

2014-2015 URBAN HENS PILOT PROJECT
RULES & GUIDELINES

Background

On August 18, 2014, Community Services Committee approved that "Administration work with the River City Chicken Collective in the development of the 2014-2015 Urban Hens Pilot Project, and provide a report to Community Services Committee on the implementation of the 2014-2015 Urban Hens Pilot Project..." This Attachment provides the technical rules and guidelines required for public to participate in the Pilot.

Objectives

Currently, keeping poultry in Edmonton is prohibited under the *Animal Licensing & Control Bylaw # 13145*. This Pilot will gather data and stakeholder input and provides Administration opportunity to gain the factual experience and understanding required for the keeping of hens in urban residential areas. Animal Control will monitor approved and regulated test sites in residential locations with the goal of determining a long-term strategy for urban hen-keeping in the City of Edmonton.

Technical Rules & Guidelines

1. **The Term** of the Pilot begins September 2014 and ends August 2015.
2. **Approved Sites**
Residential locations ("sites") throughout Edmonton have been chosen for their geographic diversity and suitability for urban hen-keeping.
3. **Zoning & Setback**
 - The Pilot has no setback requirements.
 - A site may house one coop with a floor area not greater than 10 square metres and not exceeding 4.3 metres in height (or one storey). Within these parameters, the coops will not require development permits under Edmonton's *Zoning Bylaw*.
4. **Number & Coop Size**
 - Approved locations shall not exceed eight hens per site. Roosters are not permitted. Hen breed and numbers are indicated through participant Application.
 - A minimum of 0.37 square metres is required for each hen, along with a minimum of 0.93 square metres per hen of roofed space to run. Coops must be weather and predator proof.
5. **Waste & Disposal**
 - Manure must be removed, discarded and/or properly composted to prevent nuisance odours.
 - Hens cannot be slaughtered on residential properties. Removal methods include (but are not limited to) humane euthanasia by a veterinarian, relocation to a farm, or taken to an abattoir.
6. **Nuisance Conditions**
The site and coop must be properly maintained to prevent attracting nuisance animals including (but not limited to) securely containing food, preventing the spread of food over the property and controlling excessive smells or noise, etc.
7. **Standard of Care**
Pilot participants shall adhere to good management and husbandry practices and maintain hens in such a condition so as to prevent distress, disease and welfare issues. Animal Control must be notified of any disease or welfare issues that arise that may affect the public and indicate the steps taken to rectify the issues.

8. Inspections

Pilot participants shall make themselves and the site available for inspection on reasonable request of Animal Control Peace Officers. Regular site inspections will be conducted with advice and assistance from consultants and partners engaged by Animal Control.

9. No Sale of Products

No products from the hens may be sold by participants, including (but not limited to) eggs, meat and fertilizer.

10. Neighbour Consent

Participants shall obtain consent in writing from each neighbouring residential property adjacent to the site.

11. Revocable Permission

- Participants approved for the Pilot will be granted a term permission for the duration of the Pilot. Participants acknowledge and agree that the permission granted is temporary and does not guarantee or “grandfather” any future permission.
- Should Animal Control find a site, coop or participant unsuitable at any time during the Pilot term, permission may be revoked. The participant shall work with Animal Control to relocate the coop and/or hens to a location outside of Edmonton.
- All costs and associated expenditures relating to the Pilot or participation are the sole responsibility of the participant.

12. Registration

Residents must comply with any Federal and Provincial law or regulations around the keeping of hens. The Province of Alberta requires all owners of poultry (including small urban flocks) to register their flocks into a provincial database and obtain a [Premises Identification \(PID\) number](#). The PID enables the Province to keep track of livestock in case of potential disease outbreak.

13. Participant Feedback

Pilot participants agree to complete surveys, interviews, inspections and any other reporting and analysis methods requested in connection with the Pilot.

Analysis and Reporting

Upon completion of the 2014-2015 Urban Hens Pilot Project, Administration will review and analyze data and provide a report to Community Services Committee in the last quarter of 2015.