

Steps to keeping hens in Squamish

STEP 1 Review and understand the bylaw.

Before you start raising urban hens, it is important to read and understand the municipal regulations that govern the keeping of urban hens:

- Animal Control Bylaw
- Zoning bylaw

Check your land title, covenants and strata bylaws (if applicable) to ensure it does not have a restrictive covenant prohibiting the keeping of livestock.

STEP 2 Research and understand what the best practices are for keeping hens in an urban environment.

Online resources:

- Canadian Food Inspection Agency Animal Biosecurity

STEP 3 Register the hens with Animal Control.

Research and understand what the best practices are for bee keeping.

Registration

Register hens with District of Squamish Animal Control, by phone, in person, or through the online registry at [squamish.ca/urban-hens](https://www.squamish.ca/urban-hens). There is no fee registration.

Allowable zones

All, but must be a resident on the property and be able to comply with all regulatory provisions with respect to the keeping of hens. Please check your land title to ensure you are not prohibited from keeping livestock.

Permitted number and type of hens

Maximum five (5) hens per parcel (despite the number of permissible dwelling units), at least four months old, NO roosters, universities are not restricted to number of hens for educational purposes.

Siting and size restrictions for coops and pens

Restricted to back yards only with a continuous fence, minimum 1.5 metres setback from property line, 3 metres from any windows & dwelling doors.

Maximum 10 square metres floor area, and 2 metres in height.

Electric fencing requirements

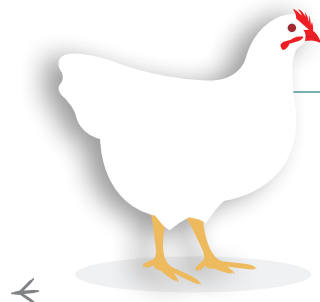
For complete electric fencing requirements, please visit [squamish.ca/urban-hens](https://www.squamish.ca/urban-hens)

Pest and nuisance control

Enclosures must be kept in good repair and sanitary condition, reasonably constructed so as to prevent entry of vermin and wildlife, food secured, hens in secure coop from sunset to 7 a.m., manure and waste must be removed in timely manner, up to 1 cubic metre of manure may be kept for composting.

Other regulations

No slaughtering allowed, no sales of manure or meat (per Health Canada and BC Ministry of Agriculture), manure may be delivered to organic food recycling facility where available, small quantities may be disposed of in residential garbage totes contained within a sealed bag. Proper disposal of carcasses at landfill in sealed bag, veterinary clinic, farm composting facility, abattoir, NO carcasses permitted in residential garbage totes, NO burying of hens on a person's property.



Chickens, eggs and chicken feed are all wildlife attractants. Multiple species of wildlife i.e. bears, cougars, coyotes, wolves, bobcat and raptors will prey on chickens. To avoid human-wildlife conflict, coops and pens must be fully enclosed by an electric fence as per the District of Squamish Zoning Bylaw.



Additional information

Basic care of hens Information and resources

Caring for backyard hens humanely is just as important as ensuring you are abiding by regulations. Please ensure you are informed about best care practices and able to commit to the demands of caring for hens long-term.

Many great resources are available online, here are just a few:

Canada Food Inspection Agency:
How to prevent and detect disease in backyard flocks: www.inspection.gc.ca

Modern Homesteading: Are you ready for chickens? Chickens 101: modernhomesteading.ca

Humane Society: Important considerations before getting hens: www.humanesociety.org/animals/chickens/tips/adopting_chickens.html

Zoning Bylaw

For additional information about the Zoning Bylaw, please contact the Planning Department at 604.815.5002 planning@squamish.ca

Regulations

Animal Control Bylaw 2124, 2009
Zoning Bylaw 2200, 2011



District of Squamish
37955 Second Avenue
Squamish, BC V8B 0A3
604.892.5217

Hours of Operation
Monday through Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Fridays
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information:
squamish.ca
604.815.5066 or 604.815.6866

Photo Credit:
Jim: webcanvas.com

For all wildlife sightings and encounters:



Keeping Urban Hens in Wildlife Country




SQUAMISH
HARDWIRED for ADVENTURE