

Keeping of Urban Poultry Recommendations for Pelham

- Get approval/inspection from Town of Pelham.
- Register/get licence from Town of Pelham.
- Roosters or roosters with “no-crow collars” are not permitted.
- Maximum of 7 birds, minimum of 2.
- Eggs, manure or any chicken product are for personal use by owner, and not to be sold.
- No slaughter of birds for meat or any other purpose.
- Deceased birds must be disposed of at a livestock disposal facility or through a Veterinarian or Animal Shelter immediately.
- Must register all birds with Chicken Farmers of Ontario, Family Food Program.
www.familyfoodgrower.ca (provides updates on avian flu and biosecurity measures)
- Coop must be Maximum of 6 feet, 6 inches high and maximum of 50 square feet of floor space.
- Coop must provide each bird with a minimum 1 foot of roosting space and minimum of 4 square feet of floor space.
- No coop or run are to be placed in a front yard.
- Coop must include at least 3 nesting boxes, adequate ventilation, insulation and electricity for safely providing heated drinking water or air circulation.
- Coop must be wildlife proof – placed on hardwire cloth or concrete, with a locked door at night and wildlife proof windows and vents. Rubber mat flooring on top of hardwire cloth or concrete makes an excellent, cleanable, comfortable surface. A hardwire cloth barrier buried vertically, 6 to 8 inches deep around coop prevents burrowing wildlife.
- Outdoor run must be wildlife proof – surrounded, in wire fencing with holes not larger than ½ inch and provide at least 10 square feet of ground space per bird. A portion of the outdoor run must have a roof to provide protection from weather. Wire fencing should be buried 6 to 8 inches deep around the run or comprise the floor of the run to discourage digging wildlife.
- Placement of coop and run must be at least 2 metres from any property line, unless; property line is against a wooded area, a road or you have a signed consent form from the adjoining property owner.
- Where a coop is placed less than 2 metres from adjoining property, with consent from property owner, said property owner must give written notice of withdrawal of consent. Coop owner will be given 6 months to relocate coop.
- Existing sheds may be used, but location of chickens must still adhere to the minimum distance from property line.
- Town inspectors must be allowed accesses to inspect coop and run as necessary to ensure compliance.
- Coop and run must be maintained daily to remove waste and uneaten food.
- Animal bedding must be used to absorb moisture and facilitate cleaning. A deep cleaning should be done twice a year.
- Waste is to be composted, according to Town composting bylaws or put in biodegradable bag for green bin. (Recommended way is to dig deep hole on bird owner’s property, put covered compost bin over hole, then waste can be added daily with a little dirt covering it.)

- Kept birds must have daily fresh food and water. In winter, a heated water bucket will be needed to keep water from freezing.
- You are responsible for the health and welfare of your birds. Failure to provide them with humane care, can result in fines. Every animal needs exercise, health care, clean, dry living environment, shelter, shade/sun and be kept free of pest infestations.
- Birds must not be permitted off of owner's property. If outside of their coop or run, birds must be contained in such a manner that they are fully under the owner's control and supervision at all times.
- Food supply must be kept in a metal container and/or in a vermin and wildlife proof area.
- Rental properties – written consent must be given from owner of property.
- If you go away for longer than one day, a pet sitter must be acquired to maintain chickens and housing in the manor described in this bylaw.
- Dishes and waterers must be washed and sanitized weekly.
- It is owner's responsibility to deal with any wildlife issues immediately.
- In summer, owner must control flies around coop and run. This can be achieved by keeping coop and run extra clean, installing fly traps, etc. A fan circulating air during hot spells is a very effective control.
- On average, it takes about ½ hour a day to care for backyard poultry. Feed, water, open and close coop and scooping waste. On a weekly or monthly basis a few hours are needed to do structure repairs, winterizing, health checks, etc.
- Failure to adhere to bylaw could result in warning or loss of licence to have birds.
- A nice to have addition to coop and outdoor run is a camera! Makes it easy to check in on your birds any time from your phone, as well as monitor any wildlife activity.

Niagara Region link on Chickens

[Backyard Chickens - Niagara Region, Ontario](#)

Bird Health

Local Avian Veterinarian services:

Virgil Animal Hospital

Thorold Veterinary Clinic

Glenridge Animal Hospital

Hockley and Ottawa Valley Mobile Veterinary Services 1 (519) 783-1404
(covers our area for at-home visits and phone consultations)

There are also numerous Chicken Facebook groups that are helpful in learning about chicken care:

Chicken Vet Corner's Chicken Talk

Backyard Chickens Niagara

Pelham Urban Poultry

Southwestern Ontario Poultry Peeps

Chicken First Aid Kit:

Gauze bandages

Vet wrap bandages

Small scissors

tweezers

Vetericyn – an excellent antiseptic for wounds that is safe around eyes and mouth.

Zinc oxide ointment

Polysporin without pain relief

Epsom salt

Syringes

Sterile needles

Chicken electrolytes

Rooster booster – vitamins

Liquid bandage (keeps minor wounds clean)

Human corn cushions (for bumble foot)

Honey (natural unpasteurized)

Frequently needed medications:

ECTIBAN (permethrin) is a spay that is approved in Canada for treatment of chicken lice with no egg withdrawal. Information Source: Hockley Valley Mobile Veterinary Service

PANACUR AQUASOL (fenbendazole) is approved in Canada for worms in chickens with no egg withdrawal. Available by prescription. Information Source: Hockley Valley Mobile Vet Service

PIPERAZINE DIHYDROCHLORIDE is approved in Canada for round worms in chickens with no egg withdrawal. Over the counter. Source: Minor Bros. Fonthill

CANESTEN anti fungal (internal) cream is widely used off label for chicken yeast infections.

"There are limited approved products for laying chickens. "On label" means it is licensed and tested for that species and (usually) means it has no or short withdrawal time. "Off label" is sometimes used, but it's going to come with a withdrawal time because it's not licensed for the species. We will contact FARAD (Food Animal Residue Avoidance Database), and together with them we come up with a withdrawal time to keep you and anyone eating your eggs or birds safe, based on peer reviewed research." - **Hockley Valley Mobile Veterinary Service**

Avian Flu

[Avian influenza in poultry | ontario.ca](http://ontario.ca/avian-influenza-in-poultry)

Contains symptoms, biosecurity prevention and what to do if there is a case of avian influenza.

[Avian Influenza - Emergency Planning and Preparedness - Programs and Services - Health Care Professionals - MOH \(gov.on.ca\)](http://gov.on.ca/avian-influenza-emergency-planning-and-preparedness-programs-and-services-health-care-professionals)

General information

[Minister's Orders \(gov.on.ca\)](http://gov.on.ca/minister-orders)

Minister of Agriculture Orders regarding Avian flu (Bans on movement of poultry) are posted here. There are no current bans at this time. Spring and Fall is most common, due to the migration of wild birds.

Other sources we consulted with:

Kingston backyard chicken bylaw

Toronto backyard chicken bylaw

Kitchener backyard chicken bylaw

Waterloo backyard chicken bylaw

Norfolk County backyard chicken bylaw

Niagara Falls backyard chicken bylaw