



## URBAN HENS

Kamloops is a leader in sustainable food and agriculture systems. The City supports sustainable local food and urban agriculture based on the following principles:

- Healthy social and ecological relationships
- A vibrant and equitable economic system
- Support for education and skills training

The Food and Urban Agriculture Plan (FUAP) was adopted in 2015 in response to community requests for sustainability goals and actions related to food security and urban agriculture.

Support for urban hens was identified through FUAP's planning process and has resulted in this program being developed. For more information on the plan, visit [Kamloops.ca/Agriculture](https://kamloops.ca/Agriculture).

## BENEFITS OF URBAN HENS

- Increased food security and local food sustainability
- Education about raising animals
- Improved energy and resource sustainability
- Reduced municipal waste, as hens eat kitchen scraps
- Benefits to gardens through the use of manure in compost and fertilizer
- Reduced need for pesticides, as hens eat insects



Canada's Tournament Capital

## COMMUNITY SERVICES



915 7th Street  
Kamloops, BC, V2B 2W7



250-828-3409



[communityservices@kamloops.ca](mailto:communityservices@kamloops.ca)

## Urban Hen Resources

### WildSafe BC

[WildSafeBC.com](https://WildSafeBC.com)

### Backyard Chickens

[BackyardChickens.com](https://BackyardChickens.com)

### My Pet Chicken

[MyPetChicken.com](https://MyPetChicken.com)

### Backyard Poultry Magazine

[BackyardPoultryMag.com](https://BackyardPoultryMag.com)

### The Poultry Site

[ThePoultrySite.com](https://ThePoultrySite.com)

### Chicken Keeping Secrets

[ChickenKeepingSecrets.com](https://ChickenKeepingSecrets.com)

### Canadian Food Inspection Agency

[Inspection.gc.ca](https://Inspection.gc.ca)

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# Urban Hens



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[Kamloops.ca/UrbanHens](https://Kamloops.ca/UrbanHens)





## STEPS TO TAKE

**LEARN ABOUT HENS** Research the needs and care of hens and eggs. Talk to farmers and read books, magazines, and internet articles.

**UNDERSTAND REGULATIONS** Review the City of Kamloops information, including this document, pamphlet, and Animal Control Bylaw Regulations at [Kamloops.ca/Bylaws](http://Kamloops.ca/Bylaws).

**REGISTER WITH THE CITY** Self-registration is required and is free of charge. Visit [Kamloops.ca/UrbanHens](http://Kamloops.ca/UrbanHens).

**BUILD YOUR COOP** Follow regulations and guidelines.

**GATHER SUPPLIES** Buy your feed, dishes for feed and water, pine shavings for the coop floor, and straw for the nest boxes.

**GET HENS** Buy hens from a reputable supplier or have a friend give them to you.

**HARVEST AND EAT EGGS** Urban hens are for the enjoyment of the person or family living on the premises. No one is allowed to buy or sell the eggs, meat, or manure.

**CARE FOR THE HENS** Hens need attention and care, including fresh water, healthy food, and a clean and well-maintained coop. For healthy hens, the coop must be free from manure, smells, and pests.

**KEEP FOOD SECURE AND LOCKED** Feed attracts pests, so be sure to keep feed in closed, sealed containers that are wildlife-resistant and dry.

**PROTECT HENS FROM PESTS AND PREDATORS** Predators, such as bears, raptors, and cougars, must be kept away from your hens. You may wish to consider electric fencing to reduce the ability of predators to access your hens.

**PROPER DISPOSAL** When the hen dies, it must be taken to the landfill for disposal. Deceased hens cannot be placed in an organic or garbage curbside bin for pickup. If you wish to re-home a live hen, contact local farmers and suppliers.

## REGULATIONS FOR OWNERS OF URBAN HENS

### Raising Urban Hens

To raise urban hens, you must live on the premises and be the property owner or have the property owner's permission. You must have:

- A single-family or duplex lot that is a minimum of 370 m<sup>2</sup>\*
- A fenced back yard (1.2 minimum–2 m maximum height)
- A regulation coop
- Minimum two, maximum five hens
- No roosters (males) or chicks (less than three months old)

\*Separate regulations exist for lots that are an acre or larger, including minimum setbacks of 46 m from any highway, 7.5 m from property lines, and 9 m from dwellings, with a maximum of 30 chickens/roosters allowed. See Animal Control Bylaw No.34-11 for specific details.

### Coop Regulations

In order to have healthy hens, you must provide a minimum 0.5 m<sup>2</sup> per hen inside the coop, and a minimum 1 m<sup>2</sup> per hen outside the coop. Both areas must be fully enclosed and covered. Each hen must have its own nesting box and roost. This provides the hens with humane living space. You can protect your hens from predators and wildlife by ensuring good sight lines between your coop and your house, a well-built coop, and a sturdy fence. The coop must be:

- No bigger than 10 m<sup>2</sup> in total (including the inside and outside space)
- In the backyard
- A minimum of 1 m from property lines
- A minimum of 3 m from any doors or windows of dwellings
- No taller than 2 m from average grade

### Other Regulations

There can be no open feed on site. Feed must be in a dry, wildlife-resistant container. Storage of more than 180 L of manure is not permitted. There can be no slaughter on site. Deceased hens are not accepted in organic or garbage curbside pickup and must be taken to the landfill for disposal.