

If you require more information:

Animal Management Bylaw 2015, No. 2841
is online at www.Esquamalt.ca

For other animal management or bylaw [questions](#),
please contact:

Bylaw Services
3rd Floor, 1229 Esquamalt Rd.
Phone: 250.414.7161
Email: bylaw@esquamalt.ca

If you have a [complaint](#) regarding the animal bylaw,
please contact:

Victoria Animal Control
Phone: 250.414.0233
Email: vacs@shaw.ca



Urban Hens in Esquamalt



Considerations and Regulations



Urban hens, when kept properly, can be a sustainable food source and a great educational opportunity for families. However, responsible ownership is the key to keeping healthy urban hens and neighbourhood relationships, and many factors should be considered:

- **Lifespan** – Hens can live upwards of 14 years, and may only produce eggs for half of that time.
- **Time** - Hen structures require time and effort to be cleaned and maintained, typically twice per day.
- **Uninvited Guests** - hens may attract bird mites and lice, mice, birds, squirrels, raccoons, dogs, rats, and humans – you must ensure their safety.
- **Location** – Hens require a location with shade, direct sunlight, good drainage, and that won't present a problem to your neighbours.
- **Companionship** – Hens are social animals so you will need more than one - this may also create social problems and injuries in the flock.
- **Cost** - Start-up includes construction of a coop/structure and pen, hens, food storage, security locks, lighting, feed and water dishes.
Ongoing costs including maintenance & cleaning, bedding, food, parasite control, grooming, vet care, and care when you are away.

If you decide to keep urban hens in Esquimalt:

- Up to 7 hens at least 4 months old may be kept on a parcel zoned for Single Family or Two Family Residential Use.
- No roosters, cocks, or cockerels are permitted
- Hens are kept for your own use – selling of eggs or meat is not permitted.
- Slaughter and euthanizing of hens is not permitted.
- Diseased hens must be taken to a vet or other approved facility for disposal.
- Biosecurity Procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency must be followed. (www.inspection.gc.ca, Backyard flocks and birds).
- Hens are not allowed to run at large and must be kept in a hen structure.

One hen structure is allowed per property and must:

- Be placed on a solid surface during prolonged periods of wet weather and ground underneath must be kept clean and dry.
- Have a minimum enclosed area of 0.4 sq m / hen.
- Be located at least 1.5m from any property line.
- Not be located in a front yard unless it not visible from the street or an adjacent residence due to vegetation or a fence.
- Be well maintained and kept clean, free of odours and wild vermin, and manure/waste products must be composted or disposed of regularly.

You can read the full requirements in Part 4 of *Animal Management Bylaw No. 2841* at www.Esquimalt.ca