

December 18, 2013

Urban Hens to be Permitted Starting January 1

Starting January 1, 2014 Campbell River residents will be permitted to keep up to six hens on residential lots within city limits. At the December 17 meeting, Council approved amendments to the *Zoning Bylaw*, *Animal Control Bylaw* and *Ticketing for Bylaw Offences Bylaw* to regulate the keeping of hens.

People interested in keeping hens in residential areas must:

- obtain a licence from the City to keep hens;
- pay a one-time processing fee of \$10;
- and familiarize themselves with the City's regulations.

Highlights of regulations for keeping urban hens include:

- Urban hens can be kept as pets or for personal egg consumption, but are not to be used for commercial purposes
- The small scale sale of eggs is acceptable. Selling of meat and manure is prohibited.
- Chicken coops must meet the minimum setback requirements in the City's *Zoning Bylaw* and be maintained in good condition.
- Coops and pens must be located at least three metres from dwelling windows or doors.

Highlights of the *Animal Control Bylaw* include:

- *Noise* – Roosters are prohibited in residential zones, and hens must be kept inside their coops from sunset to 7 a.m.
- *Rodents* – Coops and pens must be maintained in good repair and sanitary condition, free from vermin and obnoxious smells and substances. Coops and pens must be constructed to prevent any rodent from harboring underneath or within them or their walls. Hen owners are encouraged to keep food indoors, and all outdoor food must be secure from vermin.
- *Smell* – Manure must be stored in a fully enclosed structure no more than three cubic feet (0.085m³). Coops and pens must be sanitary, and food, garbage and manure must be removed in a timely fashion from each coop and pen.

The keeping of hens in Campbell River is subject to the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*, and no slaughtering or butchering of hens is to take place on residential properties.

Adoption of the bylaws followed review of this issue by the City's Advisory Planning and Environment Commission, public presentations and petitions to Council, and public review of the issue during the development of the City's Agriculture Plan and Sustainable Official Community Plan.

For more information on the regulations for keeping urban hens, visit www.campbellriver.ca. Hen owner licences may be obtained from City Hall after January 1, 2014.

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