



GEORGINA

URBAN HENS

August 14, 2019

Town of Georgina

Town File: 05.261

Report No: DS-2019-0104



GEORGINA

BACKGROUND

- On August 10, 2016 Council received a deputation from Melody Bertolini requesting to permit hens in urban areas
- Petition was signed by 385 residents and suggested that the keeping of hens:
 - Is a healthy form of teaching and feeding our families
 - Are quiet, clean and quite personable
 - Pose zero risk to our health and safety
 - Can add immense benefit
- At the August 10, 2016 meeting Council adopted Resolution No. C-2016-0423
- Notices were sent to interested parties on July 31, 2019



GEORGINA

WHY HENS IN URBAN AREAS?

- Urban Agriculture
- Easy and accessible egg production
- Educational and social benefits





GENERAL INFORMATION ON URBAN HENS

- Heritage breeds are often used
- Hens will lay 1-2 eggs per day
- Heritage breeds can live up to and beyond 8 years
- Hens require shelter and a protected/fenced enclosure
- Can produce up to 10 lbs. of manure per month, per hen
- Roosters are generally not kept in an urban setting



ISSUES RELATED TO URBAN HENS

- Land use compatibility
- Licensing enforcement and complaints
- Containment
- Hen health and transmission of disease
- Predators and pests





MUNICIPAL REVIEW

1. City of Kingston
2. Clearview Township
3. Town of Newmarket
4. Town of Caledon
5. City of Quinte West
6. Town of East Gwillimbury
7. City of Toronto
8. City of Orillia
9. City of Brampton
10. City of Niagara Falls
11. City of Brantford



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Most municipalities conducted a pilot project
- Regulations are generally found in a Municipal Act Licensing By-law
- Generally, the max. number of hens is 4, and in most cases roosters are prohibited
- Regulations for enclosures generally follow accessory structure provisions
- Regulations list min. area and location restrictions



SUMMARY OF FINDINGS CONTINUED

- Min. lot area, frontage and separation distances are sometimes specified
- Notification to and/or consent from neighbours is sometimes required
- Sale of eggs or slaughter of chickens is prohibited
- Educational documents are provided to residents

PERMITTING URBAN HENS - OPTIONS

1. Do nothing
2. Pilot program
3. Amend Licensing By-law 2003-0072





STAFF RECOMMENDATION

- Prior to moving forward to a recommendation, Staff recommend that the Town undertake a public consultation program in regard to regulations pertaining to the keeping of hens in residential areas.
- Public consultation will commence in the fall and will include:
 - Hosting a public information centre
 - Providing information on the Town's website
 - Seeking input through an online questionnaire
 - Planned follow-up to Council prior to year's end