



Backyard Hens in Foothills County



Land Use Bylaw Regulations & Applications

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BACKYARD HEN refers to the keeping of domesticated female chickens on a parcel less than 3 acres in size for non-commercial purposes, where the keeping of livestock is not otherwise permitted in Foothills County. (Sections 2.5.1 – Definitions)

1. *Backyard Hens* shall only be permitted on parcels less than three (3) acres in size, outside of Hamlet boundaries, in accordance with Section 10.27 of the Land Use Bylaw.
2. No Development Permit is required for the keeping of *Backyard Hens* in accordance with the Section 10.27 of the Land Use Bylaw, where all other requirements of the bylaw are met.
3. The keeping of *Backyard Hens* shall meet the following criteria:
 - a. *Backyard Hens* are only permitted as an accessory use to a principal dwelling on site and hen owners must reside on the property upon which the hens will be kept;
 - b. A maximum of ten (10) *Backyard Hens* shall be permitted on a parcel under 3 acres in size, outside of Hamlet boundaries in accordance with provisions under Section 10.27;
 - c. Roosters are prohibited on parcels under 3 acres in size and are not included within the backyard hen provisions under Section 10.27;
 - d. *Backyard Hens* shall not be permitted to run at large and shall be maintained in an appropriate coop and/or enclosure;
 - e. Coops and enclosures for *Backyard Hens* shall be located in the rear yard and shall meet all other provisions under the land use bylaw including but not limited to lot coverage, building allowances based on parcel size, maximum height requirements, and minimum yard setbacks;
 - f. Location of the hen coop should be in a place that will be mindful and considerate of your neighbors.
 - g. Manure must be removed, discarded, and/or properly composted to prevent nuisance to neighboring properties
 - h. Landowners shall take reasonable measures to ensure that coops are maintained in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells, carcasses, or excessive manure or waste;
 - i. Backyard hen owners shall comply with Alberta Animal Health Act and any other applicable standards adopted by the Province of Alberta;
 - j. Owners must obtain Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulation in the Alberta Animal Health Act;
4. *Backyard Hen* owners are encouraged to obtain some level of training on small flock ownership or study the Guide for small flock owners published by the Alberta Government and operate in accordance. (See the following link).

Link: <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/9780773261174>

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