

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA

REPORT NO. DS-2019-0140

**FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF
COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 27, 2019**

**SUBJECT: URBAN HENS
FILE NO. 05.261**

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That Council receive Report No. DS-2019-0140 prepared by the Planning Division, Development Services Department, dated November 27, 2019, respecting Urban Hens.**
- 2. That Council approve the proposed By-law, included as Attachment 5 to Report No. DS-2019-140, to enact a thirty-six (36) month pilot project regarding the keeping of urban hens.**
- 3. That Council approve the proposed By-law to amend Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072, included as Attachment 6 to Report No. DS-2019-140, to recognize the implementation of a pilot project regarding the keeping of urban hens.**
- 4. That Staff report back to Council regarding the outcome of the pilot project.**

2. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to update Council and the public on the results of the public consultation program regarding the matter of permitting the keeping of hens in urban areas (i.e. "urban hens"), and to provide options and recommendations on proceeding forward with this initiative.

3. BACKGROUND:

In August 2016, Council received a petition from a member of the public seeking support in permitting residents to keep hens on residentially zoned properties in the Town and directed Staff to investigate the potential for the Town to permit such an initiative.

Further, in August 2019, Council received Report No. DS-2019-0104, in which Staff presented the benefits and issues, as well as options associated with permitting limited hen husbandry in urban areas in Georgina. At the meeting, Council directed

Staff to conduct a public consultation process concerning the permissibility of urban hens.

Due to the length of Report No. DS-2019-0104, it has not been attached, however, it can be viewed online at the Town's website through the Council Agendas and Minutes webpage as follows:

- August 14, 2019, Council Meeting Agenda, pages 37 through 119. Link to the agenda:

https://www.georgina.ca/sites/default/files/agendas-and-minutes/2019/august_14_2019_continuous_agenda.pdf

4. PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROGRAM:

Implementing direction from Council, a public consultation program was initiated by Staff, which included the following:

- An urban hens webpage on the Town's website. The webpage can be viewed online at the Town's website through the link below:
 - <https://www.georgina.ca/living-here/planning-and-development/urban-hens>;
- A weekly notice in the Georgina Advocate from September 19, 2019, to October 10, 2019;
- Consultation with the Town of Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee;
- A public information session; and,
- An urban hens survey (online and hard-copy).

4.1 GEORGINA AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE CONSULTATION

On September 26, 2019, Development Services Staff met with the Georgina Agricultural Advisory Committee (GAgAC) regarding hens in residential areas. At the meeting, members of the GAgAC indicated the following comments:

- There are strict regulations concerning the sale of eggs. How would the Town ensure that residents are not selling eggs?;
- Three (3) or more hens could potentially produce more eggs than a family of four (4) could consume;
- There should be a plan for how bio-waste is disposed of;
- Once hens no longer lay eggs, what would residents do with the hens afterwards? Would they just be kept as pets?;
- If residents are away, they would need someone to care for the hens in their absence;

- Residential hens could potentially cause biosecurity concerns with local egg producers;
- In terms of cost, care and upkeep, it might be cheaper to buy eggs at the store; and,
- Residents should be aware of the cost and commitment regarding the keeping of hens.

Staff noted these concerns and comments. Regarding the issues presented by the GAgAC, Staff has addressed these in Section 5 of this report.

4.2 URBAN HENS PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION

On October 10, 2019, an Urban Hens Public Information Session was held at the ROC Chalet from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. At the public information session, Staff from Development Services and Municipal Law Enforcement provided informational poster boards (see Attachment 1) on urban hens and received feedback from the eight (8) residents who attended the public information session. Feedback from residents was generally positive and is summarized as follows:

Positive:

- Hens are an excellent method for pest control as hens can consume weeds and insects;
- Hens require a relatively low amount of maintenance.
- Other municipalities that currently permit hens receive a low amount of complaints;
- Hens provide a sense of responsibility; and,
- Residents on Rural zoned properties with lot areas less than 0.4 hectares would also like to be able to have hens.

Concerns:

- Why are hens regulated more than other animals?
- Should hens be approved, residents do not want a high licensing cost;
- A large concentration of residents with hens will cause odour issues; and,
- There are already issues related to rats in some residential areas. Permitting hens will make this issue worse.

4.3 URBAN HENS SURVEY

To gain feedback from residents regarding the permissibility of urban hens, an online survey using Survey Monkey and a hard-copy survey was available to residents from September 30, 2019, to October 14, 2019. A copy of the survey has been included as Attachment 2.

A total of 490 responses were submitted (370 online and 120 hard-copy). A summary of the survey results has been included as Attachment 3. Staff note that due to the limited functionality of Survey Monkey, multiple submissions by one respondent cannot be identified. As such, there is a possibility of the results being skewed.

Based on the results of the survey, 67.21% of residents support and 32.79% of residents oppose the keeping of hens in residential areas. Of those that support the keeping of hens, the major reason for wanting hens is to have access to fresh eggs. Of those that do not support hens, the leading reason against hens was odour.

Significant public comments were received through the public consultation program. Below is a summarized list of concerns identified based on the public comments received during the survey:

- Maximum number of hens;
- Increase in predators and pests;
- Poor care and maintenance;
- Odour and noise;
- Minimum lot size requirements;
- Lack of enforcement;
- Hens do not belong in urban areas;
- Enforcement requires additional tax dollars to be spent;
- Roosters are loud;
- Hens may run loose;
- Public health;
- Animal welfare;
- Abandonment;
- Large concentration of hens; and,
- Property standards.

Further, all comments received from the survey, as well as comments received from the public outside of the survey have been included as Attachment 4. Staff response to the concerns raised by the public is provided in Section 5 of this report.

5. ANALYSIS:

5.1 BENEFITS & CONCERNS:

Staff has reviewed the feasibility of permitting residents to keep hens on residential properties and through the public consultation program, has identified several key benefits, including:

- Promoting a better appreciation of local food production;
- Improving access to locally grown food by supporting a sustainable food system;
- Greater ability for individuals to control food sources;
- Pest control as hens can consume weeds and insects;

- Reduced energy usage and carbon emissions associated with transporting food;
- Contributes to community building and health, social, environmental benefits; and,
- Providing an inexpensive and nutrient-rich alternative food source for residents.

Despite these benefits, through the public consultation program, Staff has also identified several potential concerns that are commonly associated with the keeping of hens on residential properties, including:

- The potential that hens may create a nuisance due to noise and odour;
- The possibility that hens may negatively impact public health by spreading disease;
- The possibility that hens may escape from their enclosures (i.e. free-roaming);
- Roosters should not be permitted due to noise and other disruptive behaviour;
- How chickens are retired and how deceased chickens are disposed of;
- The fact that animal welfare must be protected; and,
- The possibility that hens may attract pests and/or predators.

In response to the issues and concerns identified from the urban hens public consultation program, Staff has provided a response below to these issues and concerns, which have been grouped into general categories.

5.2 NUISANCE

Although concerns regarding the noise of urban hens have been raised, research from other municipalities has indicated that hens are less noisy than dogs. Noise can be managed by limiting the number of hens kept on each residential property, prohibiting the keeping of roosters which produce louder vocalizations and by requiring that hen coops and runs are set back from neighbouring properties. Several municipalities have mandated that hens should be kept in their coops between 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., minimizing the likelihood of a nuisance related to noise.

Additional regulations can be implemented to mitigate odour concerns. Other municipalities have adopted provisions requiring that hen coops and runs be a minimum distance of 3.0 metres from dwellings that are located on abutting properties and that hen coops and runs are maintained in a clean condition and kept free of obnoxious odours, substances and vermin.

Further, other municipalities have also introduced containment regulations to mitigate the potential of hens roaming freely around the property or neighbourhood. Several municipalities require that hens are to be kept within either their hen coop or hen run at all times, and also require that the hen coop and run are to be designed and constructed to a proper standard.

5.3 PUBLIC HEALTH

Concerns that the keeping of hens on residential properties could lead to the spread of disease was identified through the public consultation program. Research from other municipalities has identified that the risk to public health associated with the keeping of hens in residential areas is similar to the risks related to the keeping of domestic animals such as dogs and cats.

Further, research shows that the spread of disease among birds is often a result of the density and conditions that commercial producers allow. In contrast, a residential property that houses a small number of hens is a much healthier environment, reducing the likelihood of the disease.

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CIFA) has issued guidelines to minimize the risk of the spread of disease from hens kept in residential areas, which include:

- Preventing contact with wild birds and other animals;
- Routine cleaning of coops, associated equipment, water and feed containers that are in contact with the hens; and,
- Contacting a veterinarian or local office of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency where illness is suspected.

Other health issues that are associated with the keeping of hens are largely a result of improper care and disposal of deceased hens, management of bird feces, improper egg handling and home slaughtering. The inadequate handling of eggs or hens can create a risk of bacteria such as salmonella or listeria. Each of these health risks can be mitigated through either education on proper hygiene practices or appropriate regulation.

Other municipalities such as Newmarket, Kingston, and Kitchener specify that coops and hen runs are to be kept in a clean or sanitary condition. Some municipalities further require that the coops must be cleaned 2-3 times per year, including the disinfecting of the troughs, perches and nests. Additionally, prohibiting the home slaughter of hens and mandating that, any deceased hens shall be disposed of at a livestock disposal facility or through the services of a veterinarian, are common regulations that municipalities have adopted to mitigate health risks.

Staff also discussed potential health concerns with the Region of York Public Health Department and reviewed the information provided by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). The York Region Public Health Department, OMAFRA and CIFA have expressed the opinion that, while there may be health risks associated with the keeping of chickens in residential areas, there are effective measures that can be taken to significantly reduce the risks.

5.4 ANIMAL WELFARE

Animal welfare is another concern that was identified through the public consultation program. Many municipalities that currently permit hens in residential areas have implemented regulations that are used to foster appropriate care by residents.

Hens require adequate shelter and space in order to maintain good health and behaviour. In this regard, many municipalities have implemented strict guidelines for the required sizes of hen coops and runs. For example, some municipalities recommend that a coop be at least 0.37 m² per hen and the hen run should be 0.93 m² per hen. These regulations help ensure that the hens have adequate space in order to conduct their regular behaviours such as foraging and dust bathing, which controls parasites. Some municipalities such as the City of Kitchener, require hen coops and runs to be constructed to provide adequate shelter and protection from the weather.

Limiting the number of hens per property also minimizes overcrowding and ensures that hens have enough space within their enclosure. The majority of municipalities that were reviewed by Staff have set a limit on the number of hens which can be kept per property. Generally, this number ranges from 3 to 10, with the mode number being four (4).

Several municipalities such as Newmarket, Kitchener and Kingston have also mandated that property owners must reside at the location where the hens are kept in order to ensure that the animals are regularly supervised and not neglected.

Numerous municipalities have also prohibited the keeping of hens under four months old to mitigate the potential that residents will obtain hens when they are chicks and later, abandon them when they are fully grown. Also, it is difficult to determine the sex (hen or rooster) of chicks under four (4) months of age.

Further, to safeguard that hens do not experience undue suffering, most municipalities prohibit the home slaughtering or euthanasia of hens and require that deceased hens be disposed of at a livestock facility, or through the services of a veterinarian.

5.5 PREDATORS AND PESTS

The keeping of hens in residential backyards could attract predators such as coyotes. To guard against predators, other municipalities have required that hen coops be constructed with locking doors to prevent access by predators. Other municipalities also required that coops remain locked between sunset and sunrise. In terms of attracting pests such as mice, many municipalities have recommended that leftover hen feed be cleaned up and have required the hen feed to be stored in rodent-proof containers. This helps ensure that rodents are not attracted to areas with hens.

Based on this analysis, there are several key benefits that result from permitting residents to keep urban hens and many potential issues such as the possibility of nuisance, public health concerns, the maintenance of appropriate animal welfare and the possibility of predators and pests have been addressed by other municipalities through the use of appropriate regulations.

5.6 DENSITY OF HENS IN NEIGHBOURHOODS

Comments provided during the public consultation program have indicated concerns regarding the possibility of some neighbourhoods to have a large concentration of properties with hens. These comments have also indicated other concerns related to the high density of hens in neighbourhoods such as the potential increase of noise, odour, as well as predators and pests. Research from other municipalities has indicated this has yet to be a scenario to occur as only a small amount of residents proceed further with the required steps to permit the keeping of hens on their property. However, several municipalities have implemented minimum property size regulations and/or larger hen coop and run setback distance requirements to mitigate any issues or complaints related to neighbourhoods with a higher density of properties with hens.

6. EXPERIENCE IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES:

Many municipalities currently permit hens in residential areas such as Brampton, Caledon, Clearview, Kitchener, Kingston, Newmarket, Niagara Falls, Orillia, Guelph, Toronto and Quinte West. Based on this list of municipalities, permitting hens in residential areas has shown to be successful in both small and rural municipalities, as well as municipalities that are quite large and urban.

Staff note that developing a pilot program as the first step to assess the feasibility of a long term hen program has been a common practice among other municipalities, with the timelines ranging from one (1) to six (6) years. The success of these pilot programs has been tracked through inspections and interviews, which generally take place at the beginning, midpoint and conclusion of the pilot to ensure that participants complied with the pilot regulations. Further, some municipalities have their Municipal Law Enforcement Staff consult with neighbouring residents near the pilot site for feedback.

These pilot programs have been successful in each case as there have been an extremely small number of complaints. Upon discussion with Staff from other municipalities such as Newmarket, Kingston and Caledon, few complaints regarding urban hens have been reported. These municipalities initially received some concerns regarding noise and odour, but found that proper regulation was successful in mitigating the number of complaints.

In contrast to the above, The City of Peterborough, The City of Cambridge, The Town of New Tecumseth and the City of Waterloo Council chose to not allow backyard

chickens in urban residential areas, as many concerns such as the potential of neighbour disputes, abandonment of hens and public health were identified. However, after a ban in 2017, The City of Peterborough is currently looking into reversing the ban.

7. URBAN HENS OPTIONS:

There are three (3) basic options that could be considered and these options are presented below:

Option 1 - Do Nothing

Under this option, no action would be taken and the petition would be received and filed. Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072 would not be amended to address the permissibility of urban hens in residential areas. Raising poultry of any type in areas other than Rural (RU) zones, and in accordance with the provisions of the zone (ex. Minimum lot size, etc.) would not be permitted. Municipal Law Enforcement staff would continue to respond to complaints in accordance with the current regulations.

Option 2. – Pilot Program

Under this option, a pilot program would be initiated and would be authorized by a new by-law passed under the *Municipal Act* or through amendments to the existing Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072. The program could run for a defined period of time, for a limited number of residents and be based on specific criteria and standards. The program would be designed such that a restricted number of licenses for hens could be issued to ensure proper monitoring and management of the program. Following a program assessment, Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072 could be adjusted based upon the experience gained in the pilot program, or the program could be abandoned altogether.

Option 3 – Proceed immediately to Amend Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072

Under this option, no pilot project would be conducted and amendments to Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072 would be advanced immediately to allow for the raising of urban hens subject to the criteria and regulations as set out in the By-law.

8. STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that a pilot project be implemented to further assess the appropriateness and permissibility of urban hens in the Town of Georgina. Staff believe that urban hens will offer several important benefits for residents who choose to keep them on their property and that subject to compliance with regulations, hens

in residential areas should not cause any adverse impacts to neighbouring properties or the entire community.

Further, initiating a pilot program will allow Staff to assess and adapt the best practice regulations, which other municipalities have successfully used to minimize complaints. Further, a pilot program will expose any unanticipated problems that could impact a broader program. Staff are of the opinion that a pilot project is a key first step to the success of a long term program.

However, should it be identified that residents who are permitted to keep hens do not comply with regulations and the pilot project results in many issues and concerns, then Council still has the option of not proceeding any further.

Staff has reviewed the guidelines and regulations for the keeping of hens in other jurisdictions and has prepared a By-law for the implementation of an urban hens pilot project. This By-law includes a list of regulations that represent a compilation of the best practices established by other municipalities through their experience in urban hen programs. This By-law has been included as Attachment 5. Staff has also prepared a By-law to amend Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072. The purpose of this amendment is to recognize the proposed By-law for the implementation of an urban hens pilot program. This By-law has been included as Attachment 6.

9. EXISTING POLICY:

9.1 ZONING BY-LAW NO. 500

Section 5.24 of Zoning By-law No. 500, as amended, states that:

"No person shall use any land, building or structure in a Transitional or Rural zone on a lot of less than 0.4 hectares, or in a Residential zone, for the keeping or raising of animals, poultry, reptiles or insects except as allowed by specific municipal by-laws which set forth regulations of keeping of the same."

The effect of this By-law provision is to restrict the keeping or raising of poultry in settlement areas (i.e. Keswick, Sutton - Jackson's Point, Virginia, and Pefferlaw), save and except for a few areas that retain a Rural (RU) zoning and where lot sizes permit. It further places emphasis on the regulations concerning the keeping of poultry in the Town's Exotic Animal By-law, which is passed under the *Municipal Act*.

9.2 EXOTIC ANIMAL BY-LAW 2003-0072

The Town of Georgina Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072 (refer to Attachment 7) specifies that no person other than a veterinarian shall keep or permit to be kept any

of a variety of specified animals including all Galliformes (such as Grouse, Pheasants, Turkeys and Common Poultry) except on a Rural zoned property.

There are currently no regulations concerning the keeping of poultry on a Rural (RU) zoned property or the requirement to obtain a specific license from the Town for this purpose. The effect of By-law 2003-0072 is to prohibit the keeping of poultry on most properties within urban areas in Georgina.

10. PILOT PROGRAM STRUCTURE:

Staff recommended that the pilot program be implemented and managed by the Municipal Law Enforcement Division and the Clerk's Division (Licensing) for a period of thirty-six (36) months. A maximum of ten (10) properties would be included and the regulations outlined in Attachment 5 would be applied. It is proposed that the pilot program permit a maximum of four (4) hens at each property.

10.1 HEN COOPS AND RUNS

Hen coops and runs are accessory structures under Zoning By-law No. 500, as amended. As an accessory structure, coops and runs would be subject to the requirements outlined in the Zoning By-law, however, additional setbacks are considered appropriate in order to ensure proper land use compatibility. Further, a maximum size for hen coops and runs would be included in the regulations to ensure that a building permit is not required.

10.2 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AND SELECTION

In order to seek applicants, advertisements would be presented on the Town's website, social media platforms and at various Town facilities for a specified number of weeks. The advertisements would focus on the requirements for participants, the scope of the pilot program to ensure that interested candidates understand that the pilot would end after thirty-six (36) months.

Once applications are submitted, Staff would keep a list of interested candidates so that applicants can be reviewed and selected on a first-come, first-serve basis until all ten (10) have been chosen. Should more than ten (10) applications be submitted, an alternative approach would be to select the ten (10) pilot project licenses using a lottery system.

Additional resources would also be provided on the Town's website for public education. Various organizations such as OMAFRA have developed extensive materials including a resource kit specifically for the proper keeping, care and control of small flocks to effectively mitigate negative impacts.

Other municipalities have also indicated that public education and awareness is a key factor in implementing a successful approach to urban hens and that participants want to be responsible owners, making them receptive to follow the guidelines.

10.3 APPLICATION PROCESS AND LICENSING REGULATIONS

Interested candidates would be required to review the regulations outlined in the By-law and to educate themselves about issues associated with keeping urban hens. Staff would work to make information resources available for this purpose.

Applicants would then be required to complete an application, including the following:

- Name and contact information including an e-mail, phone numbers and the address of the property where the hens will be kept;
- The number of hens to be kept on the property; and,
- A site plan of the property, showing all buildings and structures including the proposed location of the hen coop and run, as well as the dimensions and appropriate setbacks.

Licensing Staff would review the applications and would ensure that candidates have educated themselves using the information resources. Approved applicants would be included on a first-come, first-serve basis (or lottery system), until ten (10) participants have been selected, regardless of proximity to other properties that have been approved to participate in the hen pilot. Should a long term hen program be implemented, this component of the pilot program would potentially change after the pilot project has been concluded, as the number of hen coop licenses would be expanded past ten (10).

10.4 INSPECTIONS

An initial inspection of each property would be completed at the start of the pilot program by a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer to ensure that the hen coops and runs are appropriately constructed and comply with all regulations. Additional inspections would take place if a complaint is filed, and a final inspection would be completed at the end of the program.

Approved applicants would also be given a twelve (12) week timeframe after the license has been issued to construct the hen coop and hen run on the property. Once the hen coop and hen run has been constructed, an inspection by a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer would take place. Should the approved applicant not be able to meet the twelve (12) week deadline, their license would be revoked and the license would then become available to another interested candidate.

Further, to track results, Staff would collect information from the participants in order to gain their feedback on the overall experience. Staff would follow-up with participants if additional information is required and participants would be encouraged to report any issues or concerns to Staff throughout the duration of the pilot program.

10.5 ENFORCEMENT

Once Staff has approved applications and completed inspections of the property, participants would be issued a license to allow for the keeping of hens for the duration of the pilot only. As a condition of the license, participants would be required to comply with all provisions of the pilot project By-law. Further, under the By-law, a license may be revoked for any reasonable grounds as deemed fit by the licensing issuer, including if complaints are not able to be resolved. Staff would work with participants to encourage compliance and revoking a license would be a last resort.

As previously discussed above, the By-law would include a section requiring that participants hold a license to keep hens on a residential or rural property with a lot area of less than 0.4 hectares for the pilot. If a license is revoked, the participant would be in contravention of Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072, which generally prohibits the keeping of chickens. Municipal Law Enforcement Staff would issue a notice indicating the contravention and would provide the date by which the participant would be required to remove the hens. Although it would be the responsibility of the participant to relocate the hens, the Town would assist by providing options.

Currently, the Georgina Animal Shelter and Adoption Centre does not accept surrendered chickens. It is difficult to adopt out abandoned birds as poultry farms are hesitant to accept them due to the potential of introducing illness. The City of Kingston has addressed this issue by adopting hens to others in their program when a resident no longer wishes to participate. Alternatively, other municipalities recommend that hens be relocated to wildlife centers. Staff would work with participants to provide options, however, it would be the responsibility of the participant to relocate the hens.

10.6 STAFF RESOURCES

Staff has determined that up to a maximum of ten (10) properties would be chosen for the pilot program. Staff believe this number would be manageable as time would be required to process each application and conduct inspections. The total amount of Staff time would depend on the number of participants in the pilot program, as well as the volume of complaints received.

11. FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY IMPACTS:

Should a pilot program be implemented, financial implications would depend on the number of participants and the number of complaints received by Municipal Law Enforcement.

Other municipalities have established fees for their pilot projects. The City of Kitchener charges a one-time \$50.00 fee to cover the cost of processing applications and conducting inspections, the City of Kingston requires a one-time fee of \$25.00, the City of Orillia charges a one-time fee of \$100.00 and Quinte West requires an initial fee of \$62.00 with an annual renewal fee of \$31.00.

Staff recommend that a one-time fee of \$100.00 for the pilot program be required to cover the cost of Staff having to process the applications and conduct inspections. Should the recommended fee of \$100.00 be insufficient, the pilot program would also allow Staff to determine an alternate fee that could be applied to an expanded program to recover the costs associated with Staff's time or it may be determined that a fee is not required.

12. PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS:

Interested parties were notified of this report. There are no statutory notification or consultation requirements associated with this report. Comments received during the public consultation program have been included as Attachment 4.

13. CONCLUSION:

This report responds to the direction of Council to conduct an urban hens public consultation program. This report presents three (3) options for addressing this matter. Staff recommend that a pilot program for urban hens be initiated for thirty-six (36) months, commencing in the spring of 2020. Should a pilot project be approved by Council, this report further recommends Staff to report back to Council regarding the outcome of the pilot program.

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Approved by:



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Chief Administrative Officer

November 07, 2019

- Attachment 1 – Urban Hens Public Information Session Boards*
- Attachment 2 – Urban Hens Survey*
- Attachment 3 – Urban Hens Survey Results (Summarized)*
- Attachment 4 – Urban Hens Survey Comments and Other Public Comments Received*
- Attachment 5 – By-law to License and Regulate an Urban Hens Pilot Program*
- Attachment 6 – By-law to amend Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072*
- Attachment 7 – Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072*



GEORGINA

WELCOME!

Urban Hens Public Information Session



PLEASE SIGN IN

Staff from Development Services and Municipal Law Enforcement are available to answer any questions you may have and are available to verbally explain presentation board content.

CURRENT STATUS ON HENS



ZONING BY-LAW NO. 500

- Section 5.24 of the Town's Zoning By-law restricts the keeping or raising of poultry in residential areas.
- Further places emphasis on the regulations regarding the keeping of poultry in the Town's Exotic Pets By-law.

EXOTIC PETS BY-LAW 2003-0072

- Georgina's Exotic Pets By-law states that:
"No person other than a veterinarian shall keep or permit to be kept any of a variety of specified animals such as poultry except on a Rural (RU) zoned property."
- By-law 2003-0072 prohibits the keeping of poultry on most properties within residential areas of Georgina.
- By-law Enforcement Staff respond to and administer approximately 2-4 complaints concerning hens in violation of By-law 2003-0072 on an annual basis.





ORIGINAL PETITION & REFERRAL

- On August 10, 2016, Council received a deputation, requesting a relaxation of existing regulations to permit hens in residential areas.
- A petition was signed by 385 residents and suggested that the keeping of hens:
 - Is a healthy form of teaching and feeding families in a sustainable way;
 - If managed well, are quiet, clean and personable;
 - Pose zero risk to our health and safety; and,
 - Add immense benefit such as pesticide and hormone free eggs.
- On August 10, 2016, Council adopted Resolution No. C-2016-0423, in which Council received the delegation and referred to Staff to investigate the potential of hens in residential areas further.
- On August 14, 2019, Council received Staff Report No. DS-2019-0104 regarding the regulation of hens in residential areas and further directed Staff to conduct a public consultation program to better understand the issues and attitudes of residents about allowing urban hens.



WHY HENS IN URBAN AREAS?

- There is growing interest in the keeping of hens as a means of easy and accessible egg production in a variety of non-traditional urban and suburban settings across North America.
- Largely associated with the “urban agriculture” sustainability movement.
- The keeping of hens in residential areas has been permitted in a number of municipalities across Canada by way of pilot projects and adjustments to zoning regulations, as well as animal control by-laws.





URBAN AGRICULTURE

- There is an increasing interest surrounding access to fresh, healthy, organic and sustainable food.
- This led to the idea of “urban agriculture.”

WHAT IS URBAN AGRICULTURE?

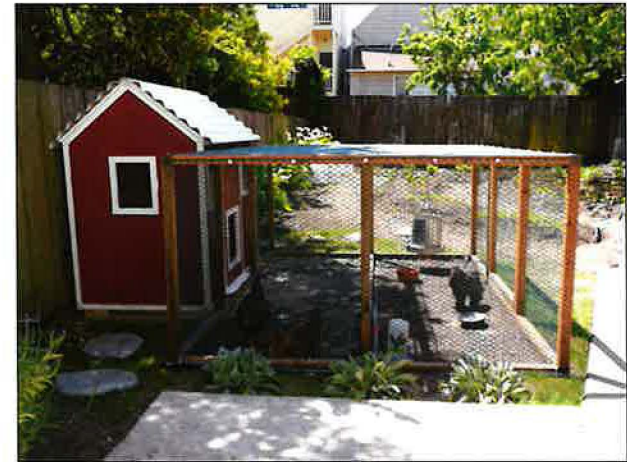
Urban agriculture is the practice of cultivating, processing and distributing food in or around an urban area.

Urban agriculture can include:

- Gardening and livestock raised in backyards;
- Container gardening on balconies or rooftops; and,
- Community gardening and city allotments.

WHY URBAN AGRICULTURE?

- Contributions to urban food security and nutrition;
- Social and educational impacts; and,
- Contributions on urban ecology



GENERAL INFORMATION ON URBAN HENS

- Hens are typically kept for egg production, not meat;
- Roosters are not typically permitted to be kept in residential areas;
- Chickens must grow to an age of 4 months before it is possible to identify the gender;
- Hens are social animals and thrive better in groups;
- Generally, hens will lay 1-2 eggs per day and will continue to lay eggs for 5-7 years;
- Most heritage breeds can live up to and beyond 8 years;
- Hens require a means of shelter from the elements in a shed or coop as well as a protected area for exercise and light;
- Hens require a supply of clean water and feed and can produce up to 10 lbs. of manure per month per bird; and,
- Hens may require occasional veterinarian care, similar to household pets.





URBAN HEN BREEDS

- There are over 300 different breeds of chickens in North America.
- Most urban hen owners often use a variety of breeds known as “heritage breeds”.
- Examples of heritage breeds include the Rhode Island Red, the Barred Rock and other breeds, which are heartier and more conducive to an urban environment.



Orpington



Rhode Island Red



Barred Rock



GEORGINA

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

ACCESS TO LOCALLY GROWN FOOD

COMPANIONSHIP

EDUCATIONAL & SOCIAL BENEFITS

ALTERNATIVE TO STORE BOUGHT EGGS

LOWER FOOD COSTS FOR OWNERS

GREATER CONTROL OVER EGG SOURCE





GEORGINA

CONCERNS

NOISE AND ODOUR

CARE AND HANDLING

BIOSECURITY RISKS

PUBLIC HEALTH

PREDATORS AND PESTS

ANIMAL WELFARE



MITIGATION OPTIONS

BIOSECURITY & PUBLIC HEALTH

- Mandatory hen enclosures & construction standards.
- Limited number of hens.
- Prohibit mixing of commercial poultry & urban hens.
- Establish minimum feed control practices & enclosure cleaning practices.
- Outline regulations for safe disposal of waste (feed, feces & carcass).
- Provide rules/guidelines to inform residents on the proper keeping of hens.
- Limit egg distribution to only personal use.
- Prohibit home-based slaughter of hens.
- Prohibit the sale of chicken meat.

NOISE & ODOUR

- Prohibit roosters.
- Require enclosures to be maintained in sanitary condition, free of obnoxious smells & odours.
- Feces must be stored in a fully enclosed container.
- Allowing the storage of a limited amount of manure, only if it is stored in a fully enclosed container.



PREDATORS & PESTS

- Ensure that all chicken feed is stored in a closed container, inaccessible to other animals. Rodents are not attracted to chickens; they are attracted to chicken feed & other food scraps.
- Hen enclosures should be constructed to prevent access to the enclosure by other animals.
- Owners are required to keep hens, as well as their food & water, in the coop between sunset & sunrise, and that the coop remain locked during that time.

ANIMAL WELFARE

- Ensure a minimum enclosure size based on number of hens.
- Provide a wire fenced outdoor enclosure for access to daylight & exercise.
- Ensure hens have access to clean feed & water.
- Prohibit slaughtering or attempts at euthanasia by those who keep hens, as slaughtering by untrained individuals can result in unnecessary suffering.
- Hens at the end of their lives can be euthanized by a veterinarian, or taken to a farm or abattoir for slaughtering.
- Restriction on hens younger than 4 months of age. This is intended to limit impulse buying of "cute and fuzzy" chicks, and the mistaken purchase of roosters.

WHAT ARE OTHER ONTARIO MUNICIPALITIES DOING?

MUNICIPALITIES WHERE URBAN HENS ARE PERMITTED

1. Town of Newmarket
2. Town of East Gwillimbury
3. City of Quinte West
4. Clearview Township
5. City of Kitchener
6. Town of Caledon
7. City of Kingston
8. City of Brampton
9. City of Brantford
10. City of Niagara Falls
11. City of Guelph
12. Norfolk County
13. Township of Severn
14. Windsor-Essex County
15. Town of Minto



URBAN HEN PILOT PROJECTS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE

1. City of Toronto
2. City of Orillia



MUNICIPALITIES CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING URBAN HENS

1. City of Peterborough
2. City of Belleville
3. Town of Uxbridge

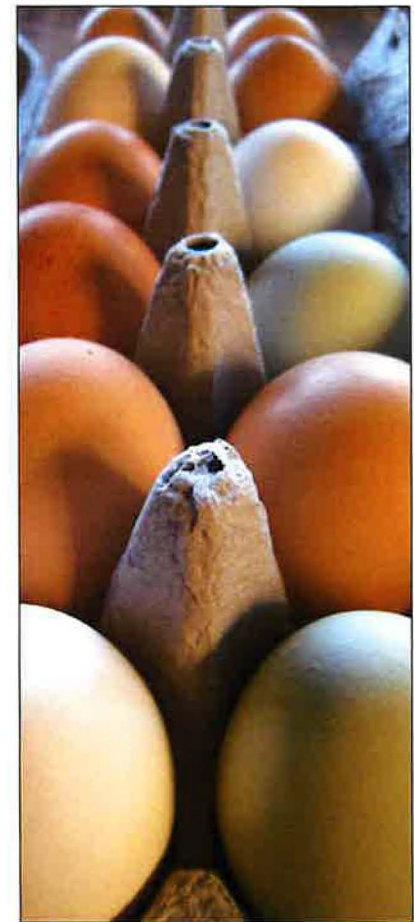


MUNICIPALITIES THAT DECIDED AGAINST URBAN HENS

1. City of Cambridge
2. City of Waterloo
3. Town of New Tecumseth
4. Port Hope

SUMMARY OF URBAN HEN REGULATIONS IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES

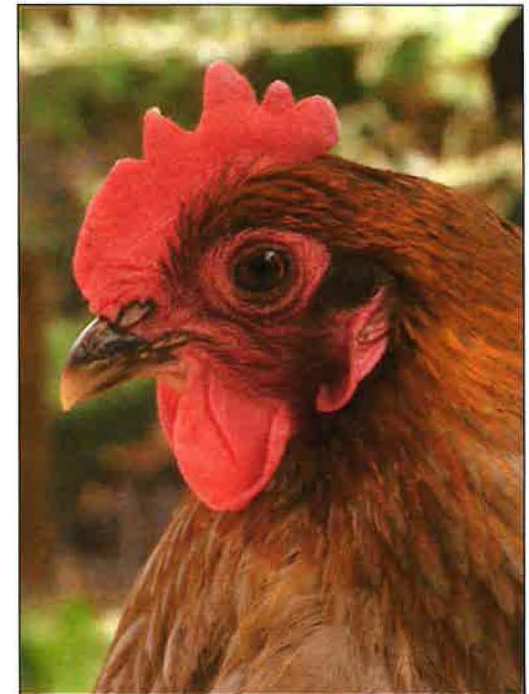
- Several municipalities conducted a pilot project for a specified duration and number of properties to assess the effectiveness of regulations and to ensure land use compatibility;
- Regulations are contained in either a Municipal Act Licensing By-law or a Zoning By-law, or a combination of both;
- Municipalities tend to limit the extent of hen keeping to an absolute number - generally, the limit is 4;
- Regulations for hen enclosures are required such as coop standards and minimum area requirements based on the number of hens;
- In most cases, hens are only permitted in the rear yard of the property;
- Roosters are generally banned;
- In some cases minimum property requirements are prescribed such as lot frontage and/or lot area;
- Larger separation distances from churches, businesses and schools are sometimes required;
- Notification to and consent from adjacent property owners is a requirement in some instances;
- The sale of eggs and slaughter of chickens is prohibited; and,
- Educational documents regarding proper management and care of hens is provided by the municipality.



KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Should Council decide that Staff are to conduct an urban hens pilot project, Staff have identified some key considerations below:

- How long would the pilot project run for? 2 years, 3 years?
- Should the pilot project be limited to certain residential areas and/or limited to a specific number of properties?
- How many hens would be permitted per property?
- Should neighbour consent be a requirement?
- Should there be minimum property frontage and/or area requirements?
- Should a pilot project be limited to only properties with single detached dwellings?
- What should the required setback distances for the hen enclosures be?
- Should licenses for hens be required?
- How would regulations be enforced?
- Should inspections from Municipal Law Enforcement Staff be a requirement?
- If inspections are a requirement, how often would they take place?
- What other restrictions should be imposed?



EXAMPLE REGULATIONS

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A maximum of four (4) hens shall be permitted.
- Hens must be at least four (4) months old.
- Roosters are prohibited.
- The sale of eggs, manure and other products associate with the keeping of hens is prohibited.
- Home slaughter of hens is prohibited.
- Backyard hens must be contained in the rear yard of the owner's property at all times.
- The owner of the backyard hens must reside on the property where the hens are kept.

CARE & MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS

- All stored feed is kept in rodent proof containers and secured at all times.
- Feeding of hens is done in a manner that minimizes the attraction of rodents and other animals.
- Manure and droppings are cleaned out daily and stored in a secured container until disposed
- No more than 0.08 m³ of manure and/or dropping shall be stored at any one time.
- Hens have access to an enclosed outdoor run area.
- Hens must be kept in their coop from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- Deceased hens are disposed of at a livestock disposal facility, through the services of a veterinarian, chicken exchange program or through an approved OMAFRA facility and are disposed of in accordance with all laws.
- Hens are kept in accordance with all other laws including the Town's by-laws respecting noise, lot maintenance, property standards and animals, as well as provincial legislation.

COOP & RUN REGULATIONS

- Hen coops, hen runs and manure storage structures must meet the requirements of the Zoning By-law for Accessory Structures.
- The combined floor area of the hen coop, hen run and manure storage structure shall be less than 10 m².
- Hen coops shall provide a minimum area of 0.37 m² per hen and hen runs shall provide a minimum area of 0.92 m² per hen.
- Coops and runs are maintained in a clean condition to ensure that smells do not cause a nuisance to the residents of any neighbouring property or any residents of the Town.
- Coops are deep cleaned at least two times yearly including the disinfecting of troughs, perches and nests.



MOVING FORWARD



PROPOSED OPTIONS

1. No Action

- Under this option, no action would be taken.
- Poultry would only be permitted on Rural (RU) zoned properties with a minimum area of 0.4 hectares.

2. Pilot Program

- Program could run for a defined period of time, for a limited number of residents and would be based on certain criteria.
- This would ensure proper monitoring and management.

3. Amend Exotic Pets By-law 2003-0072

- Amendments would be made immediately the Town's Exotic Pet By-law to allow for hens in residential areas.

Further questions and/or comments can be sent to Shayne Connors, Planner I, at sconnors@georgina.ca or by calling 905-476-4301 ext. 2442.

TOWN WEBPAGE

- Visit www.georgina.ca/UrbanHens for additional information.

URBAN HENS SURVEY

- We are interested in your comments! Take the urban hens survey and provide your feedback.
- Survey is running until **October 14, 2019**.
- Hard copies of the survey are available tonight and can also be found at various Town facilities or online.

COUNCIL FOLLOW-UP

- Staff will be following up with Council prior to the end of 2019.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME. WE APPRECIATE YOUR INPUT!



Urban Hens Survey

1. Where do you live?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin | <input type="checkbox"/> Sutton/Jackson's Point |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belhaven | <input type="checkbox"/> Ravenshoe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brownhill | <input type="checkbox"/> Udora |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keswick | <input type="checkbox"/> Virginia |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pefferlaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, postal code: |

2. Do you support residents being allowed to keep hens in residential areas in the Town of Georgina?

- Yes No

3. If you choose YES, what are the reasons you would be interested in keeping hens on your property? Please select all that apply.

- a. I want fresh eggs for my household
- b. I believe keeping hens is an educational activity
- c. I want to keep hens as pets
- d. I want to use the droppings for composting reasons
- e. Other(s) (please specify)

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- c. I want to keep hens as pets
- d. I want to use the droppings for composting reasons
- e. Other(s) (please specify)

4. If you choose NO, why do you not support residents being allowed to keep hens in residential areas? Please select all that apply.

- a. Noise
- b. Odour
- c. Unsanitary conditions (disease)
- d. Predators/pests
- e. Other(s) (please specify)

5. If hens are allowed in residential areas in Town, which of the following should apply? Please select all that apply.

- a. Limit of four hens or less
- b. Minimum distance from neighbouring buildings
- c. Minimum distance from property lines
- d. Minimum lot size
- e. Standards of care regarding coop construction and excrement handling
- f. Other(s) (please specify)

6. The Town welcomes any other comments that you may have about keeping hens in residential areas in the Town of Georgina. Please provide these comments below.

Note: For your comments to be considered, you must provide your postal code.

I accept that by submitting this survey my comments will be shared with the public.

Feedback deadline: Oct. 14

Visit georgina.ca/UrbanHens to complete the survey online.

Report # DS-2019-0140



4. If you choose NO, why do you not support residents being allowed to keep hens in residential areas? Please select all that apply.

- a. Noise
- b. Odour
- c. Unsanitary conditions (disease)
- d. Predators/pests
- e. Other(s) (please specify)

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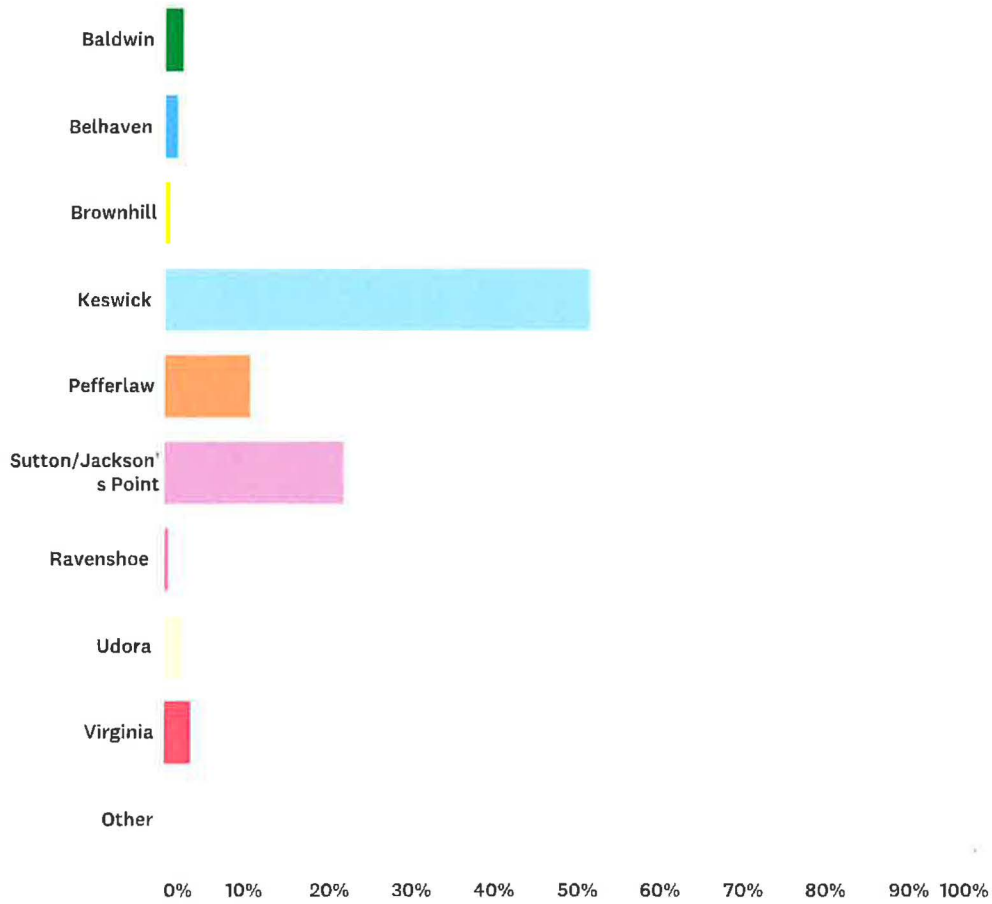
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Urban Hens

Q1 Where do you live?



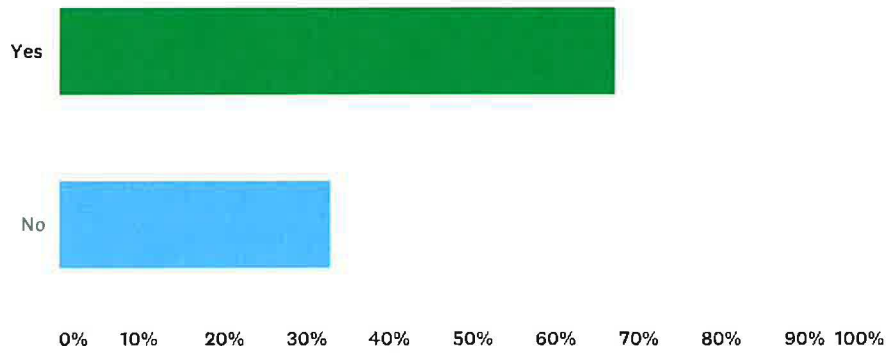
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Baldwin	2.24%	11
Belhaven	1.63%	8
Brownhill	0.82%	4
Keswick	51.43%	252
Pefferlaw	10.41%	51
Sutton/Jackson's Point	21.84%	107
Ravenshoe	0.61%	3
Udora	2.45%	12
Virginia	3.27%	16
Other	4.29%	21
TOTAL		488

Urban Hens

Q2 Do you support residents being allowed to keep hens in residential areas in the Town of Georgina?



ANSWER CHOICES

Yes

No

TOTAL

RESPONSES

67.21%

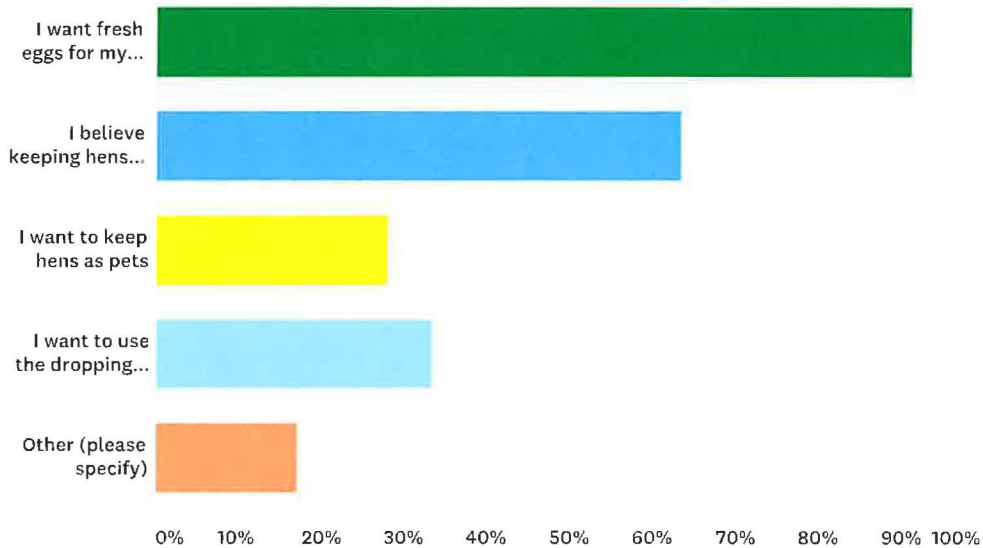
32.79%

328

160

488

Q3 If you chose YES, what are the reasons you would be interested in keeping hens on your property? Please select all that apply.



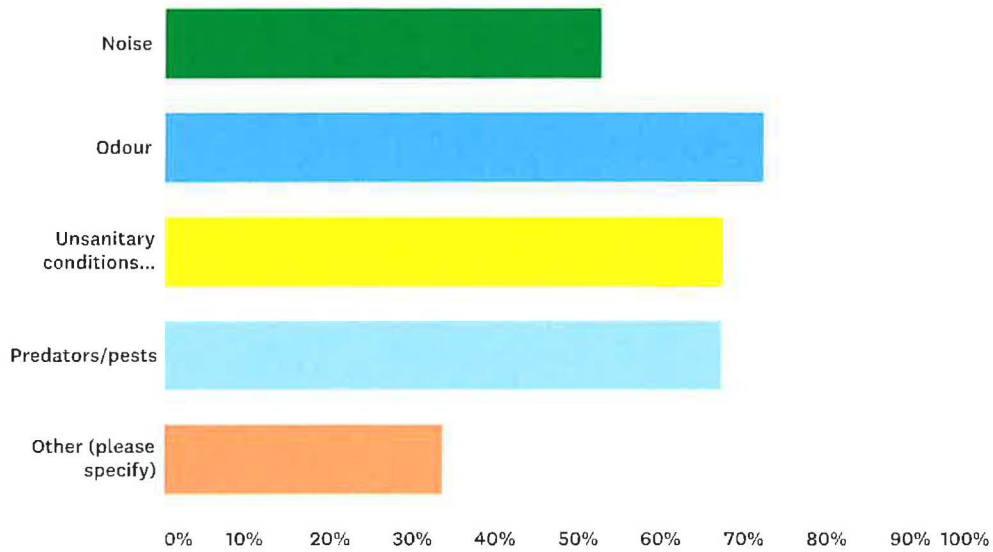
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

I want fresh eggs for my household	91.12%	308
I believe keeping hens is an educational activity	63.31%	214
I want to keep hens as pets	28.11%	95
I want to use the droppings for composting reasons	33.43%	113
Other (please specify)	17.16%	58
Total Respondents: 338		

Urban Hens

Q4 If you chose NO, why do you not support residents being allowed to keep hens in residential areas? Please select all that apply.

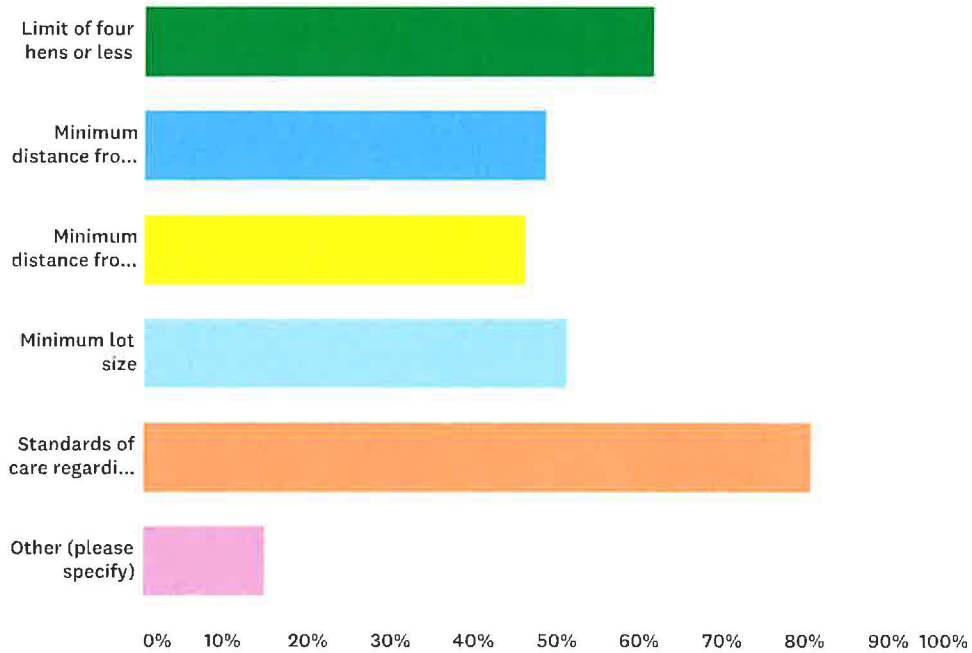


ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Noise	52.76%	105
Odour	72.36%	144
Unsanitary conditions (disease)	67.34%	134
Predators/pests	67.34%	134
Other (please specify)	33.67%	67
Total Respondents: 199		

Q5 If hens are allowed in residential areas in the Town, which of the following should apply? Please select all that apply.



ANSWER CHOICES

- Limit of four hens or less
- Minimum distance from neighbouring buildings
- Minimum distance from property lines
- Minimum lot size
- Standards of care regarding coop construction and excrement handling
- Other (please specify)

Total Respondents: 455

RESPONSES

Limit of four hens or less	61.54%	280
Minimum distance from neighbouring buildings	48.57%	221
Minimum distance from property lines	45.93%	209
Minimum lot size	51.21%	233
Standards of care regarding coop construction and excrement handling	80.66%	367
Other (please specify)	14.95%	68

Q6 The Town welcomes any other comments that you may have about keeping hens in residential areas in the Town of Georgina. Please provide these comments below.

We will be gathering all comments, positive and negative and staff will bring back a public report for more direction from council.

Thanks again for reaching out to me.

Regards

Margaret

Sent: Tuesday, October 8, 2019, 1:05 p.m.

To: Margaret Quirk; Robert Grossi

Subject: Backyard Chickens

Hello Mayor Quirk and Counselor Grossi,

I am writing to the both of you in regards to the Backyard Chicken issue, I'm unable to attend the meeting for this matter on October 10 so I spoke with Mike and he suggested that I email the both of you with my concern.

I'm not sure how either of you feel on this matter but I'm SO AGAINST this and here is my reasoning chickens belong on farms like pigs, goats and cows.

Here is how I see something that may or may not happen but once the ok is given you never know.....5 houses in a row on 1st street 5 houses in a row on 2nd street they are all backyard neighbors... so now if you allow up to 4 hens to each house or even 3, so in the area of appx less than 2 acres there is 30 to 40 hens that is a lot more than most farms would even have (not including chicken farms).

I for one do not want to endure that smell or the noise from the comfort of my home to which we pay high enough taxes as is. When will it end and at what point do you believe that you would have the right to say no to another type of farm animal that can provide food to a family raising it like a cow.

I also believe there will cause dangerous situations with the foxes that are in town also bringing the coywolves in closer to town.

Please please please do not let this pass. Chickens belong on farms.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

I did do the survey.

Q6 The Town welcomes any other comments that you may have about keeping hens in residential areas in the Town of Georgina. Please provide these comments below.

Answered: 180 Skipped: 310

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Promote healthy living!	10/16/2019 12:22 PM
2	GTA are allowed to have chickens in the backyard. Georgina should do the same to promote healthy living.	10/16/2019 12:16 PM
3	No roosters but allow hens.	10/16/2019 12:10 PM
4	Ok as long as good husbandry	10/15/2019 4:25 PM
5	Good way to eat healthy.	10/15/2019 4:25 PM
6	If the TOG votes in favor of urban hens - please consider a mandatory seminar on standards of care, handling, w/resources and options for what to do w/them when they do not need them. Rehome/butcher - people need options & resources. Only people who have attended should be able to care considering domestiv household pets/animals don't even have a regulatory/ gov body on abuse at home.	10/15/2019 4:14 PM
7	Noisy	10/15/2019 4:07 PM
8	Worried about proper care of animals/neglect.	10/15/2019 4:04 PM
9	May cause property value to drop.	10/15/2019 4:01 PM
10	I love the idea of supporting independent food production.	10/15/2019 3:44 PM
11	Go for it!	10/15/2019 3:43 PM
12	Good way to be self sufficient & boost local economy @ feed shops.	10/15/2019 2:04 PM
13	It's not hurting anybody so it should not be a problem.	10/15/2019 2:03 PM
14	Time to step out of the past, move forward with sustainable changes.	10/15/2019 11:17 AM
15	if you allow this why not sheep, if you want to farm buy a lot outside town, I was a farmer.	10/15/2019 11:15 AM
16	Thank you for considering	10/14/2019 4:44 PM
17	If Toronto properties 30x40 can house hens why cant we in Udora with 3/4 acre property? Dosen't seem right! I want chickens in Udora!!!	10/13/2019 4:50 PM
18	It's a really bad idea... People will get tired of it after the hens stop laying and I'm afraid they will neglect the hens and not care for them properly	10/13/2019 2:36 PM
19	I believe hens belong on farms. Besides rats they attract coyotes. I have two small dogs that I don't want to be attacked and killed.	10/13/2019 1:42 PM
20	Make it happen!	10/12/2019 3:01 PM
21	We are trying to modernize the town to become a City. The next Newmarket. Then why do we keep making steps backward like this? This isn't something we should do. Allow it in the rural areas like ward 5 and some ward 4&3. But it really shouldn't be allowed	10/12/2019 9:45 AM
22	Great way to teach children about where food comes from and about responsibilities. Other more densely populated cities like Toronto and Newmarket allow them. Kind of silly that Georgina doesn't.	10/11/2019 7:36 PM
23	We have visited many friends in other communities who have backyard hens & it is a beautiful experience. Our forefathers raised these birds for their precious eggs & feathers to pillows etc. There is absolutely no reason why backyard hens shouldn't be allowed. You don't need a rooster; therefore, the noise element is very low unlike an anxious dog barking annoyingly all day long!!	10/11/2019 9:24 AM

Urban Hens

24	I Live in Simcoe Landing. & at least 50% of homeowners do not take care of their homes. ie they hardly cut the grass which is filled with weeds. Generally many of these lovely homes look a mess. So, I can't imagine anyone complying with keeping a chicken coop or backyard clean.	10/11/2019 8:25 AM
25	Have you ever lived near a rooster? Then you know that they don't just crow at the crack of dawn and that their crowing carries a very long way. I grew up on a ranch in Southern Alberta and we had about 30 chickens every year (for our own consumption of meat and a few of the eggs), so I know first hand of what I speak Who would want to live near someone who owns a rooster? It would only be a matter of time before anyone living within a few blocks of one regretted it and begins to complain vociferously,	10/11/2019 12:11 AM
26	I think this is a great idea and will help educate our child with responsibility and fun!	10/10/2019 10:21 PM
27	This is a horrible idea because it will create an odour, excessive noise and it will attract predators. If the town decides to go ahead with allowing hens, they should not be allowed in residential subdivisions. I fear that my young son, could contract a disease when playing in the backyard or at the park if this is allowed. There are individuals with weak immunities, including my mother, who would be at great risk.	10/10/2019 8:42 PM
28	They attract rats and we are already having problems	10/10/2019 4:20 PM
29	Constantly I am kept up at night from neighbouring dogs barking and cats (that are free to roam the neighbourhood) fighting in my backyard. It has come to the point, where I can no longer sleep with my windows open due to the noise. These two animals are, within the by-laws, allowed to be possessed within the town of Keswick. Unlike the above animals, hens are quiet (make little to noise) and are confined to a coop, or other means of shelter on ones yard. They provide an excellent source of organic eggs for human consumption, and actually help eliminate waste from plastic egg cartons. Also, dissimilarly to cats that are allowed to roam free within our neighbourhoods, hens feces is confined to their own coop. It is amazing to see the City of Toronto allow the possession of hens within specific ares of the city. I would like to see similar measures taken within the town of Georgina, a far more rural community than the City of Toronto.	10/10/2019 2:56 PM
30	I have no issues with someone having hens as long as they are kept in a proper facility and are well looked after.	10/10/2019 2:10 PM
31	Will this bylaw overrule current condo rules? In case of town house	10/10/2019 1:23 PM
32	Henson belong on farms, not residential areas. I don't understand why this is even an issue and wasting the council's time	10/10/2019 11:46 AM
33	They are a great idea they keep bugs down supply fresh eggs also fertilize your lawn.	10/10/2019 10:20 AM
34	Goats are an asset as well. Reduces emissions from grass cutting and whatever else is beneficial. Same standard rule as for the hens would apply	10/10/2019 9:50 AM
35	I do not want to keep hens myself but it is economically and nutritionally beneficial to some households. Perhaps it could be done as community gardens are, with plots for interested parties in a convenient location, protected from predators we do not want near domestic pets and ourselves. Sounds reasonable to me. It could provide a job for high school students to collect and deliver eggs while earning community service credits and fostering an interest in agriculture.	10/9/2019 8:56 AM
36	I believe allowing Back yard chickens is an asset to low income people as well as people who want to know where their food is coming from and, gives an opportunity to raise animals ethically. There are countless benefits to raising chickens at home.	10/9/2019 3:02 AM
37	The town should allow backyard chickens. They are less nuisance then dogs are.	10/8/2019 10:27 PM
38	Hens are in subdivisions in York region such as aurora. Georgina has many subdivisions that are more rural with larger lots and chickens should be allowed.	10/8/2019 10:23 PM
39	G	10/8/2019 9:32 PM
40	No comment	10/8/2019 8:58 PM
41	I would be able to accept hens ONLY provided they were monitored by the town . We had an issue this summer with a resident of our commmunity having hens and a rooster. The noise was extreme.y irritating, all day every day relentlessly crowing., as the summer progressed so did the odour	10/8/2019 8:24 PM
42	Hens no roosters	10/8/2019 8:16 PM
43	Thank You for offering a survey. I support house holds having chickens.	10/8/2019 8:02 PM

Urban Hens

44	Thank you considering backyard hens.	10/8/2019 5:10 PM
45	Don't do this it's a fad right now totally unnecessary	10/8/2019 2:01 PM
46	I would also like to own ducks	10/8/2019 12:19 PM
47	If there are hens, dont you need a rooster? Roosters are loud and not suitable in our close residential developments. It's bad enough many of us have to listen to barking dogs at all hours, dont need to add roosters to the noise	10/8/2019 11:53 AM
48	No hens for residential houses - gross.	10/8/2019 11:21 AM
49	Great idea. If Toronto can, we should!	10/8/2019 11:20 AM
50	At one time, most families raised small animals like chickens and goats to provide for their families. Bring it back!	10/8/2019 11:17 AM
51	Health regulations & by-laws & inspections.	10/8/2019 11:14 AM
52	I have seen personally the joy and sense of responsibility it gives young and old.	10/8/2019 11:00 AM
53	I believe people should be allowed with proper standards in place.	10/8/2019 10:59 AM
54	Great idea for people in residential areas with properties 1/3 acre or larger.	10/8/2019 10:57 AM
55	Why question#5. It appears the Town will allow this!!	10/8/2019 10:48 AM
56	Larger lots should be allowed more hens & smaller less. Might keep neighbours happier.	10/8/2019 10:45 AM
57	Please allow this through, restricting this and saying no is not the appropriate response allowance lisencing and containment of hens is the better option	10/7/2019 7:16 PM
58	We live in port bolster Georgina side. I should be able to have chickens. So long as living health and welfare of both humans chickens is in high regard this should be allowed. Everyone smoking marijuana is ok but not this?	10/7/2019 1:11 PM
59	Currently, there are residents who do not maintain their yards - overrun with weeds, trampoline, children's pool and lighting fires. I do not believe these type of owners/renters will be concerned with bylaws regarding keeping hens. There must be strict enforcement and monitoring of the people who are permitted to keep with hens. This should not be a means of getting extra revenue only, from the issuing permits. I am strongly against it and do not believe there is an extra nutritional value in these eggs as opposed to the ones bought from the grocery store.	10/7/2019 9:19 AM
60	Hens are allowed in Urban areas in the GTA, so as a rural town, Georgina residents should have the options to have hens.	10/7/2019 9:06 AM
61	This would be a step in the right direction. Similar to clotheslines.	10/5/2019 10:19 AM
62	It just needs to be contained and clean. The noise is another thing but for us hit the bigger issue. It's the smell and cleanliness. As well as attracting predators. Making other homes lesser value for resale etc	10/5/2019 8:33 AM
63	It would be great to be able to keep hens in our backyards. They can provide fresh eggs and great pets. It would be nice to have a little farm life in what used to be a farming and cottage community.	10/5/2019 7:11 AM
64	I think the sooner backyard chickens are allowed, the better! :)	10/5/2019 12:36 AM
65	Allow Hens on larger spread out lots!	10/4/2019 10:29 PM
66	Hens be cool af	10/4/2019 9:53 PM
67	I believe it is a human rights issue	10/4/2019 9:49 PM
68	So many other municipalities allow hens. I'm not sure what the issue is in Keswick or why it's taking this long to allow. People can grow pot but we can't have fresh eggs unless it's farmland?	10/4/2019 9:34 PM
69	Need large lots and shade.	10/4/2019 9:26 PM
70	My family growing up had hens and the neighbours loved them. We also gave eggs to community members like the post lady. It made us closer to our community and never had a complaint.	10/4/2019 8:40 PM
71	I applaud the progressive consideration but it will require ABSOLUTELY FULL AND PROACTIVE ENFORCEMENT OF BYLAW TO BE SUCCESSFUL	10/4/2019 8:13 PM
72	As stated earlier I do not support for the following reasons: maintaining property standards, cost of health inspections, health impacts,	10/4/2019 5:20 PM

Urban Hens

73	I am in favour of fresh eggs, however I have been in outlying areas where there are chicken coops and have seen the rodents that are attracted to the coops.	10/4/2019 4:23 PM
74	We've been getting eggs from the farmer down the road and are looking forward to raising our own little chickys next year.	10/4/2019 2:37 PM
75	Hens tend to roam to adjacent properties...if law passes they should be confined into special cages	10/4/2019 1:36 PM
76	Proper contained units are important to provide safe environment for the hens. I do not believe Hens need a new team of Bylaw officers to govern concerns. In one of the pilot projects conducted, there were approx. 15 complaints based on 250000. residents. LOW numbers. Physical appearance of hens is also very different from a Rooster, as a member of council was not sure. Proper clean up,maintenance and a limit on number of hens allowed will reduce any risk of odour. CATS being allowed to roam on other peoples property and use gardens for toilets. THAT IS A PROBLEM	10/4/2019 1:27 PM
77	I am a veterinarian and believe backyard chickens to have a wealth of benefits. However, education, disease control, husbandry and waste control needs to be part of being allowed to raise chicken to keep everyone, including the chickens, happy and safe.	10/4/2019 12:21 PM
78	I believe that keeping chickens helps provide healthy food on a local basis in small amounts. You can share with neighbours and you know the chickens have been cared for properly.	10/4/2019 12:02 PM
79	I support people having hens until they become a problem for their neighbours. If noise and smell become an issue, there should be an easy process to relocate them.	10/4/2019 10:54 AM
80	there are many farms in the area where fresh eggs can be purchased without keeping hens in neighbourhoods	10/4/2019 10:41 AM
81	Not in high-density housing (id Joe Dales) but in older larger lots with safe clean pens/coops & good fenced yards. *No roosters.	10/4/2019 10:30 AM
82	Max amount of hens and min lot size matter the most	10/4/2019 8:54 AM
83	Lot size shouldn't matter, most lots aren't 1 acre. That is far to restrictive. I see no problem having chickens on a small lot as long there is a properly built coop	10/3/2019 5:53 PM
84	No other comments	10/3/2019 4:41 PM
85	Having owned chickens in the past as pets with the added bonus of getting fresh eggs I believe it is a wonderful experience for children and adults.	10/3/2019 4:34 PM
86	There is a reason why our previous by-law prohibited them in town. Keep them in rural areas where they belong. Also no matter what, there will be those that don't comply to the rules.	10/3/2019 3:12 PM
87	As long as there are limits, I think it would be a good thing	10/3/2019 2:38 PM
88	The odour from the chicken poop is nauseating (sickening). The noise at 4am from roosters is very annoying.	10/3/2019 1:13 PM
89	Please be strict and enforce the rules and regulations with stiff penalties if not adhered to. Always take the welfare of the animals into consideration. Back yard Hen keepers need to be educated properly. There is a lot of work involved and Hens are living creatures and should be treated humanely. Properly winterized enclosures are essential.	10/3/2019 8:53 AM
90	Hens are quite relaxing to work with, be with, watching them, benefit of fresh eggs, petting them makes them happy, makes one happy. Hens don't ask for much, yet give a lot.	10/3/2019 2:48 AM
91	Most residents in this township can barely take care of themselves, let alone a hen house. If you need proof just go to the facebook pages for the area and look up all the missing cats, dogs, birds, and people that want to give away their outdoor pond fish..	10/2/2019 10:33 AM
92	Chickens are intelligent animals. My concerns are with the current animal husbandry and cruelty laws and the lack of enforcement since the withdrawal of the OSPCA. How would the town handle incidences of neglect of the chickens? As well, outdoor cats would be a huge issue. Cats are adept predators, and could easily kill a neighbour's chicken. Are there a current by-laws addressing outdoor cats (pets) and feral cat populations? Also, partnership with local veterinarians may be necessary. Many are only for small animals, and true avian vets are difficult to find. Many large animal vets look at medicine from a flock management strategy, not as an individual pet philosophy. Consultation with the OVMA may be necessary to ensure residents have access to appropriate care for their birds.	10/2/2019 8:14 AM

Urban Hens

93	A fantastic idea as long as it's regulated- I'd like to make sure all hens get well taken care of.	10/2/2019 7:07 AM
94	No no no no	10/1/2019 10:23 PM
95	As long as the property isn't in a subdivision like the ones by the Ice Palace in Keswick I don't see a problem with people having hens in their backyard	10/1/2019 5:14 PM
96	I think this is a great idea !	10/1/2019 5:07 PM
97	I think this would be a wonderful thing for the town of Georgina to implement. It can help foster healthier eating, healthier soil to continue to grow food, and brings us back to connecting to the community and our homes. I fully support this so long as people adhere to the rules and regulations in place.	10/1/2019 4:38 PM
98	I really hope all of my commentary during the survey have been considered. Many many reasons we do not need to go down this road. Lack of enforcement would be only one.	10/1/2019 4:27 PM
99	I absolutely think they should be allowed provided people are limited to 4 hens and are educated on how to take care of them	10/1/2019 12:55 PM
100	I support it, but it needs to be strictly regulated. I think a lot of people will take advantage of this, but not everyone will look after the coops. They need to be kept clean, and sanitary. There should be a fine for anyone that doesn't keep proper care of the birds, and their coop.	10/1/2019 12:49 PM
101	Amazing idea !	10/1/2019 12:45 PM
102	It would be good if the town held classes on proper care of hens	10/1/2019 11:45 AM
103	This is crazy. Why would you do this in a subdivision and make other people subject to this. We have enough animal abuse in the neighborhood and I don't need to see this.☹	10/1/2019 11:27 AM
104	ensure you have proper protocols in place for hen identification at the local animal shelter, along with proper temporary housing at the shelters (hen adoption?). Specify the breeds of hens allowed (meat/layers), Roosters will cause issues with neighbours.	10/1/2019 11:18 AM
105	I believe there are more important issues this town has going forward than hens in back yards.	10/1/2019 11:09 AM
106	I think it's a great idea. Loud neighbourhood dogs are less favourable than a neighbourhood chicken. A lot of online articles tell of benefits and ease of raising urban chickens, but we should keep in mind the potential impact to the animal shelter if the trend fades. I would like to learn more about how to raise a chicken in Georgina and what that looks like in all seasons.	10/1/2019 9:59 AM
107	I have been keeping chickens for about 10 years now. I am in a more rural part of Georgina. I hugely enjoy them, and they live out their lives with me whether they are laying or not. The most problematic predator I've had is Raccoons.	10/1/2019 8:31 AM
108	People are concerned and complain about wildlife now on our streets ie Fox and Coyotes these wildlife animals have been forced out of their habitat due to new construction. If we have chickens allowed on residential properties it will encourage the wildlife to now hunt in the backyards. We tell people to keep their household compost contained and locked away to not encourage wildlife and yet we will then give a perfect food source. By-law can't keep up to stray cats everywhere and I am sure there will be lots of complaints to by-law about stinky backyards and rats and wildlife and the risks that come with it. There are many places to buy organic farm fresh eggs if people want.	10/1/2019 8:27 AM
109	Backyard hens should be allowed and I suggest to look at Newmarket regulations - seem very complete	10/1/2019 8:07 AM
110	Hens, especially Rhode Island Reds, make great pets. They are happy to see you each morning and can be trained to do little tricks; they are certainly less destructive than the bird-killing cats that roam our neighbourhood. Unlike dogs, they don't get walked and leave poop on other people's front yards. Hens stay home and mind their own business. It's silly to ban them from our area.	10/1/2019 6:24 AM
111	I look forward to having the choice of having chickens in my backyard.	10/1/2019 5:47 AM
112	Let us have chickens! Low odour, fresh eggs and teach our children about farming	10/1/2019 5:07 AM
113	Hens should be allowed in the country with lots of land and without neighbours close by.	9/30/2019 11:28 PM
114	My next-door neighbours have at least 10 feeders and they also feed peanuts to the squirrels. My back and front yard as small as they are have been dug up repeatedly and I find peanut shells all over my property. As well I have Multiple bird excrete meant on my windows and on my tent gazebo in my backyard. It's really disgusting.	9/30/2019 11:15 PM

Urban Hens

115	Think it should be based on lot size, not zoning/location. An expert should determine what that lot size is and how many chickens should be aloud.	9/30/2019 10:24 PM
116	Healthy lifestyle for family , kids , environment and trusted food source -and the eggs are yummy :)	9/30/2019 9:01 PM
117	My biggest concern is predators and mice/rats	9/30/2019 8:22 PM
118	Eggs should only be eaten when they're from qualified producers. What happens if they feed bad eggs to children or give bad eggs to neighbours? If someone wants to raise chickens, they should buy a small farm or rural property, not a subdivision home.	9/30/2019 8:03 PM
119	If Toronto can surely Georgina can figure it out. I'd rather hens the many aggressive dogs I see in town	9/30/2019 7:53 PM
120	As long as they are cared for I think it's a great idea.	9/30/2019 7:16 PM
121	No residential	9/30/2019 7:00 PM
122	I believe it supplements food choices and I would hope it eventually helps others. Like food banks	9/30/2019 6:58 PM
123	I believe they should be allowed on rural lands only and not subdivisions or residential areas	9/30/2019 6:15 PM
124	As much as I love fresh organic free range eggs, I simply have enough mice already and do not see the need to start dealing with a rat infestation. People get all excited about something like this but when it comes to looking after hens day after day, sanitary conditions slide. Just say NO!	9/30/2019 5:36 PM
125	People don't realize how much work keeping a level of safety and cleanliness actually is. Looking at how local homes are kept, maybe they should put away all the junk in their yards/ driveways. It's going to be a privilege and not a right, I don't think people are mature enough to really take this kind of responsibility on.	9/30/2019 5:27 PM
126	Hens should be allowed in rural properties with minimum 2 hectare lot.	9/30/2019 4:35 PM
127	Chickens belong in the country, not in town.	9/30/2019 4:19 PM
128	Have lived next door to hens before. No problems encountered.	9/30/2019 4:15 PM
129	We have enough stray cats and racoons that can't even stay out of our garbage. Then add hens to this nuisance. Not beside my house.	9/30/2019 4:08 PM
130	We need to do as many individual actions as possible to reverse climate change. Raising chickens for meat and eggs reduces our dependence on big farming, puts us in touch with our food supply and hopefully helps us to eat in a healthier way.	9/30/2019 3:59 PM
131	I think you should have a minimum of 1/2 acre to have chickens. You should have to keep them as far away from your neighbours as possible. There should be no roosters for small properties. You have to have them properly enclosed or you will lose them to predators.	9/30/2019 3:49 PM
132	With the right policies and regulations in place it can be a great addition to urban agriculture. Hopefully these policies and regulations would offset the negatives such as unsanitary conditions and pests etc...	9/30/2019 3:49 PM
133	If you allow hens, then what's next. This is Residential property if they would like hens move to a farm	9/30/2019 3:49 PM
134	I truly hope the town chooses to support personal hen keeping, allowing its residents to make healthy food choices and rediscover our food traditions.	9/30/2019 3:41 PM
135	I'm for allowing residence to have 3 or 4 hens on their property as long as they are cared for correctly and it doesn't affect neighbors in a negative way. They have to be willing to do the daily up keep.	9/30/2019 3:21 PM
136	Do a pilot at the very least. See how it goes.	9/30/2019 3:21 PM
137	I'm really looking forward to having chickens, thanks! :)	9/30/2019 3:20 PM
138	There are two large flock poultry producers and several small flock (99 birds) already producing in the area. These back yard birds could put these larger flocks at risk if there is a disease that is not being dealt with. The urban resident could carry the disease out into the public and negatively impact those larger producers.	9/30/2019 3:12 PM
139	The idea of butchering may need to be addressed as well. I would make sure the public is aware of risks associated with eating homegrown and butchered meat when the premises are not suited for it.	9/30/2019 3:05 PM

Urban Hens

140	I have already experienced a neighbour keeping chickens in their back yard in our neighbourhood and the chickens were constantly running loose Because they kept escaping their enclosure and their rather large dog was constantly loose chasing after them. Then we started getting mice infestations and other animals showing up to scavenge. I do not support this as then there is the runoff from rain and snow that will be running along the property line and that is unsanitary for children and pets. Thank you.	9/30/2019 2:56 PM
141	Please no. Just so much no.	9/30/2019 2:53 PM
142	We shouldn't regulate things so much. If people want chickens let them have chickens.	9/30/2019 2:36 PM
143	I would much rather have a few clucking chickens than barking dogs or numerous loose running house cats .	9/30/2019 2:23 PM
144	Should only be allowed in the farms	9/30/2019 2:23 PM
145	I've had two pet hens (illegally) for 7 years now. Not only do my neighbors on all sides like them but people walking by the house regularly stop to chat about them. I've never once gotten any negative feedback. It seems the only people against keeping hens are those who have misconceptions about smell, rodents, predators, etc that are not relevant for small coops that are well maintained. If these were real issues I would not still be keeping hens after so many years. My neighbor's dogs are significantly more disruptive to the neighborhood. Making it legal to keep pet hens in Georgina is simply logical.	9/30/2019 2:19 PM
146	This is a very exciting opportunity for our town; fresh eggs, learning for our children regarding how the food chain works, how food gets from farm to table and for learning responsibility. Additionally, many people find watching chickens to be relaxing as does their soft clicking noises. I'd much rather have chickens next door to me than a barking dog.	9/30/2019 1:58 PM
147	Cats are left by many residents to roam free throughout the neighbourhoods of the town killing wildlife and defecating in gardens and children's sandboxes. Yes, there are bylaws in-place for cats but they are widely ignored. I don't see how a few pet chickens can possibly do the damage cats do, and therefore do not understand why they are treated differently.	9/30/2019 1:36 PM
148	It's also a way to engage young people in caring for animals, learning compassion. Chickens are fun and the bonus is eggs!	9/30/2019 1:33 PM
149	I think it's a great idea.	9/30/2019 1:31 PM
150	People who want chickens should fill in some sort of test paper so the town is aware that this person knows how to look after chickens and that they are aware of the majority of the down sides to owning chickens, diseases, the mess, vet care, etc.	9/30/2019 1:30 PM
151	I believe a limit of 4 hens is perfect for a small to medium family as this should provide enough eggs (3 egg layers) and if you keep on meat Hen (8-12 weeks to be ready to process) is enough for any family in Keswick , also this should help with noise, smell etc.	9/30/2019 1:11 PM
152	Hens are not for town living. They are for farms. Where they have lots of space and dont disturb neighbors!	9/30/2019 1:08 PM
153	Fresh eggs , Surrounding areas allow it.	9/30/2019 1:05 PM
154	Let us have Hens. It doesn't hurt anyone, and it is a "green" & " ethical animal treatment " policy.	9/30/2019 12:58 PM
155	Don't allow in towns.People can't and won't clean up after their dogs/ cats run rampant I pay HUGE TAXES and don't want to be forced to smell a barnyard everytime I go outside	9/30/2019 12:48 PM
156	I feel this should be allowed for many reasons not limited to; educational value for families to show children where the food they eat comes from.... not just a store, I fully support Georgina residents having the opportunity to raise back yard hens	9/30/2019 12:46 PM
157	If this is passed what are the limits for hen owners to protect their animals from predators? What if a coyote or a neighbor's pet begins to prey on the hens? What would the curse of action be?	9/30/2019 12:45 PM
158	If this allowed, your just opening up, for a whole lot of problems. If I wanted to live beside a barnyard I have bought in farm country.	9/30/2019 12:25 PM
159	I would love to her the sound of a rooster in town .	9/30/2019 12:20 PM
160	Hens and hives should be encouraged as should the preservation of surrounding green space and forest.	9/30/2019 12:20 PM

Urban Hens

161	Hens have been a wonderful and successful part of many townships. If any doubt, just take a little trip up to cold water. They have hens, almost every single house hold has hens, and there is zero problems.	9/30/2019 12:15 PM
162	I have no issues with people having hens but no roosters. Our neighbor has a roster along with her hens and the thing never shuts up. Waking people up and attracting coyotes. The rooster squaks 10 feet from my bedroom window and she claims it doesn't bother anyone.	9/30/2019 12:14 PM
163	As long as they take care of them, clean them...i think it's a great ideA.	9/30/2019 12:10 PM
164	The last survey put out by the township did not go with what the majority wanted just what the Mayor wanted.	9/30/2019 12:09 PM
165	Hens are noisy sometimes as noisy as roosters, attract mice, rats, skunks? Coyotes, racoons , inviting predators to residential areas, chickens STINK, they attract flies , mites, fleas. Hens only lay with 14+ hrs of daylight(most people dont know this) they need proper housing / ventilation. Chickens get sick ALOT and there isnt to many vets in the area that will look at them. Chickens /hens sound like a good idea until the novelty wears off, then the chickens suffer . I 100% DO NOT AGREE that hens belong in residential areas, and so will anyone else that either already owns chickens . Not to mention chickens do no belong cooped up 24/7 in a coop with only minimal care, chickens need to free range to live health /happy lives.	9/30/2019 12:06 PM
166	This will require more tax dollars to send out Bylaws Officers to investigate complaints. Leave farm animals on the farm.	9/30/2019 12:06 PM
167	I think my opinion on NO LIVESTOCK is clear. Also consider the fact that allowing this is opening the proverbial door.	9/30/2019 11:57 AM
168	I am concerned that people will think having chickens is a good idea without truly understanding the cost/care required. Are we then faced with them simply releasing them into the wild. Cost of by-law to investigate complaints. Neighbour versus neighbour disputes.	9/30/2019 11:57 AM
169	If this becomes a thing who is going to be in charge and whom will be responsible for paying said person. The residents? There should be an application process and maybe only so many households in one area to have hens. If everyone gets 4 hens that could become very noisy and rats and other creatures will become a problem.	9/30/2019 11:57 AM
170	Though there would be bylaws if this passes, people dont follow them 100% and that's where problems begin. I live in a subdivision. My entire neighborhood would be allowed chicken, and what if they ALL had them because they're allowed? Predators and rodents alone are a threat to my property, let alone any disease and noise that come with them. I dont appreciate that around my property. There are proper rural areas with bigger properties for these animals. They dont need to be raised in our backyards.	9/30/2019 11:57 AM
171	This should be allowed to residents with over once acre lots not in residential areas with neighbors to close proximity	9/30/2019 11:47 AM
172	Georgina is no longer a rural community in many areas of the municipality. Back yard hens is an idea that if implemented will soon have to be rescinded. It may be trendy now but will wear out its welcome quickly.	9/30/2019 11:45 AM
173	For the amount we are paying in property taxes, it is disheartening to see the town focused on this issue. Please put more effort into bringing commerce into this area as to benefit all residents.	9/30/2019 11:45 AM
174	Please think of it this way if every house hold is allow 4 or less hens, just within 10 houses that is 40 hens more than most farms and we all know there are more than 10 house to any street. Next will be goats and cows. They get chickens for a source of food then I will be getting a cow for a source of food or dairy. Seems fair	9/30/2019 11:41 AM
175	It would be a mistake to allow this to occur. It will create a nuisance for all residents except the very few who want to keeps hens. This small group should not be allowed to cause hardship to their neighbours.	9/30/2019 11:31 AM
176	Rural residential should also be able to keep other livestock	9/30/2019 11:26 AM
177	Being able to keep livestock and plant gardens is an inalienable human right, allowing us to feed our families in a self sustainable way. The fact that we are even having this discussion in this day and age is ridiculous. Every household should be allowed a garden, chickens, a source of milk etc.	9/30/2019 11:20 AM

Urban Hens

178	Please don't allow chickens. People can't even pick up dog poop or keep their cats indoors already. Don't let chickens and residents suffer because of hipster, Instagram "urban" farmers who don't know anything about farm life.	9/30/2019 11:11 AM
179	Do it! I think it's a no brainer, they can have hens in Toronto but we can't in pefferlaw? Seems pretty silly	9/30/2019 10:27 AM
180	cluck, cluck	9/27/2019 12:35 PM

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
IN THE
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK**

BY-LAW 2019-XXXX

**BEING A BY-LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL OF URBAN HENS IN THE TOWN OF
GEORGINA**

WHEREAS Section 11 (1) and (2) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, s.o. 2001, c.25, as amended ('Municipal Act'), provides that a lower-tier municipality may provide any service or thing that the Municipality considers necessary or desirable to the public regarding the economic, social and environmental well-being of the municipality and the safety and well-being of persons;

AND WHEREAS Section 11 (3) of the *Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended authorizes a municipality to pass by-laws necessary or desirable for municipal purposes with respect to Animals;

AND WHEREAS the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Georgina considers it appropriate to enact a By-law regulating the keeping of backyard hens, for the purpose of conducting a pilot project;

AND WHEREAS the Town's Exotic Animal By-law 2009-0072 prohibits the keeping of chickens on residential zoned properties and rural zoned properties with lot areas less than 0.4 hectares;

AND WHEREAS the pilot project is intended to exempt a person with a valid license from the prohibition on keeping chickens as outlined in Exotic Animal By-law 2003-0072;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of The Corporation of the Town of Georgina **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

This By-law shall be known and may be cited as the "**Urban Hens Pilot Project By-law**"

1. DEFINITIONS:

For the purposes of this By-law:

- (1) "**Free Roaming**" means a hen that is outside of a hen coop or a hen run;
- (2) "**Coop**" means a fully enclosed, locking weatherproof building where hens are kept and which the interior of includes nest boxes for egg laying, roosts for the hens to sleep on, food and water containers;
- (3) "**Hen**" means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four months old;
- (4) "**Hen Owner**" means any person who possesses, harbours or keeps a hen and, where an owner is a minor, includes the person who is responsible for the custody of the minor;
- (5) "**Hen Run**" means a covered secure enclosure that allows hen's access to an outdoor area;
- (6) "**License**" means a license issued under this By-law;

- (7) **"License Holder"** means the person named on the license issued under this By-law;
- (8) **"Licensing Inspector"** means a Police Officer and any person appointed by the Corporation of the Town of Georgina as a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer for the purposes of enforcing this By-law;
- (9) **"Licensing Issuer"** means the person designated on behalf of the Corporation of the Town of Georgina and/or his/her designate to issue licenses under his By-law;
- (10) **"Lot"** means a parcel of area of land which is legally in separate and distinct ownership and includes Residential and Rural properties permitted under this By-law;
- (11) **"Pilot Project"** means the project carried out by the Town regarding the keeping of hens on residential properties or rural properties less than 0.4 hectares in lot area;
- (12) **"Residential Property"** means any property zoned (R), (R1), (R2) or (ER) under the Town's Zoning By-law No. 500, as amended, and containing a single detached dwelling and used for such;
- (13) **"Rural Property"** shall any property zoned as (RU) under the Town's Zoning By-law No.500, as amended, which is less than 0.4 hectares in lot area and containing a single detached dwelling and used for such; and,
- (14) **"Town"** means The Corporation of the Town of Georgina.

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

- (1) The Licensing Issuer, shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this By-law and the issuance of permits to allow for the keeping of hens.
- (2) The Licensing Inspector shall be responsible for the enforcement of this By-law.
- (3) No person, within the Town, shall keep hens on a residential property or rural property without first being issued a license under this By-law.
- (4) License Holders under this By-law shall be exempt from the Exotic Animal By-law's prohibition on keeping hens on residential properties or rural properties for the duration of the pilot project, which is indicated to be limited to thirty-six (36) months from the enactment of this By-law.
- (5) License Holders must comply at all times with the provisions in this By-law, including those outlined in Schedule 'A'.

3. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- (1) Applicants shall submit all required documents, as outlined in this By-law, together with the permit fee of \$100.00, to the Licensing Issuer for review and to determine if a license may be issued for the keeping of hens.
- (2) All applications for a permit to keep hens on a residential property or rural property shall include:
 - a. The name, contact email, phone number and address of the License Holder where hens will be kept;
 - b. The number of hens to be kept on the property;
 - c. A site plan of the property, showing all buildings and structures, including the proposed locations of the hen coop and hen run, as well as the dimensions and appropriate setbacks; and,
 - d. Any other documentation, deemed necessary by the Licensing Issuer to evaluate the application.
- (3) Once application materials have been reviewed, the Licensing Issuer shall arrange for a site inspection to be conducted by a Licensing Inspector.

4. LICENSE:

- (1) The Licensing Issuer may issue a license with or without conditions, refuse a license, and/or revoke a license.
- (2) The license to keep hens on a residential property or rural property shall be in a form as determined by the Licensing Issuer.
- (3) The Licensing Issuer, shall refuse to issue a license where the request does not comply with the provisions of this By-law and the regulations outlined in Schedule 'A'.
- (4) For the purpose of the pilot project, the Licensing Issuer shall refuse to issue any license once the required number of participants have been selected. The required number of approved participants shall not exceed ten (10).
- (5) The Licensing Issuer may revoke a license issued pursuant to this By-law if:
 - a. The License Holder fails to comply with:
 - i. Any of the conditions upon which the license was issued;
 - ii. Any of the provisions of this By-law;

- b. The license was issued in error, or as a result of mistaken, false or incorrect information;
 - c. The License Holder fails to install the hen coop and hen run on the lot subject to the license by no later than twelve (12) weeks after the license is issued.
 - d. For any other purpose, as deemed fit by the Licensing Issuer.
- (6) A license, issued pursuant to this By-law, shall expire upon the completion of the pilot project, as declared by the Licensing Issuer.
- (7) A change in ownership shall make the license null and void.
- (8) No person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, any person who is exercising a power or performing a duty under this By-law.
- (9) A Licensing Inspector or Licensing Issuer may enter on a lot at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine whether or not any provision of this By-law is being complied with.

5. SEVERABILITY:

- (1) Should any section, subsection, clause, paragraph or provision of this By-law be declared by a court or competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of the By-law as a whole or any part thereof, other than the provision so declared to be invalid

6. EFFECTIVE DATE:

- (1) This By-law shall come into full force and effect on [Month] [Day], 20XX, until [Month] [Day], 20XX.

READ and enacted this X day of X, 20XX.

Margaret Quirk
Mayor

Rachel Dillabough
Town Clerk

Schedule 'A' – Regulations Regarding the Keeping of Hens on Residential or Rural Properties

- (1) A maximum of four (4) hens are permitted on residential properties and rural properties, as defined by this By-law. Hens are not permitted on properties containing an apartment, duplex, linked, seasonal, semi-detached, semi-detached duplex, townhouse, or triplex dwelling, as defined in Zoning By-law No. 500.
- (2) All hens shall be at least four (4) months old.
- (3) The keeping of roosters is prohibited.
- (4) The License Holder shall reside on the property where the hens are kept.
- (5) Hens shall be kept in locked coops from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- (6) Hens are only permitted in the rear yard.
- (7) Hens shall be confined to an enclosed hen coop or hen run at all times. The free roaming of hens on the property is prohibited.
- (8) Hen coops shall have adequate ventilation and shall be weather and predator proof.
- (9) Hens shall be provided with appropriate food, water, space and environmental conditions conducive to good health and the opportunity to socialize and engage in fundamental behaviours such as scratching, roosting and dust bathing.
- (10) Feeders and water containers shall be provided and cleaned regularly and disinfected.
- (11) Feed shall be stored in rodent proof containers and secured at all times to prevent rodents and other animals from accessing it.
- (12) A minimum of 0.37 square meters per hen is required for the hen coop, along with a minimum of 0.93 square meters per hen for the hen run.
- (13) Hen run floors shall provide any combination of vegetation or bare earth.
- (14) Notwithstanding the accessory structure height and size provisions as contained within the Town's Zoning By-law:
 - a. The combined floor area of the hen coop and hen run shall be less than 10.0 square metres;
 - b. Hen coops and hen runs shall not exceed 3.0 metres in height;

- c. Hen coops and hen runs are only permitted in rear yards and shall be a minimum of 2.0 metres from any abutting lot line; and,
 - d. Hen coops and hen runs shall be a minimum distance of 3.0 metres from all windows and doors of dwellings that are located on an abutting property.
- (15) Further to the above, hen coops and hen runs shall meet all other requirements for an accessory structure based on the particular property zoning as outlined in the Town's Zoning By-law, as amended.
- (16) The sale of eggs, manure and other products associated with the keeping of hens are prohibited.
- (17) Hen coops and hen runs shall be maintained in a clean condition and the coop shall be kept free of obnoxious odours, substances and vermin.
- (18) Any leftover feed and manure shall be removed.
- (19) Stored manure shall be kept in an enclosed structure such as a compost bin and no more than three (3) cubic feet shall be stored at any one time. All other manure not used for composting or fertilizing shall be removed.
- (20) Home slaughter of hens is prohibited and deceased hens are disposed of at a livestock disposal facility, through the services of a veterinarian or through a facility as approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and are disposed of in accordance with all laws.
- (21) Hens are kept in accordance with all other laws including the Town's By-laws respecting noise, lot maintenance, property standards, and animals, as well as provincial legislation.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
IN THE
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

BY-LAW NUMBER 20XX-XXXX

A BY-LAW TO AMEND BY-LAW NUMBER 2003-0072, BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE
AND PROHIBIT THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS OTHER THAN DOGS

WHEREAS the *Municipal Act*, 2001, as amended, authorizes a municipality to pass by-laws for purposes related to the health, safety and well-being of the inhabitants of the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Georgina **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That By-law Number 2003-0072, is hereby further amended by adding the following to the end of Section 2:

“(c) Except on a Residential or Rural Zoned Property that has been issued a license under Urban Hens Pilot Project By-law 20XX-XXXX.”

READ and enacted this X day of X, 20XX.

Margaret Quirk
Mayor

Rachel Dillabough
Town Clerk

Bylaw bl-2003-0072

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
IN THE
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

BY-LAW NUMBER 2003-0072

BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE AND PROHIBIT THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS OTHER THAN DOGS

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, authorizes a municipality to pass by-laws for purposes related to the health, safety and well-being of the inhabitants of the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. DEFINITIONS:

In this by-law,

- (a) "animal" means any member of the animal kingdom, excluding domestic dogs, other than a human;
- (b) "veterinarian" means a veterinarian currently licensed by the Ontario Veterinarian Association.

2. REGULATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS:

- (a) No person, other than a veterinarian, shall keep or permit to be kept, any animals listed in SCHEDULE 'A' other than the exceptions given.
- (b) Except on Rural Zoned Property, no person, other than a veterinarian or pet shop, shall keep or permit to be kept, more than three (3) animals not prohibited in SCHEDULE "A" except the offspring up to twelve (12) weeks from date of birth.

3. ENFORCEMENT:

The provisions of this by-law may be enforced by a Police Officer or a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer.

4. PENALTY:

Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this by-law, upon conviction, is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine pursuant to the Provincial Offences Act as amended.

5. REPEALS:

By-law 82-12 (PWE-1) is hereby repealed.

READ a first, second and third time and passed on this 9th day of June, 2003.

Jeffrey Holec, Mayor

Roland Chenier, Town Clerk

SCHEDULE 'A'

(Examples of prohibited animals of a particular group are given in brackets and other than the exceptions given shall not be construed as limiting the generality of the group)

1. All ARACHNIDS (such as Scorpions & Tarantulas)
2. All BATS
3. All CANIDS except the domestic dog (such as Wolves & Foxes)
4. All CROCODILIANS (such as Alligators, Crocodiles & Caimans)
5. All EDENTATES (such as Anteaters, Sloths & Armadillos)
6. All ELEPHANTS
7. All FELIDS except the domestic cat (such as Lions & Tigers)
8. All HYENAS
9. All MARSUPIALS (such as Kangaroos, Wallabies & Opossums)
10. All MUSTELIDS except the domestic ferret (such as Skunks, Martens & Weasels)
11. All non-human PRIMATES (such as Gorillas, Lemurs & Monkeys)
12. All PINNIPEDS (such as Seals & Walruses)
13. All PROCYONIDS (such as Raccoons, Coatis & Cacomistles)
14. All SCIURIDAE (such as Prairie Dogs, Giant & Flying Squirrels)
15. All SNAKES of the families PYTHONIDAE & BOIDAE
16. All URSIDS (Bears)
17. All VENOMOUS REPTILES (such as Cobras, Rattle Snakes & Gila Monsters)
18. All VIVERRIDS (such as Mongooses, Civets & Genets)

19. All DIURNAL and NOCTURNAL RAPTORS (such as Eagles, Falcons, Hawks & Owls)
20. All RATITE BIRDS except on Rural Zoned Property only (such as Ostriches, Rheas & Cassowaries)
21. All ANSERIFORMES except on Rural Zoned Property only (such as Ducks, Geese & Swans)
22. All GALLIFORMES except on Rural Zoned Property only (such as Grouse, Pheasants, Turkeys & Common Poultry)
23. All ARTIODACTYLUS UNGULATES (such as Camels, Antelopes, Llamas, Deer & Hippopotamus) except on Rural Zoned Property only domestic goats, sheep, pigs & cattle
24. All PERISSODACTYLUS UNGULATES (such as Zebra, Tapirs, & Rhinoceros) except on Rural Zoned Property only the domestic horse and donkey