



## Application for Backyard Hen Licence

### Include with completed application:

- A letter of permission from the owner(s) of the property where the hens will be kept (if applicable),
- If applicable, an Electrical Safety Authority Certificate of Inspection of electrical wiring and devices serving the hen coop and outdoor run (required if proposal is approved),
- Licence fee payment (\$100.00)
- Site plan (sample plan attached – Appendix A) depicting:
  - Lot dimensions and proposed location of the hen coop and outdoor run on the lot,
  - Dimensions of the hen coop and outdoor run,
  - Setbacks from lot lines, as well as from any other structures/buildings on the lot (including the distance between the dwelling and coop/outdoor run),
  - Setbacks from any dwelling located on any lot sharing a lot line with the lot subject to the application,
  - Setback from any private sewage works (if applicable),
  - Setback from any place of worship, business or school,
  - Setbacks from any waters,
  - Setbacks from wells

### Applicant Information:

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

### Property Owner's Information (if different than above):

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, any personal information that is collected is done so under the authority of the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 and will be used for the purposes of processing this licence application and for the administration and enforcement of Chapter 287 of the Municipal Code. Questions about this collection can be directed to 705-752-1410.

Coop Information:

**Proposed Location**

(street # and name)

**Proposed Number of Hens**

(4 maximum)

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By-law Checklist

**Y    N**

1. Does the owner of the hen(s) reside at the address subject to the application?
2. Is the proposed hen coop/outdoor run located on a lot that is at least 500m<sup>2</sup>?
3. Are you proposing only one hen coop and one outdoor run?
4. Is the proposed hen coop/outdoor run located within:
  - a. A front yard or exterior side yard?
  - b. 8m of any dwelling?
  - c. 1.2m (urban area) or 3m (rural area) of the interior side lot line?
  - d. 1.5m (urban area or any waterfront properties) or 10m (rural area or any lot abutting a municipal road) of the rear lot line?
  - e. 3m of any structure?
  - f. 3m of any private sewage works?
  - g. 15m of any lot line on which a place of worship, business or school is located?
  - h. 20m of any watercourse (high water mark)
  - i. 15 meters of any drilled well?
  - j. 30 meters of any dug well?

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, any personal information that is collected is done so under the authority of the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 and will be used for the purposes of processing this licence application and for the administration and enforcement of Chapter 287 of the Municipal Code. Questions about this collection can be directed to 705-752-1410.

5. Is the proposed hen coop fully enclosed and weatherproof?
6. Does the proposed hen coop and run have:
  - a. A maximum total ground floor area of under 10m<sup>2</sup> (108ft<sup>2</sup>)?
  - b. At least 0.37m<sup>2</sup> (4ft<sup>2</sup>) of floor area for each hen?
  - c. At least 0.92m<sup>2</sup> (10 ft<sup>2</sup>) of outdoor enclosure for each hen?
  - d. A maximum height of 2.4m (8ft)?
7. Does the proposed hen coop have:
  - a. At least one nest box for egg laying?
  - b. At least one perch giving 0.3m (1ft) of space per hen?
  - c. At least one food and water container?
8. Will the proposed hen coop and outdoor run be secured against the entry of predators? (*Note: it is recommended that chicken wire or hardware cloth be buried at least 1ft deep around the perimeter of the coop and run to protect against predators. Contact **Ontario One Call** at 1-800-400-2255 prior to digging to ensure no buried service lines are disrupted.*)

#### Summary of some additional By-law requirements

1. All hen coops and outdoor runs shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and free of vermin, and obnoxious odours.
2. All manure and droppings shall be removed daily from the hen coop and outdoor run and only stored in a secure container or backyard composter. No more than 0.085m<sup>3</sup> (3ft<sup>3</sup>) of manure and/or droppings shall be stored at any one time.
3. Hens are not permitted to run at large.
4. All hens shall be kept fully enclosed in a hen coop or outdoor run and shall be kept fully enclosed in a hen coop between 9:00pm and 7:00am.
5. A hen's food supply shall be stored in secure, rodent/predator-proof containers.
6. Slaughtering or euthanizing of hens at the lot is prohibited. All deceased hens shall be disposed of immediately.
7. The selling of eggs, manure, meat or other products associated with the keeping of hens is prohibited.
8. No person shall possess, harbour, or keep any rooster.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, any personal information that is collected is done so under the authority of the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 and will be used for the purposes of processing this licence application and for the administration and enforcement of Chapter 287 of the Municipal Code. Questions about this collection can be directed to 705-752-1410.

To review the entire By-law, please visit [Callander.civicweb.net](http://Callander.civicweb.net) – By-laws.

#### Applicable Definitions:

**Dwelling** means the whole or any part of a building or structure that is kept or occupied as a permanent or temporary residence.

**Exterior side yard** means the space abutting a public street that extends from the front yard to the rear yard between a side lot line and the nearest point of the main building, not including a permitted projection.

**Front yard** means a yard extending across the full width of a lot between the front lot line of such lot and the nearest part of any main wall of the building or structure on such lot.

**Height** means, when in reference to a building or structure, the vertical distance measured between the finished grade of the wall of such building or structure facing the front lot line and:

- The highest point of the roof surface or parapet, whichever is greater, of a flat roof; or
- The deck line of a mansard roof; or
- The mean level between the eaves and ridge of a gabled, hip, gambrel roof or other type of pitched roof,

**Hen** means a female chicken.

**Hen Coop** means a structure and/or enclosure used to house a hen or hens.

“m” is an abbreviation and shall mean metre(s).

**Outdoor Run** means an area enclosed by wire screen intended for permitting a hen or hens to be outdoors.



## DECLARATION

### IN THE MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A MUNICIPAL LICENCE TO WIT:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name of applicant) solemnly declare that:

1. I have reviewed the information attached to this application from the Ontario government titled "Biosecurity Recommendations for Small Flock Poultry" and "Raise healthy small flock poultry"
2. I will provide and maintain suitable housing and shelter of all hens in my care.
3. I will abide by the requirements outlined in By-law 2025-2040 as summarized in the Application for a Backyard Hen licence, and with any other relevant statute or act.
4. I understand that unless revoked, any licence issued pursuant to Part 4 of the By-law 2025-2040 shall have no expiry date.
5. The information set forth in this application and other attached documentation (Site Plan) is true, accurate and in all material aspects complete.

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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### For Office Use Only

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Approved: Yes

No

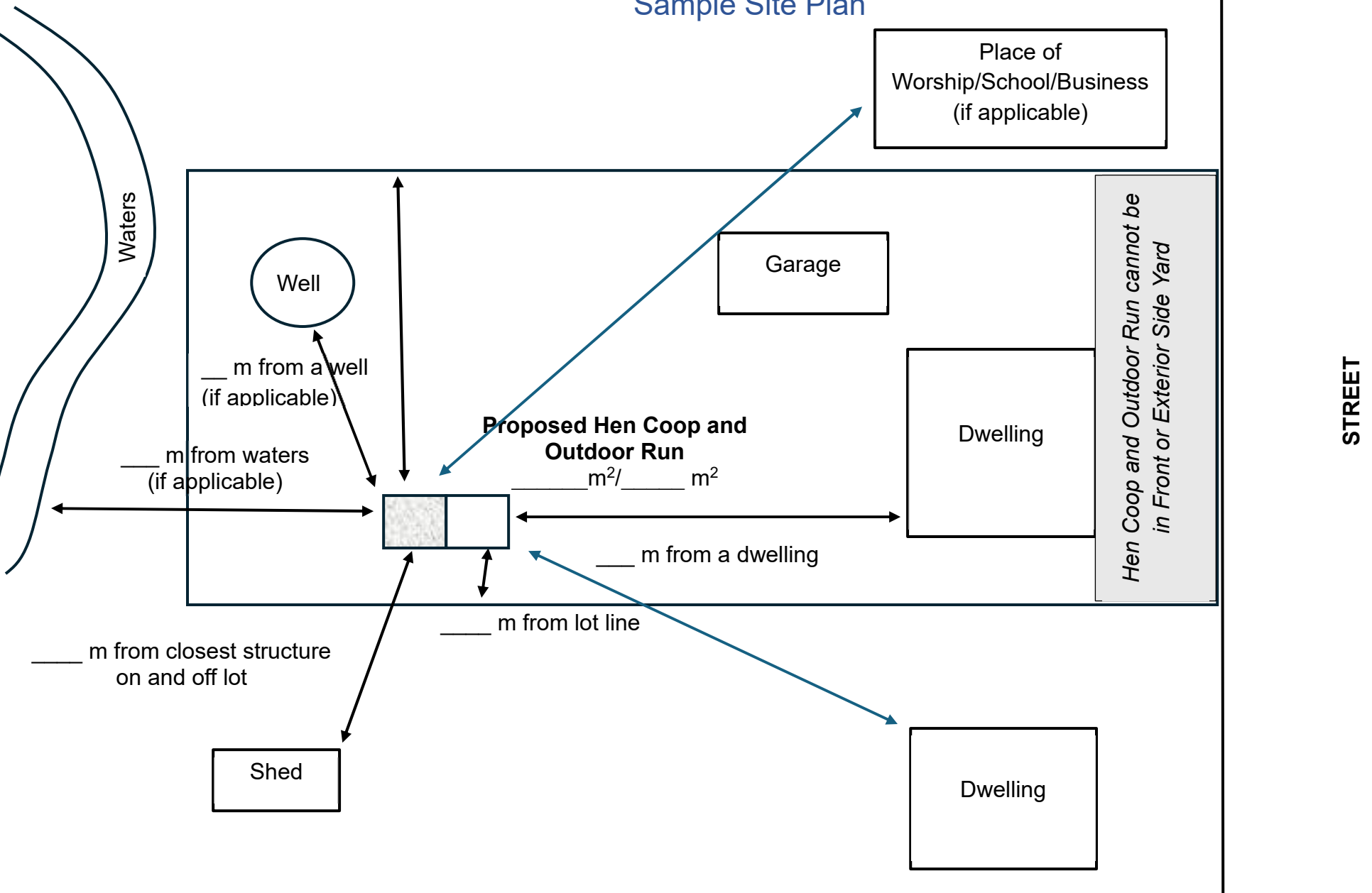
Reason(s) for Denial:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, any personal information that is collected is done so under the authority of the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, c. 25 and will be used for the purposes of processing this licence application and for the administration and enforcement of Chapter 287 of the Municipal Code. Questions about this collection can be directed to 705-752-1410.

**Schedule A**  
**Sample Site Plan**



# THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALLANDER

## BY-LAW NO. 2026-2079

### Being a By-law to Amend By-law No. 2025-2040, Being a By-law to Regulate Backyard Hen(s) within the Municipality of Callander

**WHEREAS** the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, (herein referred to as the “Municipal Act”) as amended, Section 5(3) provides that a municipal power, including a municipality’s capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by by-law unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 8 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that the powers of a municipality under the Municipal Act or any other Act shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on the municipality to enable the municipality to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the municipality's ability to respond to municipal issues;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 9 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under the Municipal Act or any other Act;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 10(2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, a municipality may pass by-laws respecting the environmental well-being of the municipality, the health, safety and well-being of the persons and the protection of persons and property;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 10(2)(6) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorizes the Municipality of Callander to pass By-laws respecting health, safety, and well-being of persons;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 10(2)(9) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorizes the Municipality of Callander to pass By-laws respecting animals;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 10(2)(10) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorizes the Municipality of Callander to pass By-laws respecting structures, including fences and signs;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 28 (2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F,31, provides that a Municipality may collect and retain personal information that is used for the purposes of law enforcement or necessary for the proper administration of a lawfully authorized activity;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 103(1)(a) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, states that if a Municipality passes a By-law regulating or prohibiting with respect to the being at large or trespassing of animals, the By-law may provide for the seizure and impounding of animals being at large or trespassing contrary to the By-law;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 425(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, provides that a municipality may pass by-laws providing that a person who contravenes a by-law of the municipality passed under this Act is guilty of an offence;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 426 (1) of the Municipal Act, S.O 2001, c.25, as amended, states that 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 Act or under a By-Law passed under this Act;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 429(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, states a municipality may establish a system of fines for offences under a by-law of the municipality passed under this Act, unless, under Section 429(4) if the provisions of any other Act, other than the Provincial Offences Act, provide for the fines for a

contravention of a by-law of a municipality, the municipality cannot establish a system of fines under this section with respect to the By-Law;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 436 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, a By-Law Enforcement Officer may enter upon any land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine compliance with this By-law;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 444(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states if a municipality is satisfied that a contravention of a municipal by-law passed under this Act has occurred, the municipality may make an order requiring the person who contravened the by-law or who caused or permitted the contravention or the owner or occupier of the land on which the contravention occurred to discontinue the contravening activity;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 444(2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states an order under Section 444 subsection (1) shall set out:

- a) reasonable particulars of the contravention are adequate to identify the contravention and the location of the land on which the contravention occurred; and
- b) the deadline for complying with the order;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 446(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states a municipality may direct or require a person to do a matter or thing and that, in default of it being done by the person directed or required to do it, the matter or thing shall be done at the person's expense;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 446(2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states the Municipality may enter upon land at any reasonable time;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 446(3) of the Municipal Act, Section 446(3) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states a municipality may recover the costs of doing a matter or thing under subsection (1) from the person directed or required to do it by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 55(1)(2) the Community Safety and Police Act, S.O. 2019, c.1, authorizes the municipality to appoint persons to enforce the by-laws of a municipality and that Municipal Law Enforcement Officers appointed under this section are Peace Officers for the purpose of enforcing municipal by-laws;

**AND WHEREAS** Council passed Resolution No. 2026/05/XXX at its Regular Meeting held on May 12, 2026 directing staff to amend the Backyard Hen(s) By-law 2025-2040;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Callander hereby enacts, as follows:

1. Section 5.2(d) be amended to read:
  - (d) No hen coop or outdoor run shall be located within:
    - i. a Front Yard or Exterior Side Yard,
    - ii. 8 m of any Dwelling,
    - iii. 1.2 metres to the interior side lot line in an urban area,
    - iv. 3 metres to the interior side lot line in a rural area,
    - v. 1.5 metres to the rear lot line in an urban area,
    - vi. 10 metres to the rear lot line in a rural area,
    - vii. 10 metres to the rear lot line where the rear lot line abuts a municipal maintained road,
    - viii. 1.5 metres from the rear lot line on waterfront properties where the water's edge is determined to be the frontage of the property,
    - ix. 3 m of any Structure,

- x. 3 m of any sewage works,
  - xi. 15 m of any Lot Line on which a place of worship, business or school is located,
  - xii. 20 m from any waters (high water mark),
  - xiii. 15 m from any drilled well, and
  - xiv. 30 m from any dug well.
2. Section 5.4 be deleted and replaced with the following:
- 5.4 A hen coop and outdoor run shall be provided that has:
- (a) a maximum total Ground Floor Area of 10 m<sup>2</sup> (108 ft<sup>2</sup>),
  - (b) a maximum total Ground Floor Area under 10 m<sup>2</sup> (< 108 ft<sup>2</sup>). Ground Floor Area measurements are to be based on outside wall dimensions.
  - (c) at least 0.37 m<sup>2</sup> (4 ft<sup>2</sup>) of hen coop floor area for each hen,
  - (d) at least 0.92 m<sup>2</sup> (10 ft<sup>2</sup>) of outdoor enclosure for each hen, and
  - (e) a maximum Height of 2.4 m (8 ft) for the hen coop and outdoor run.
3. Section 5.5 be deleted.
4. That minor modifications or corrections of a typographical nature where such modifications or corrections do not alter the intent of the by-law may be made by the Municipal Clerk.
5. This By-law come into effect upon final reading.

**TAKEN AS READ A FIRST TIME THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY 2026.**

**READ A SECOND TIME THIS THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY 2026.**

**READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS THIS 12TH DAY OF MAY 2026.**



Jordy Carr, Mayor



Cindy Pigeau, Municipal Clerk

# THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALLANDER

## BY-LAW NO. 2025-2040

### Being a By-law to Regulate Backyard Hen(s) within the Municipality of Callander

**WHEREAS** the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, (herein referred to as the “Municipal Act”) as amended, Section 5(3) provides that a municipal power, including a municipality’s capacity, rights, powers and privileges under section 9, shall be exercised by by-law unless the municipality is specifically authorized to do otherwise;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 8 of the Municipal Act, 2001, S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that the powers of a municipality under the Municipal Act or any other Act shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority on the municipality to enable the municipality to govern its affairs as it considers appropriate and to enhance the municipality's ability to respond to municipal issues;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 9 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25 provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under the Municipal Act or any other Act;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 10(2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, a municipality may pass by-laws respecting the environmental well-being of the municipality, the health, safety and well-being of the persons and the protection of persons and property;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 10(2)(6) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorizes the Municipality of Callander to pass By-laws respecting health, safety, and well-being of persons;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 10(2)(9) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorizes the Municipality of Callander to pass By-laws respecting animals;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 10(2)(10) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, authorizes the Municipality of Callander to pass By-laws respecting structures, including fences and signs;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 28 (2) of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. F,31, provides that a Municipality may collect and retain personal information that is used for the purposes of law enforcement or necessary for the proper administration of a lawfully authorized activity;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 103(1)(a) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, states that if a Municipality passes a By-law regulating or prohibiting with respect to the being at large or trespassing of animals, the By-law may provide for the seizure and impounding of animals being at large or trespassing contrary to the By-law;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 425(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, provides that a municipality may pass by-laws providing that a person who contravenes a by-law of the municipality passed under this Act is guilty of an offence;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 426 (1) of the Municipal Act, S.O 2001, c.25, as amended, states that 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 Act or under a By-Law passed under this Act;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 429(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, states a municipality may establish a system of fines for offences under a by-law of the municipality passed under this Act, unless, under Section 429(4) if the provisions of any other Act, other than the Provincial Offences Act, provide for the fines for a

contravention of a by-law of a municipality, the municipality cannot establish a system of fines under this section with respect to the By-Law;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 436 of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended, a By-Law Enforcement Officer may enter upon any land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection to determine compliance with this By-law;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 444(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states if a municipality is satisfied that a contravention of a municipal by-law passed under this Act has occurred, the municipality may make an order requiring the person who contravened the by-law or who caused or permitted the contravention or the owner or occupier of the land on which the contravention occurred to discontinue the contravening activity;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 444(2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states an order under Section 444 subsection (1) shall set out:

- a) reasonable particulars of the contravention are adequate to identify the contravention and the location of the land on which the contravention occurred; and
- b) the deadline for complying with the order;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 446(1) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states a municipality may direct or require a person to do a matter or thing and that, in default of it being done by the person directed or required to do it, the matter or thing shall be done at the person's expense;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 446(2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states the Municipality may enter upon land at any reasonable time;

**AND WHEREAS** Section 446(3) of the Municipal Act, Section 446(3) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2006, c.32, as amended, states a municipality may recover the costs of doing a matter or thing under subsection (1) from the person directed or required to do it by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as property taxes;

**AND WHEREAS** pursuant to Section 55(1)(2) the Community Safety and Police Act, S.O. 2019, c.1, authorizes the municipality to appoint persons to enforce the by-laws of a municipality and that Municipal Law Enforcement Officers appointed under this section are Peace Officers for the purpose of enforcing municipal by-laws;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Callander hereby enacts, as follows:

## **PART 1 - DEFINITIONS**

In this By-Law:

- 1.1 **“At Large”** means to be found in any place other than the premises of the owner of the animal and not under the control of a person and in such a manner as to prevent escape.
- 1.2 **“Business”** means any structure, whether publicly owned or privately owned, that is adapted for occupancy for transaction of business and does not include any home-based business.
- 1.3 **“Control”** means the care and custody of an animal.
- 1.4 **“Council”** means the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Callander.
- 1.5 **“Dwelling”** means the whole or any part of a building or structure that is kept or occupied as a permanent or temporary residence.
- 1.6 **“Exterior Side Yard”** means the space abutting a public street that extends from the front yard to the rear yard between a side lot line and the nearest point of the main building, not including a permitted projection.

- 1.7 **“Front Yard”** means the space paralleling the front lot line extending across the full width of a lot between the front lot line and nearest part of any main building on the lot, not including a permitted projection.
- 1.8 **“Hen”** means a female chicken.
- 1.9 **“Hen coop”** means a Structure and/or enclosure used to house a hen or hens.
- 1.10 **“High Water Mark”** means the average height of the water after the spring flood subsides.
- 1.11 **“Keeps”** means to own, care, control, possess, keep, harbour, maintain, or feed an animal, whether temporary or permanent.
- 1.12 **“Licence”** shall mean a licence granted by Municipality of Callander under the provisions of this By-law.
- 1.13 **“Licensee”** shall mean a person to whom a license has been issued pursuant to this By-law.
- 1.14 **“Lot”** means a parcel or tract of land, the title of which is legally conveyable as a separate parcel.
- 1.15 **“m”** is an abbreviation and shall mean metre(s).
- 1.16 **“Manure”** means the waste product from hens, including dung, urine, and associated bedding materials.
- 1.17 **“Minor”** means a person under the age of 18.
- 1.18 **“Multi-Unit Dwelling”** means a classification of housing where multiple housing units are contained within one building or multiple buildings within a complex or community. Common types of multi-unit dwellings include duplexes, townhomes, and apartments, and mobile home parks.
- 1.19 **“Municipality”** means The Corporation of the Municipality of Callander.
- 1.20 **“Obnoxious Odours”** means an odour that,  
(i) continues in duration for longer than four hours or occurs on a regular basis; or  
(ii) is of such strength that the odour creates a nuisance.
- 1.21 **“Officer”** means a By-law Enforcement Officer appointed by the Corporation of the Municipality of Callander for the purposes of enforcement of its By-laws and includes a sworn police officer as defined in the Community Safety and Police Act.
- 1.22 **“Outdoor Run”** means an area enclosed by wire screen intended for permitting a hen or hens to be outdoors.
- 1.23 **“Owner of hens”** includes any person or licensee who possesses, harbours or keeps a hen or hens and, where an owner is a minor, includes the person who is responsible for the custody of the minor.
- 1.24 **“Owner of the lot”** means the registered owner of the lot at which a hen and/or hen coop is located.
- 1.25 **“Place of Worship”** means a building used for public worship.
- 1.26 **“Registrar”** means the person authorized to administer and enforce this By-law, and where applicable, shall be deemed to include an agent appointed by the Registrar to perform that task or exercise the power under this By-law.
- 1.27 **“Rooster”** means a male chicken.
- 1.28 **“Sanitary Condition”** means a state of cleanliness and maintenance that prevents the development or spread of disease and infection. It ensures an environment that supports the health, safety, and overall well-being of the hens by eliminating hazards such as waste accumulation, contamination, and unsanitary practices.
- 1.29 **“School”** means a public, separate or private educational establishment operated by a Board of Education as defined in the Education Act.

- 1.30 **“Sewage works”** means any private works for the collection, transmission, treatment or disposal of sewage, or any part of such works.
- 1.31 **“SMD”** means Senior Municipal Director.
- 1.32 **“Vermin”** means pests or nuisance animals that spread diseases and destroy crops, livestock, and property.
- 1.33 **“Waters”** means a lake, river, pond, spring, stream, reservoir, artificial watercourse, intermittent watercourse, ground water or other water or watercourse.
- 1.34 **“Well”** means a hole made in the ground to locate or to obtain groundwater or to test or to obtain information in respect of groundwater or an aquifer, and includes a spring around or in which works are made or equipment is installed for collection or transmission of water and that is or is likely to be used as a source of water for human consumption.
- 1.35 **“Zoning By-law”** means a by-law passed under Section 34 of the *Planning Act* that restricts the use of land.

## **PART 2 - APPLICATION**

- 2.1 Except as otherwise provided, this By-law shall apply to residential properties not permitted in the Zoning By-law to keep hens in the Municipality of Callander. This By-law is for a two-year pilot program. After two years, the Council of the Corporation of the Municipality of Callander will review and determine if this program will become permanent.

## **PART 3 – REGISTRAR**

- 3.1 The Municipal Clerk for the municipality, or designate, will be the Registrar pursuant to this By-law.

## **PART 4 – LICENSING**

- 4.1 Backyard Hens are not permitted at a Multi-Unit Dwelling.
- 4.2 A maximum of ten (10) licenses at any one time permitting the keeping of backyard hens pursuant to this By-law shall be issued during the pilot program.
- 4.3 Every application for a licence shall be made in writing on forms provided by the municipality and the required fee shall be deposited with the municipality at the time of application.
- 4.4 Where an applicant has failed to provide any fee or document required under this Part for the issuance or renewal of a licence, the application shall be considered incomplete. If the application remains incomplete after thirty (30) days from the date the application was submitted, the Registrar may issue a Notice of Incomplete Application and close the file.
- 4.5 No person shall possess, harbour, or keep a hen without having a valid backyard hen licence.
- 4.6 An application for a licence shall include the following:
  - (a) Permission from the owner(s) of the lot, if the applicant is not the owner of the lot subject to the application for a licence,
  - (b) Proposed number of hens,
  - (c) A site plan demonstrating compliance with this Part and accurate lot dimensions, including:
    - i. the proposed location (or area if the coop is movable),
    - ii. dimensions of the hen coop and outdoor run,
    - iii. setbacks from the lot lines as well as from any other structures/buildings on the lot (including the distance between the dwelling and coop/outdoor run),
    - iv. setbacks from any dwelling located on any lot sharing a lot line with the lot subject to the application,
    - v. setback from any private sewage works if applicable,
    - vi. setback from any place of worship, business or school,

- vii. setbacks from waters and wells.
  - (d) The licence fee of \$100,
  - (e) If applicable, an Electrical Safety Authority Certificate of inspection stating that the electrical wiring and electrical devices serving the hen coop or outdoor run is compliant with the *Electricity Act*,
  - (f) A declaration that the applicant has reviewed educational information provided by the municipality included in the application forms, and
  - (g) A declaration that the applicant has reviewed the provisions of this By-law and will abide by the provisions therein.
- 4.7 Only one licence per lot shall be permitted.
- 4.8 Unless revoked, every licence issued by the Registrar shall have no expiry date associated with such licence.
- 4.9 The Registrar may refuse to grant a licence under this Part to any person if:
- (a) any application or other document provided to the municipality by or on behalf of the applicant contains a false statement or provides false information,
  - (b) the applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of this By-law or other applicable By-laws of the municipality or of any Local Board thereof, or of any Statute, Order-in-Council, or Regulation of the Provincial Legislature or the Parliament of Canada, or of any Agency, Board of Commission thereof, in, upon or in connection with the applied for licensed activity, or premise, facilities, equipment, and other property used in connection with the licensed activity, including but not limited to:
    - i. *Health Protection and Promotion Act*
    - ii. *Food Safety and Quality Act*
    - iii. *Ontario Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act*,
    - iv. *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, and
    - v. *Electricity Act*.
  - (c) the Registrar determines that the issuing of the licence would be contrary to the public interest in respect of the health and safety of any person or animal, or
  - (d) the applicant has any outstanding fine imposed under the *Provincial Offences Act*, as amended, or successor legislation, for the contravention of any provision of this By-Law or any other municipal By-law or Provincial Statute where such fine is associated with an offence arising out of the conduct, operation or activity within or in conjunction with such licensed activity.
- 4.10 The Registrar may suspend or revoke a licence for any one or more of the grounds listed in Part 4.9.
- 4.11 After a decision is made by the Registrar to refuse, suspend or revoke a licence, written notice of that decision shall be given forthwith to the applicant or licensee.
- 4.12 The written notice to be given under Part 4.11 shall:
- (a) set out the grounds for the decision,
  - (b) give reasonable particulars of the grounds for the decision,
  - (c) be signed by the Registrar, and
  - (d) state that the applicant or licensee is entitled to appeal the decision to the SMD within fifteen (15) days after the notice is served.
- 4.13 The applicant or licensee may appeal the Registrar's decision to refuse, suspend, revoke or to impose any condition on a licence to the SMD by filing a written notice of appeal with the SMD, within fifteen (15) days following the receipt of written notice of the Registrar's decision.
- 4.14 The issuance of a Notice of Incomplete Application is not a statutory power of decision and is not subject to appeal to the SMD.
- 4.15 The written notice of appeal to the SMD shall include:

- (a) the original signature of the applicant, or representative,
  - (b) the reasons in support of the appeal,
  - (c) the applicant's address, telephone number and, email address, and
  - (d) the name, address, telephone number and email of any agent, representative, or lawyer representing the applicant.
- 4.16 On receipt of a written notice of appeal from the applicant or licensee, the SMD shall schedule a meeting with the applicant or licensee and give reasonable notice of the date, time, and place of the meeting.
- 4.17 The filing of an appeal does not operate to suspend the Registrar's decision.
- 4.18 The decision of the Registrar shall be final if the SMD does not receive an appeal by the 15th day following the receipt date of the written notice of the Registrar's decision. A notice of appeal is ineffectual to create a right to a meeting unless it is received by the SMD on or before the appeal deadline.
- 4.19 Where the SMD has ordered that a licence be granted, reinstated, a suspension to a licence ended or a change to the condition(s) of a licence, the applicant or licensee shall fulfill any outstanding requirements for the licence under this Part.
- 4.20 Any written notice given under this Part shall be deemed to be received on the receipt date which is one of the following:
- (a) in the case of mailed documents, five (5) days following the mailing as determined from the post mark,
  - (b) in the case of personal delivery, email or faxed document, the day of delivery, or
  - (c) where more than one method of delivery is used, the operative receipt date for the calculation of the time for an appeal is the latest of the possible receipt dates.
- 4.21 Where any written notice is mailed under this Part, it is sufficient to use the applicant's or licensee's last known business or residential address.
- 4.22 No licence issued under the provisions of this Part is transferable to any other person or lot.
- 4.23 Every licensee shall notify the Registrar in writing within five (5) days of the happening of any of the following events:
- (a) any change in the licensee's name, address, telephone number, email address, and
  - (b) removal of the hen coop and hens.
- 4.24 In addition to any other powers conferred on the Registrar pursuant to this Part, the Registrar is authorized to impose any condition on a licence to be issued under this Part as he or she deems necessary to ensure the safety of public or of property.

## **PART 5 – GENERAL PROVISIONS**

- 5.1 Every licensee shall comply with every condition imposed upon the licence.
- 5.2 Every owner of hens and every owner of the lot shall ensure the following conditions are complied with:
- (a) The applicant or licensee must reside on the lot where the hens are kept,
  - (b) A maximum of four (4) hens shall be permitted per lot,
  - (c) No hen coop shall be permitted on a lot having a Lot Area less than 500 m<sup>2</sup>, and
  - (d) No hen coop or outdoor run shall be located within:
    - i. a Front Yard or Exterior Side Yard,
    - ii. 8 m of any Dwelling,
    - iii. 3 m of any Lot Line,
    - iv. 3 m of any Structure,
    - v. 3 m of any sewage works,
    - vi. 15 m of any Lot Line on which a place of worship, business or

- school is located.
- vii. 20 m from any waters (high water mark),
  - viii. 15 m from any drilled well, and
  - ix. 30 m from any dug well.
- 5.3 A maximum of one (1) hen coop, and one (1) outdoor run shall be permitted per lot.
- 5.4 A hen coop shall be provided that has:
- (a) a maximum Ground Floor Area of 2.3 m<sup>2</sup> (25 ft<sup>2</sup>),
  - (b) at least 0.37 m<sup>2</sup> (4 ft<sup>2</sup>) of floor area for each hen, and
  - (c) a maximum Height of 2.4 m (8 ft).
- 5.5 An outdoor run shall be provided that has:
- (a) a maximum ground floor area of 4.5 m<sup>2</sup> (48 ft<sup>2</sup>),
  - (b) at least 0.92 m<sup>2</sup> (10 ft<sup>2</sup>) of outdoor enclosure for each hen, and
  - (c) a maximum Height of 2.4 m (8 ft).
- 5.6 All hen coops shall be a fully enclosed weatherproof structure or enclosure, and the interior shall include:
- (a) at least one nest box for egg laying,
  - (b) at least one perch giving 0.3 m (1 ft) of space per hen, and
  - (c) at least one food, and water container.
- 5.7 All hen coops and outdoor runs shall be secured against the entry of predators.
- 5.8 All hen coops and outdoor runs shall be kept in a clean and sanitary condition, and free of vermin, and obnoxious odours.
- 5.9 All manure and droppings shall be removed daily from the hen coop and outdoor run and only stored in a secured container or backyard composter. No more than 0.085 m<sup>3</sup> (3 ft<sup>3</sup>) of manure and/or droppings shall be stored at the lot at any one time.
- 5.10 Hens are not permitted to run at large.
- 5.11 All hens shall be kept fully enclosed in a hen coop or outdoor run at all times.
- 5.12 Despite Part 5.11, hens shall be kept fully enclosed in a hen coop between 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m.
- 5.13 A hen's food supply shall be stored in secure, rodent/predator-proof containers.
- 5.14 The slaughtering or euthanizing of hens at the lot is prohibited.
- 5.15 All deceased hens shall be disposed of immediately.
- 5.16 The selling of eggs, manure, meat, or other products associated with the keeping of hens is prohibited.
- 5.17 If electrical wiring and/or an electrical device serving a hen coop or outdoor run is added, repaired, or replaced after a licence has been issued, an Electrical Safety Authority Certificate of Inspection stating that the electrical wiring and/or electrical device is compliant with the *Electricity Act* shall be provided immediately upon request of an Officer.
- 5.18 No person shall possess, harbour, or keep any rooster.

## **PART 6 - EXEMPTIONS**

- 6.1 A hen coop or outdoor run may be located in the Front Yard of a waterfront property provided that all other provisions of this By-law are satisfied.
- 6.2 This By-law shall not apply to a branch of the Ontario Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

- 6.3 This By-law shall not apply to a lawfully permitted veterinary hospital under the municipality's Zoning By-law, which is under the care of a licensed veterinarian, and whom is keeping hens for treatment or other purposes directly related to his or her practice of veterinary medicine.
- 6.4 This By-Law shall not apply to any hen being displayed or exhibited for a set period of time in a municipal sanctioned event, which is operated in accordance with the municipality's conditions.

## **PART 7 – ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

### **Inspection**

- 7.1 An Officer, or any person acting under their instruction, may upon producing proper identification, enter upon a lot at any reasonable time without a warrant for the purpose of inspecting the lot to determine:
- (a) whether the lot conforms to this By-law, or
  - (b) whether an Order made under this By-law has been complied with.
- 7.2 An Officer may, at all reasonable times, enter upon land for the purpose of carrying out an inspection, taking photographs and obtaining evidence to determine whether the lot complies with this By-law and an Officer may be accompanied by other Municipal employees/agents for this purpose.

### **Obstruction**

- 7.3 No person shall hinder or obstruct, or attempt to hinder or obstruct, any Officer or employee/agent of the Municipality of Callander accompanying or acting under the direction of the Officer in exercising a power or performing a duty under this By-law. Any person who is alleged to have contravened any of the provisions of this By-law shall identify him/herself to an Officer upon request. Failure to identify upon request shall be deemed as an obstruction of the Officer.

### **Order to Discontinue Activity**

- 7.4 Where an Officer has confirmed that a licensee is not operating in accordance with the requirements of this By-law, the Officer may, in addition to verbally directing the licensee or lot owner to bring the lot into compliance, serve the licensee or lot owner a notice in writing directing the licensee or lot owner to bring the lot into compliance with the By-law requirements.

### **Continuation-Repetition- Prohibition by Order**

- 7.5 The court in which a conviction has been entered, and any court of competent jurisdiction thereafter may make an order prohibiting the continuation or repetition of the offence by the person convicted.

### **Order**

- 7.6 If an Officer is satisfied that a contravention of this By-law has occurred, the Officer may make an order requiring the work to be done to correct the contravention.
- 7.7 An order issued under the Authority of this By-law, shall set out:
- (a) The municipal address of the lot on which the contravention occurred,
  - (b) The date of the contravention,
  - (c) The reasonable particulars of the contravention of the By-law,
  - (d) The date by which there must be compliance with the order,
  - (e) The date on which the order expires, and
  - (f) Notice if the work is not done in compliance with the Work Order by the deadline, the Municipality may have the work done at the expense of the lot owner and the cost of the work may be recovered by adding the amount to the lot owner's tax roll.

### **Emergency Order**

- 7.8 When an Officer deems a violation under this By-law to pose an immediate risk to public or animal health or safety, the notice provisions contained in Part 7.6 and 7.7 may be waived and an Emergency Order shall be posted on the lot

requiring immediate action or other remediation. No licensee or lot owner shall fail to comply with an Emergency Order within the period specified in the emergency order.

### **Service of Order**

- 7.9 The order may be served personally on the licensee or lot owner to whom it is directed, by regular mail in which case it shall be deemed served on the fifth day after day of mailing to the last known address of the licensee or lot owner according to the current assessment rolls, or a placard containing the terms of the order may be placed in a conspicuous place on the lot.

### **Work Done by the Municipality**

- 7.10 If the work required by an Order under the provisions of this By-law, is not done within the specified period, the Municipality, in addition to all other remedies it may have may enter upon the lot and may do the work at the licensee's or lot owner's expense. An administration fee, that is detailed in the current User Fees By-law, may be charged and both the expense and fee may be recovered by action or by adding the costs to the tax roll and collecting them in the same manner as municipal taxes.
- 7.11 An Officer may enter onto the lot accompanied by any person under his or her direction, and with the appropriate equipment, as required, may remove hen(s), hen coop or outdoor run to bring the lot into compliance with this By-law. Where any of the matters or things are removed under Part 7.10 of this By-law, the matters or things may be immediately disposed of by the Municipality.
- 7.12 If the costs for work pursuant to the provisions of this By-law are not paid to the Municipality within 30 days of written demand thereof, the Treasurer for the Municipality may add the costs, including interest, to the tax roll for the lot and collect them in the same manner as municipal taxes.
- 7.13 The Municipality shall not be liable for any damage to property or personal injury resulting from any remedial work undertaken because of a default of the licensee or lot owner or any person in complying with this By-law.

### **Offence And Penalty**

- 7.14 Every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law, including an Order issued under this By-law, is guilty of an offence and upon conviction, is liable to pay a fine as provided under the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. P. 33, as amended.
- 7.15 For the purpose of this By-law, each day of a continuing offence shall be deemed to be a separate offence.

### **Validity**

- 7.16 If any Part, clause, or provision of this Bylaw, is for any reason declared by a court of 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 Part, clause or provision so declared to be invalid and it is hereby declared to be the intention that all remaining Parts, clauses, or provisions of this By-law shall remain in full force and effect until repealed, notwithstanding that one or more provisions thereof shall have been declared to be invalid.

### **Short Title**

- 7.17 This By-law shall be known as the "Backyard Hen By-law".

### **Corrections**

- 7.18 That minor modifications or corrections of a typographical nature where such modifications or corrections do not alter the intent of the by-law may be made by the Municipal Clerk.

**Force And Effect**

7.19 This By-law shall come into force on December 1, 2025.

**TAKEN AS READ A FIRST TIME THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.**

**READ A SECOND TIME THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.**

**READ A THIRD TIME AND FINALLY PASSED THIS 28TH DAY OF OCTOBER 2025.**

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**Robb Noon, Mayor**

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**Cindy Pigeau, Municipal Clerk**

## Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

### Biosecurity Recommendations for Small Flock Poultry Owners

People who raise "backyard flocks" - poultry or gamebirds for personal or limited commercial purposes - should be aware of the risk to their birds, and to commercial poultry, from diseases such as avian influenza virus. Preventive measures taken to minimize the introduction and spread of diseases and other hazards are referred to as "biosecurity." The following simple, inexpensive biosecurity recommendations can be very effective in preventing a serious disease outbreak.

#### **Restrict visitors and observe proper hygiene**

Contaminated equipment and people can introduce many disease-causing agents, such as bacteria and viruses, to your flock. These microscopic organisms can be carried on boots, clothing and vehicles, even if they appear clean.

- Restrict contact with your birds to those people caring for them. If you allow visitors, provide them with clean coveralls and boots.
- Do not allow people who own their own birds, or who have recently been in contact with other birds (e.g., visiting another flock or attending a bird show) near your birds. To reduce the risk of introducing diseases to your flock, ensure that people caring for your birds (staff or volunteers) do not have birds of their own or attend events where birds are present.
- Wear separate clothing and footwear when dealing with your birds. Keep them at the entrance to the structure or enclosure.
- Wash and disinfect boots and any equipment that comes in contact with the birds or their droppings, such as shovels, scoops and brooms. Clean cages, food and water surfaces daily.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before and after dealing with your birds.

## **Prevent contact with wild birds**

Wild birds carry many diseases, including avian influenza. Minimizing contact with wild species and their droppings will help protect your birds from these diseases.

- Keep your birds in a screened-in area or preferably an enclosed structure where they do not have contact with wild birds. Screen all doors, windows and vents, and keep them in good repair.
- Do not use water that may be contaminated with wild bird droppings, such as pond water, for your birds. Test your water at least once a year and use appropriate water sanitation such as chlorine. Keep feed in a tightly sealed container, protected from wild birds.

## **Practice proper rodent control**

Rats and mice can spread disease to your birds, spoil feed, cause property damage and kill chicks, poults and other young birds. Mice can enter an enclosure through a hole the size of your little finger, and rats through a hole the size of your thumb.

- Monitor your enclosure regularly for signs of rodents, such as droppings or chewed equipment. Mice will live in buildings once they gain entry, while rats live outside and enter looking for food.
- Clean up all garbage and debris surrounding your birds' enclosure, and keep tall grass and weeds mowed.
- Store feed in tightly sealed containers that a rodent cannot chew through, such as a steel garbage can with a tight-fitting lid or an old freezer.
- Place bait stations around the exterior of your poultry house to help control rodent populations.

## **Don't bring disease home**

Mixing birds of different species and from different sources increases the risk of introducing disease to your flock. It is preferable to keep only birds of similar age and species together (all in/all out).

- If multiple ages and/or species are kept, minimize contact between groups by keeping them in separate locations.

- If new birds are added to your flock, make sure that you get their complete background information, including a history of any diseases and vaccinations. Some vaccines, including some of those used to control infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT), can cause disease in unvaccinated birds. Consult your veterinarian regarding proper vaccination procedures.
- Keep new or returning birds separate (quarantined) for at least 2-4 weeks after returning home, and monitor them for signs of illness. Clean and disinfect cages and equipment used for these birds. Use separate clothing, footwear and equipment for quarantined birds, and handle them last. If the same equipment and clothing must be used, clean and disinfect them before and after handling the birds.
- Avoid sharing equipment and supplies with other bird owners. If this cannot be avoided, clean and disinfect the equipment before and after each use.

## **Recognize and report any illness**

Early detection is critical to successfully dealing with a disease outbreak.

- If your birds show signs of disease, such as depression, abnormal egg production or feed consumption, sneezing, gasping, a discharge from the nose or eyes, diarrhea or sudden death, call your local veterinarian immediately.
- Dispose of dead birds quickly using an approved method, such as burial or composting. Consult your veterinarian first, as he or she may wish to collect samples for laboratory diagnosis. Proper disposal methods and options can be found on the [OMAFRA](#) website.

Raising poultry species, either for food or as a hobby, is part of Ontario's agricultural heritage. However, to minimize the risks this poses to food safety and to the commercial poultry industry, bird owners should recognize and follow good biosecurity practices.

## **Resources**

### **OMAFRA Factsheets:**

*Biosecurity: Health Protection and Sanitation Strategies for Cattle and General Guidelines for Other Livestock* (Order No. 09-079)

*Deadstock Disposal Options for On-Farm* (Order No. 09-025)

*Rodent Control in Livestock and Poultry Facilities* (Order No. 10-077)

This Factsheet was originally authored by Dr. Babak Sanei, Lead Veterinarian, Disease Prevention Poultry, OMAFRA, Guelph, and Dr. Paul Innes, Lead Veterinarian, Provincial Biosecurity, OMAFRA, Guelph. It was updated by Al Dam, Provincial Poultry Specialist, OMAFRA, Guelph, and Laura Bowers, Poultry Specialist Assistant, OMAFRA, Guelph.

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For more information:

Toll Free: 1-877-424-1300

E-mail: [ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca](mailto:ag.info.omafra@ontario.ca)

# Raise healthy small flock poultry

As a bird owner, learn how to prevent disease and improve the health and well-being of your birds.

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## Introduction

Many people in Ontario own small flocks of poultry, such as:

- backyard chickens or other birds raised for meat and/or eggs
- hobby birds
- show/ornamental birds
- sport birds
- pet birds

Learning how to care for your birds is critical to their health and well-being. Disease prevention is one of the most important ways that you can help your birds.

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## Prevent and spot disease

Avian influenza and other diseases are an ongoing concern for the entire poultry industry, and the risk of disease transmission and outbreak is constantly present. As a small flock owner, it is important for you to use biosecurity measures to keep your birds healthy and to help stop the spread of disease. Biosecurity can be as simple as:

- learning how to spot the signs of disease
- keeping barns, cages, egg trays, feed and water dishes and all other equipment clean and disinfected

- separating new and returning birds from your other birds until you are sure they are disease-free
- keeping wild birds and other animals away from your birds, and away from your birds' feed and drinking water as wild migratory birds can carry disease and are a big risk to your birds

If you think a serious disease is present you should discuss it with your veterinarian, the Canada Food Inspection Agency or the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA). Reporting a disease will help authorities track diseases and help protect the whole poultry population.

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## Ways to limit the spread of disease

As a bird owner, you can help stop the spread of disease to other birds. Here are some ways you can do that:

- don't transport birds showing signs of disease
- have dedicated clothing and footwear meant only for being around your birds, and wear these clothes when you tend your flock
- don't take diseased birds to auctions, shows or fairs, or to any other place with other birds
- don't transport birds across provincial boundaries if they might be sick and/or when disease events are reported in Ontario
- print the "Is Your Bird Sick" postcard (<https://files.ontario.ca/omafra-small-flock-postcard-en-2021-01-12.pdf>) or the "Stop! Is Your Bird Showing Signs of Disease" poster (<https://files.ontario.ca/omafra-small-flock-poster-en-fr-2021-01-12.pdf>) and share at your next meeting or event

In addition to disease prevention, the health and well being of your birds can also be improved through better biosecurity practices. The following simple, inexpensive biosecurity recommendations can be very effective in preventing a serious disease outbreak and enhance overall bird health.

### **Restrict visitors and observe proper hygiene**

Contaminated equipment and people can introduce many disease-causing agents, such as bacteria and viruses, to your flock. These microscopic organisms can be carried on boots, clothing and vehicles, even if they appear clean.

Good practices include:

- Restrict contact with your birds to those people caring for them. If you allow visitors, provide them with clean coveralls and boots.
- Do not allow people who own their own birds, or who have recently been in contact with other birds (for example, those who have visited another flock or attending a bird show) near your birds. To reduce the risk of introducing diseases to your flock, ensure that people caring for your birds (staff or volunteers) do not have birds of their own or attend events where birds are present.
- Wear separate clothing and footwear when dealing with your birds. Keep them at the entrance to the structure or enclosure.
- Wash and disinfect boots and any equipment that comes in contact with the birds or their droppings, such as shovels, scoops and brooms. Clean cages, food and water surfaces daily.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before and after dealing with your birds.

### **Prevent contact with wild birds**

Wild birds carry many diseases, including avian influenza. Minimizing contact with wild species and their droppings will help protect your birds from these diseases.

Keep your birds in a screened-in area or preferably an enclosed structure where they do not have contact with wild birds. Screen all doors, windows and vents, and keep them in good repair.

Do not use water that may be contaminated with wild bird droppings, such as pond water, for your birds. Test your water at least once a year and use appropriate water sanitation such as chlorine. Keep feed in a tightly sealed container, protected from wild birds.

### **Practice proper rodent control**

Rats and mice can spread disease to your birds, spoil feed, cause property damage and kill chicks, poults and other young birds. Mice can enter an enclosure through a hole the size

of your little finger, and rats through a hole the size of your thumb.

Ways to control rodents include:

- Monitor your enclosure regularly for signs of rodents, such as droppings or chewed equipment. Mice will live in buildings once they gain entry, while rats live outside and enter looking for food.
- Clean up all garbage and debris surrounding your birds' enclosure, and keep tall grass and weeds mowed.
- Store feed in tightly sealed containers that a rodent cannot chew through, such as a steel garbage can with a tight-fitting lid or an old freezer.
- Place bait stations around the exterior of your poultry house to help control rodent populations.

### **Don't bring disease back to your flock**

Mixing birds of different species and from different sources increases the risk of introducing disease to your flock. It is preferable to keep only birds of similar age and species together (all in/all out).

Try to:

- Minimize contact between groups by keeping them in separate locations if multiple ages and/or species are kept.
- Get complete background information, including a history of any diseases and vaccinations, for new birds added to your flock. Some vaccines, including some of those used to control infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT), can cause disease in unvaccinated birds. Consult your veterinarian regarding proper vaccination procedures.
- Keep new or returning birds separate (quarantined) for at least 2-4 weeks after returning home, and monitor them for signs of illness. Clean and disinfect cages and equipment used for these birds. Use separate clothing, footwear and equipment for quarantined birds, and handle them last. If the same equipment and clothing must be used, clean and disinfect them before and after handling the birds.
- Avoid sharing equipment and supplies with other bird owners. If this cannot be avoided, clean and disinfect the equipment before and after each use.

## **Practice proper deadstock management**

Poor management of deadstock (of any species) draws scavengers like turkey vultures, coyotes and foxes to your farm. Diseases including High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) can be brought onto your farm by both avian and other scavengers.

Proper deadstock management and biosecurity practices reduce the risk of disease spreading to your farm, spreading to wildlife or disease spreading to your neighbour's farms.

Things to remember:

- Do not cross contaminate clothing or equipment when handling deadstock.
- Do not leave any deadstock directly outside your barn. Move deadstock directly to your deadstock disposal site to prevent scavengers from accessing it and potentially spreading the virus.
- If you see scavengers on your property, your disposal site is not being managed properly.

## **Recognize and report any illness**

Early detection is critical to successfully dealing with a disease outbreak.

If your birds show signs of disease, such as depression, abnormal egg production or feed consumption, sneezing, gasping, a discharge from the nose or eyes, diarrhea or sudden death, call your local veterinarian immediately.

Dispose of dead birds quickly using an approved method, such as burial or composting. Consult your veterinarian first, as he or she may wish to collect samples for laboratory diagnosis.

Raising poultry species, either for food or as a hobby, is part of Ontario's agricultural heritage. However, to minimize the risks this poses to food safety and to the commercial poultry industry, bird owners should recognize and follow good biosecurity practices.

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## **More information**

Biosecurity for poultry shows (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/biosecurity-poultry-shows>) has great information for keeping your flock healthy both at home and when at poultry shows.

Transport guidelines for small flock poultry owners

(<https://www.ontario.ca/page/transport-guidelines-small-flock-poultry-owners>) discusses key points to minimize stress and to improve transport for small flock poultry.

## Related

Animal health updates and veterinary advisories (<https://www.ontario.ca/document/animal-health-updates-and-veterinary-advisories>)

Avian influenza in poultry (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/avian-influenza-poultry>)

Biosecurity for poultry shows (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/biosecurity-poultry-shows>)

Biosecurity recommendations for commercial poultry flocks in Ontario (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/biosecurity-recommendations-commercial-poultry-flocks-ontario>)

Deadstock disposal options on-farm (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/deadstock-disposal-options-farm>)

Mental health resources for farmers (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/mental-health-resources-for-farmers>)

Ontario Animal Health Network (<https://www.uoguelph.ca/ahl/ontario-animal-health-network>)

Rodent control in livestock and poultry facilities (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/rodent-control-livestock-and-poultry-facilities>)

House fly control in poultry barns (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/house-fly-control-poultry-barns>)

Transport guidelines for small flock poultry owners (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/transport-guidelines-small-flock-poultry-owners>)

How to prevent and detect disease in small flocks and pet birds (<https://inspection.canada.ca/animal-health/terrestrial-animals/diseases/backyard-flocks-and-pet-birds/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>)

Poultry Industry Council small flock avian influenza webinars 2022 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3UYVwkXAW0&list=PLu2Inm8aONRF-2QuSI mzPPUhztA5mptAL>)

Small Flock Management - Mississippi State University (<http://extension.msstate.edu/agriculture/livestock/poultry/small-flock-management>)

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