping, or harbouring Hens upon a residential zoned parcel shall sell any manure derived from the keeping of Hens, but may give the manure to another party without receiving any compensation in return.
- No property Owner or person owning, keeping, or harbouring Hens upon any residential zoned parcel shall suffer or permit:
  - a. the slaughtering of any Hen upon the property.
  - b. the burial of any Hen upon the property; or
  - c. the disposal of any Hen in an unlawful manner.

#### Registration of Hens - **REGISTRATION OF HEN(S) REQUIRED**

- A person may not keep a hen unless that person first submits a completed hen registration application to the Village and receives validation from the Village.
- The Village may not validate a hen registration application form unless satisfied that:
  - a. the applicant is the Owner of the lot and resides on the lot on which the hens will be kept, or the applicant resides on the lot and has written consent from the owner of the lot to keep hens on the lot;
  - b. a valid British Columbia Poultry Premises Identification number obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture is provided to the Village for the lot; and
  - c. all other required information on the Village's hen application form has been provided.
- A validated hen registration is not transferable from one person to another or from one lot to another.
- Every validated hen registration under this Bylaw will terminate if the owner or occupier of the lot named in the registration changes.

# Quick Reference



## QUICK REFERENCE

### to Village of Fruitvale Poultry Regulations

#### Coops and Enclosures

- A person who keeps Hens shall:
  - a. ensure that a Coop and Outdoor Enclosure is provided on the lot;
  - b. ensure the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure are situated within a completely fenced rear yard with a minimum fence height of 1.2 metres and not greater than 2 metres;
  - c. ensure that the Coop is sited within the required setbacks identified in "Village of Fruitvale Zoning Bylaw No. 846," as amended;
  - d. provide each Hen with at least 0.37 square metres (4 square feet) of interior, fully enclosed Coop floor area and at least 0.92 square metres (10 square feet) of fully enclosed Outdoor Enclosure area;
  - e. provide each Hen with at least one nest box and one perch, that is at least 15 centimetres (6 inches) long, within a Coop;
  - f. maintain the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure in good repair and in a sanitary condition, free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances;
  - g. ensure the Coop is not visible from any highway or street; and h. ensure the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure are secured from sunset to sunrise.
- No person owning, keeping, or harbouring Hens on any residential zoned parcel shall suffer or permit the Hens to remain outside of the fully enclosed indoor portion of the structure, pen, or enclosure (as described in Section 83 during night time hours (between dusk and dawn)).

#### Definitions include:

**Poultry** means domestic fowl, such as chickens, turkeys, ducks or geese, raised for eggs.

**Hen** means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four (4) months old.



# RESOURCES

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## WEB RESOURCES:

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small\\_flock\\_manual.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small_flock_manual.pdf)

BC Ministry of Agriculture small flock poultry health

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small\\_flock\\_egg\\_handling\\_factsheet.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small_flock_egg_handling_factsheet.pdf)

BC Ministry of Agriculture small flock egg handling

<https://www.bclaws.gov.bc.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/14016>

BC Government Animal Health Act

<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/animae/animae.shtml>

Protecting backyard flocks from disease. Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Government of Canada: Regulations, Activities & Information.

<https://spca.bc.ca/news/backyard-chickens/>

Caring for backyard chickens

<https://www.questionsanswered.net/article/10-tips-for-keeping-backyard-chickens?ad=dirN&qo=serpIndex&o=740012>

10 Tips for keeping backyard chickens

<https://www.farmfolkcityfolk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Keeping-Backyard-Hens.pdf>

The basics of keeping backyard hens.

<https://www.betterhensandgardens.com/category/chickens/>

A blog that offers information and discussion on hens and gardens.

<http://www.suburbanchicken.org/>

This is a personal web site on sustainable agriculture with information on the author's experience, steps to constructing a coop and stories about their chickens. There are advertisements included.

<http://www.backyardchickens.com>

This is a web forum to talk about chickens and get your chicken questions answered and share your experiences with other urban chicken enthusiasts. Lots of advertising included.

<http://www.mypetchicken.com/default.aspx>

This site is a resource for general information on what it takes to care for chickens including resources and time. This site is also a catalogue of their products.

<http://www.backyardpoultrymag.com>

This is an online magazine that is published by-monthly with feature articles and articles from a list of departments including: Breed Selection; Housing; Management; and Health and Nutrition.