

CITY OF SURREY

BYLAW NO. 18754

A Bylaw to regulate the control and keeping of domestic chickens on residential lots greater than 669 square meters [7,200 sq. ft.] but less than 0.4 hectares [1 acre].

As amended by Bylaw No. 21394; 09/23/2024

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient to regulate and control the keeping of domestic chickens on lots greater than 669 square meters [7,200 square feet] but less than 0.4 hectares [1 acre] within the City of Surrey;

The Council of the City of Surrey, ENACTS as follows:

**TITLE**

1. This Bylaw may be cited as the "Surrey Chicken Keeping Bylaw, 2016, No. 18754".

**DEFINITIONS**

2. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

"**City**" means the City of Surrey;

"**Coop**" means a weather proof structure with walls and a roof used for the shelter of Hens;

"**Hen**" means a female chicken;

"**Keep**" means the act of having the care, custody, control or possession of an animal;

"**Outdoor Enclosure**" means an open-air area attached to and forming part of a Coop having a bare earth or vegetated floor for Hens to roam, that has a roof and is enclosed with chicken wire or other fencing material; and

"**Rooster**" means a male chicken.

## **PURPOSE**

3. The purpose of this Bylaw is to regulate and control the Keeping of chickens for domestic use where the lot is greater than 669 square meters [7,200 square feet] but less than 0.4 hectares [1 acre], in the following residential zones identified in "Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No. 12000", as amended:
  - (a) Acreage Residential (RA) zone;
  - (b) Suburban Residential (R1) zone; and
  - (c) Urban Residential (R3) zone.
  
4. This Bylaw does not apply to any lands not specifically described in Section 3 of this Bylaw.

## **NUMBER OF HENS**

5. A maximum of 4 Hens, but no Roosters, are permitted on lands described in Section 3 of this Bylaw.

## **HEN REGISTRATION**

6. A person may not Keep a Hen unless that person first submits a completed Hen registration application to the City and receives validation of registration from the City.
  
7. The City may not validate a Hen registration application form unless satisfied that:
  - (a) the applicant is the owner of the lot and resides on the lot on which the Hens will be Kept, or the applicant resides on the lot and has written consent from the owner of the lot to Keep Hens on the lot;
  - (b) a valid British Columbia Poultry Premises Identification number obtained from the Ministry of Agriculture, is provided to the City for the lot; and
  - (c) all other required information on the City's Hen application form has been provided.
  
8. A validated Hen registration is not transferable from one person to another or from one lot to another.
  
9. Every validated Hen registration under this Bylaw will terminate if the owner or occupier of the lot named in the registration changes.

## **COOP AND OUTDOOR ENCLOSURE**

10. A person who Keeps Hens shall:
- (a) ensure that a Coop and Outdoor Enclosure is provided on the lot;
  - (b) ensure that the Coop is sited within the required setbacks identified in "Surrey Zoning By-law, 1993, No.12000", as amended;
  - (c) provide each Hen with at least 0.37 square meters [4 square feet] of interior Coop floor area and at least 0.92 square meters (10 square feet) of Outdoor Enclosure area;
  - (d) provide each Hen with at least one nest box and one perch, that is at least 15 centimeters [6 inches] long, within a Coop;
  - (e) maintain the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure in good repair and in a sanitary condition, free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances; and
  - (f) ensure the Coop and Outdoor Enclosure are secured from sunset to sunrise.

#### **THE KEEPING OF HENS**

11. A person who Keeps Hens shall:
- (a) provide each Hen with food, water, light, ventilation, and care, sufficient to maintain the Hen in good health;
  - (b) store feed within a fully enclosed container and remove any leftover feed in a timely manner;
  - (c) store manure produced by Hens within a fully enclosed container, with no more than 0.08 cubic meters [2.8 cubic feet] of manure stored on the lot at a time and ensure removal of all other manure not used for composting or fertilizing in a timely manner;
  - (d) display a valid British Columbia Poultry Premises Identification number on the lot where the Hens are kept; and
  - (e) immediately consult a licensed veterinarian in the event that a Hen becomes infected with an infectious or communicable disease. If the diagnosis of the veterinarian confirms that the Hen is infected with an infectious or communicable disease:
    - i. if the person is not the owner of the lot, immediately notify the owner of the lot; and
    - ii. both the person and the owner of the lot shall immediately adhere to

national avian on-farm biosecurity standards recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to reduce potential for disease outbreak.

## **PROHIBITIONS**

12. A person who keeps Hens shall not:
- (a) sell eggs, manure, meat, or other products derived from Hens;
  - (b) slaughter a Hen on the lot;
  - (c) dispose of a Hen except by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other operation that is lawfully permitted to keep or dispose of Hens; or
  - (d) keep a Hen in a cage, kennel, or any structure or building other than a Coop and Outdoor Enclosure, including in, upon, or under any building used for human habitation.

## **INSPECTIONS**

13. The City Bylaw Manager, or his or her duly authorized representatives, are hereby authorized and empowered to enter at all reasonable times into or upon any lands or premises to ascertain whether the provisions of this Bylaw are being kept or have been complied with, and may take any such action as deemed necessary to ensure that the provisions of this Bylaw are complied with.
14. It shall be unlawful for any person to prevent or obstruct the entry of the City Bylaw Manager, or his or her duly authorized representative, into or upon any lands or premises, for the purpose of carrying out any inspections under this Bylaw.

## **OFFENCES AND PENALTIES**

15. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Bylaw or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of this Bylaw or who neglects to do or refrains from doing any act or thing required by this Bylaw shall be guilty of an offence under this Bylaw and shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not less than One Hundred (\$100) Dollars and not more than One Thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars together with the cost of the prosecution. Each day that such violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offence.

## **CONFLICT**

16. Nothing in this Bylaw relieves a person from complying with any federal or provincial law or regulation, other City bylaw, or any requirement of any lawful permit, order or license. Where this Bylaw conflicts with any other bylaws

respecting animals, this Bylaw prevails to the extent of the conflict.

PASSED FIRST READING on the 13th day of June, 2016.

PASSED SECOND READING on the 13th day of June, 2016.

PASSED THIRD READING on the 13th day of June, 2016.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED, signed by the Mayor and Clerk, and sealed with the Corporate Seal on the 11th day of July, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_ MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_ CLERK