

Section: Bulding and Zoning	Policy Number: 2.4
Policy: Requirements for Keeping of Backyard Hens	Effective Date: 10/20/2015
Date Last Revised:	Current Revision Date:



Requirements for Keeping of Backyard Hens

Rules

In order to obtain an exemption from the Town of Minto Council under Schedule “A” of By-law 02-80 to permit keeping of hens in a residentially zoned area, no person shall keep, or permit to be kept any hens except in accordance with the following rules:

- (1) A flock of no more than five hens may be kept on a residential property within a coop which shall be located in a rear yard where no part of any pen is closer than 33 feet (10 metres) from any part of a church or residence building (including the on-site residence), and at least three (3) metres (ten feet) from any interior side or rear lot line, with no locations in front or exterior side yard.
- (2) Any coop shall be constructed to prevent the escape of the hens kept therein and shall include sufficient space covered by roof and walls to provide protection from the weather as well as an outdoor run or area enclosed by fencing, wire or similar material on all sides including overhead.
- (3) The appearance of each coop shall be properly maintained, by regular painting, or shall be finished with permanent siding, and in all cases shall comply with the requirements of the Zoning By-law and Property Standards By-law.
- (4) All equipment and material used to keep or care for hens shall be stored within a building or structure, or under cover, and screened from the view of the general public, and, where it is necessary to do so, a hedge or other such vegetation shall be planted, or a solid fence erected, to act as a screen.
- (5) All refuse resulting from keeping of hens shall be contained in air tight containers so as to prevent odours and disposed of in a manner that will not create a public nuisance or health hazard.
- (6) Hens shall be properly cared for and supplied with sufficient food, water, veterinary care as needed to maintain good health.
- (7) All food for the hens shall be kept in rodent proof containers.
- (8) Sick or expired hens shall be disposed of under the direction a veterinarian or public health professional so as to prevent and control common infectious diseases and protect public health.

Town Licensed Flocks
No person shall be permitted to keep or allow to be kept any hens on any residential property unless a license has been issued by the Town of Minto subject to the following terms:

- (a) The licensing period shall be 12 months starting on the day a licence is issued, which for all licenses shall commence on the first business day annually in November.
- (b) The applicant shall complete a licence application, supply a site plan or coop design/layout, file any information required by the Town to ensure compliance with the requirements of this policy, and pay the required fee set out in the Fees and Charges By-law prior to a licence being issued.
- (c) The Town shall provide notice to adjoining property owners that a licence for keeping of hens has been applied for including the number of hens to be kept and a copy of the application. A copy of the application and license shall be sent to Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health.

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(d) A licence shall be issued to an owner who has been granted an exemption under By-law 02-80 by Town of Minto Council only if the application meets the requirements of this policy except however the license may be denied or revoked at the sole discretion of the Town if:

- i) the issuance or the holding of a licence would be contrary to the public interest in respect of the health and safety of any person or animal; or a nuisance to nearby properties;
- ii) any application or other document provided to the Town by or on behalf of the owner contains a false statement, or provides false information;
- iii) the applicant does not meet the requirements of this By-law or any other applicable By-law, code or requirement.

(e) In making a decision as to whether to revoke a license, the Town shall consider, among other relevant matters, the nature of any objection(s) received from nearby or adjoining property owner(s), the documented condition of the location, the history of the operation, and/or the recommendation of a veterinarian or similar professional if necessary.

(f) Any person holding a licence under this section shall produce the licence upon the request of an officer or employee of the Town.

(g) A license is not transferable and shall not continue with a property.

(h) Owners shall maintain relevant contact information so that the Town or Health Unit may easily contact all license holders with information on care, health or other material deemed necessary.

(i) With regard to any license application or any license issued, the Town or its appointed officers may enter the lands to inspect a coop during regular business hours without prior notice.

(j) Town of Minto Council at any time may direct that no licenses shall be provided or renewed and may immediately revoke any exemption to By-law 02-80 and require all owners to discontinue the practice of keeping hens in a back yard.

Sample Coops

The following are examples of the types of coops the Town may consider acceptable for keeping an existing flock of five or less hens. The examples shown comply with this policy in that they include fully covered areas with sufficient protection from the elements plus fully enclosed out door run.



Alternate designs may be permitted so long as the intent of this policy is maintained.

Application to Keep Hens in Residential Areas

Name of Registered Owner: _____

Address: _____

Phone#: _____

Email (mandatory): _____

Number of laying hens (must be 5 or less): _____

Name of Veterinarian _____

Vet Contact Information _____

Please draw or attach a site plan or coop design/layout:

Additional Information:

Signature of Registered Owner



BACKYARD HENS LICENCE

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN MINTO

This licence is issued for the year _____ to the owner described below, being the owner of hens within the urban areas of the Town of Minto.

Whereas By-law _____ Approves Exemptions in Schedule “A” of By-law Number 02-80 Section 2 b) to permit three existing locations and Owners to keep chickens in a residential area.

Such exemption applies to the existing owners at the existing locations and is not transferable to any other person or any other location within the limits of the Town of Minto.

Name of Owner:	Address:
Maximum number of Hens:	Phone No.
Date Issued	License Fee
_____ Signature of License Issuer:	