

Caring for Hens

The [Animal Control Bylaw](#) includes provisions to help ensure the safe and ethical treatment of animals. Any person who keeps one or more hens, in any zone, shall:

- Keep each hen in its coop or pen at all times;
- Provide each hen with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviors, such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the hen in good health;
- Maintain each coop in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and obnoxious smells and substances;
- Construct and maintain each coop to prevent rodents from harboring underneath or within it, or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by other animals;
- Keep a food container and water container in each coop;
- Remove leftover feed, trash, and manure in a timely manner;
- Store manure within a fully enclosed structure, and store no more than three cubic feet of manure at a time unless directed to remove and dispose of such manure sooner by the Designated Officer;
- Remove and dispose of all other manure in accordance with the [Waste Management Bylaw](#);
- Keep hens for personal use only, and not sell eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from hens;
- Not slaughter, or attempt to euthanize, a hen on the property; and
- Not dispose of a hen except by delivering it to the pound keeper, or to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, mobile slaughter unit, or other facility that has the ability to dispose of hens lawfully.

Wildlife Management

Managing hen coops responsibly is important to avoid attracting wildlife into neighbourhoods and onto properties. Here are some helpful tips:

- Clean your coop daily;
- Store hen feed indoors (e.g. within a sealed container in your house, shed, or garage);
- Do not leave hens in their outdoor pen area overnight. Hens should be placed in the interior coop with doors and windows closed, in such a manner as to not allow predators to enter.
- Ensure the coop has adequate ventilation!
- Do not place coops along fences that back onto a greenbelt or pathway; and
- Consider installing electric fencing to keep hens, wildlife, and pets safely away from each other (view the Government of Yukon's booklet on [Reducing Wildlife Conflict with Electric Fencing: A Beginner's Guide](#)).

Noise Violations

Noise nuisances created by hens can be reported to Bylaw Services. It is recommended that hen owners keep their hens in the interior coop area at night (between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.) to ensure hen noises are not heard by surrounding neighbors or predators. Note that the nuisance provisions of the [Animal Control Bylaw](#) are in effect 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Bylaw Services will do a complete investigation on complaints received concerning the keeping of hens. Should a permit holder be convicted of more than one noise violation for the keeping of hens, the permit may be revoked.

City of Whitehorse Hens & Coops



Bylaw Services
(867) 668-8317
305 Range Road

whitehorse.ca/bylawservices

To view the full regulations, visit:

whitehorse.ca/hens



Where are hens and coops allowed?

The keeping of hens and roosters is allowed on properties zoned **RC1** – Country Residential 1 and **AG** – Agriculture, without development specifications or restrictions on the number of hens and roosters. Hens (but not roosters) are also allowed in select zones within the city's urban residential areas, limited to:

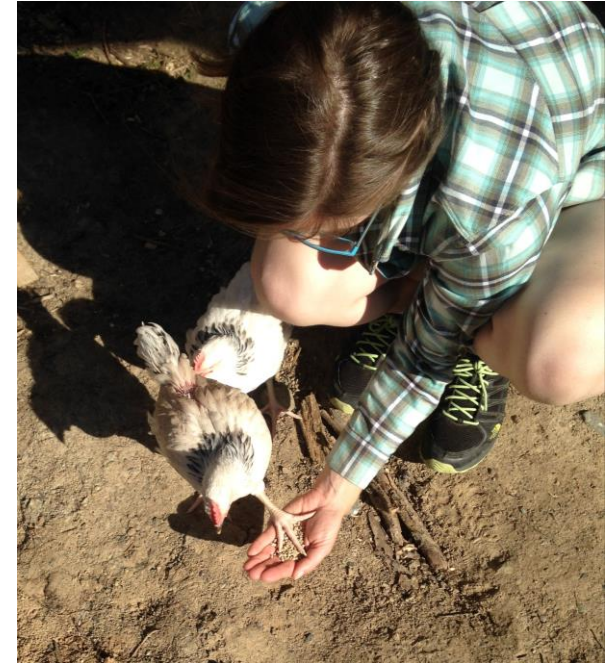
- CM1** – Mixed Use Commercial
- RD** – Residential Downtown
- RC2** – Country Residential 2
- RCS** – Comprehensive Residential Single Family
- RCS2** – Comprehensive Residential Single Family 2
- RCS3** – Comprehensive Residential Single Family 3
- RS** – Residential Single Detached
- RS2** – Residential Single Detached 2

A maximum of 6 hens is allowed on properties located in these urban zones. Coop development requirements also apply, which are stated in the [Zoning Bylaw](#). A permit is required that involves a neighbor approval and coop inspection process.

Development Requirements

Coops located within urban zones must include a walled, roofed structure and an outdoor pen area. Coops must:

1. Be securely enclosed to prevent the escape of hens, and prevent the entrance of other animals (e.g. wildlife and pets);
2. Be no more than 10 m² in floor area;
3. Be no more than 2 m high;
4. Be no less than 1.5 m from any property line;
5. Provide at least 0.37 m² of interior floor area per hen;
6. Provide at least 0.92 m² of outdoor pen area per hen;
7. Provide a floor of any combination of vegetated or bare earth in the outdoor pen area;
8. Provide at least one nest box and perch per hen. Each perch must be at least 15 cm long; and
9. Conform to all other accessory structure regulations.



How do I apply for a hen permit?

Property owners interested to keep hens in urban residential areas are required to complete an application form for a Hen Permit at the Bylaw Services Office (located at 305 Range Road). Tenants may also apply with written consent provided by the property owner. There is no application fee. Allow 2 to 3 weeks for processing. Upon submission of a completed application, the following will occur:

- Bylaw Services will circulate notice of the application to property owners within 3 m on all sides of the applicant's property;
- If at least 60% of neighbours do not object to the activity, the applicant can proceed with obtaining or developing a coop as per the specifications of the Zoning Bylaw;
- Bylaw Services will inspect the coop; and
- If approved, the Inspection Certificate will be posted on the coop and must remain in place to be valid.