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April 6, 2009

TO: Community Safety Committee
City of Richmond

Re: Backyard Chickens

The Richmond Food Security Society requests that the City of Richmond adjust **Animal Control By-Law 7932** to allow for chickens to be kept in city backyards. Currently, Richmond residents can keep chickens but require 21,000 square feet, or half an acre, of land. This space requirement is far in excess of what is needed to keep chickens safe and healthy (approximately 12 square feet). By changing this by-law to allow chickens to be kept in regular city backyards, City officials will be following the lead of other cities such as Vancouver, Victoria, Burnaby, New Westminster, Seattle & Portland and taking one more step forward towards food security for local residents.

Not only are their eggs a wonderful source of local protein, but chickens are also able to cycle many food wastes away from the garbage stream and turn them into valuable nutrients for the garden. They will feed on backyard pests, including slugs, and are a wonderful teaching tool for young families.

To be clear, the RFSS is advocating for the keeping of hens, not roosters, within City limits. The safe upkeep of these animals is of utmost importance and the current City of Richmond Animal, Bird & Beekeeping **By-law No. 7137** outlines everything that is required to ensure that backyard chickens are kept humanely.

Wondering what it takes to keep chickens in an average backyard?

Come learn how to keep chickens safe and healthy with Heather Havens, Animal Scientist, who will instruct newbies on how to feed, house, and ensure good chicken health. Each participant will receive resources to take home including plans for chicken coops, sources of feed, and lists of veterinarians that treat chickens. Participants will also discuss local by-laws and how they relate to keeping backyard chickens

Date: Saturday, Feb 28th

Time: 9am - 12 pm

Place: Barn, Terra Nova Rural Park

2631 Westminster Hwy

Cost: 25

To register or for more information, contact
Arzeena Hamir foodsecurity@richmondprc.org
or (604) 727 9728

Backyard Chickens

Backyard Chicken Keeping Workshop, Richmond BC Feb 28 2009

Outline

- I. Introduction (verbal)**
 - A. Outline**
- II. Housing**
 - A. Text**
 - B. ext.vt.edu small flock pages**
 - C. Plans for example house**
- III. Feeding**
 - A. Text**
 - B. Digestive system overview**
- IV. Reproduction**
 - A. Text**
 - B. Anatomy diagram**
 - C. Purdue.edu pages**
- V. Problems**
 - A. Text**
 - B. Vet list**
- VI. Resources**
 - A. Local Feed & Supply stores**
 - B. Local chicken bylaws and ordinances**
 - C. Books (recommended reading)**
 - D. Recommended websites**

Chicken Housing

Chickens need houses because: Chickens need protection from predators. Chickens need protection from heat in summer and cold in winter. Chickens and owners are happier when the hens have a consistent, clean, convenient, and private place to lay eggs. Chickens instinctively go to the best and safest shelter that they can find at sunset, and if they have a house to go to they will use it, and you will have a nice safe and warm place to confine them until morning.

Chickens need fenced chicken runs or yards because: To protect chickens from predators. To prevent chickens from trespassing, thereby annoying people other than their owners. Both predators and annoyed neighbors may injure, steal, or kill chickens. Fences protect chickens from dangers such as mechanical or electrical hazards, roads, toxic plants and substances, or cliffs.

CITY OF RICHMOND - ANIMAL, BIRD & BEEKEEPING REGULATION - BYLAW NO. 7137

All outdoor animals and poultry must have:

- Adequate ventilation, and shelter from sun, wind, cold, and moisture.
- Shelter which provides sufficient shade to protect the animal from the direct rays of the sun at all times; and which is cleaned and sanitized not less than daily, of all excrement.
- Adequate space for movement and exercise.
- Adequate and clean food and water. Food receptacles must be kept disinfected and free of excrement.
- A clean and hygienic living area (house and yard), or there will be fines and perhaps forfeiture of the animals.
- Access to necessary veterinary medical care when such animal or bird exhibits signs of pain or suffering.

3.1 General Prohibition

3.1.1 A person must not keep poultry, in, upon, or under any structure used for human habitation.

3.1.2 Every person keeping poultry must ensure that:

- (a) such poultry does not create a nuisance; and
- (b) all lands and premises where such poultry is kept, are maintained in a sanitary condition at all times, and that excrement is not permitted to accumulate and cause, in the opinion of the Medical Health Officer, an objectionable odour or nuisance.

Animal Control Bylaw 7932

(Summary – no chickens on residential lots allowed unless lot is half an acre or more, and no nuisance allowed by animals; meaning no loud roosters or smelly coops)

3.1.1 A person must not keep poultry:

- a) On a parcel less than 2,000 sq meters (21,529 sq ft); on
- b) In, upon, or under any structure used for human habitation.

3.1.2 Each person keeping poultry must ensure that:

- a) Such poultry does not create a nuisance; and

Proponents of backyard Hens in Richmond are gathering to try to change these bylaws to allow hens on all residential lots, regardless of lot size. Please join us.

Most often and most practically, backyard chicken keepers will have a hen house that sits inside of a chicken run or chicken yard (this includes chicken tractors, which are movable chicken house and run enclosures).

The house will be built so that it can be well secured at night (a 3 year old child couldn't get in), and it will keep hens warm, dry, comfortable, and well ventilated. The house will be constructed so it is easy to clean.

The house should have at a minimum:

- 1.5 sq ft inside per hen (1 sq ft per bantam)
 - 6 – 10 inches of perch per hen
 - 1 nest box or area per 4-5 hens.
- (the yard should have 8 sq ft per hen, less for bantams)

The yard or run will be accessible from the hen house. The run/yard will be securely fenced and gated. It is best to bury the fence, and bury it at an angle (flaring away from the hen yard, under ground). It is a good idea to cover the yard/run with some kind of mesh, netting, or screen to prevent hawks and eagles from poaching your flock.

Small Scale Poultry Housing

Small Flock Factsheet, Number 10

Phillip J. Clauer, Poultry Extension Specialist
Animal & Poultry Sciences Department

Small scale poultry coops seem to be built in almost every possible shape and size. Those building a new coop often ask for plans for the perfect chicken coop. However, few plans for small poultry houses are available. Many existing buildings can easily be adapted to accommodate poultry. Poultry housing can be as crude or elaborate as you wish to build as long as you provide the following:

1. Protection:

A good poultry house protects the birds from the elements (weather), predators, injury and theft.

Poultry require a dry, draft-free house. This can be accomplished by building a relatively draft free house with windows and/or doors which can be opened for ventilation when necessary. Build the coop on high, well-drained areas. This prevents prolonged dampness and water saturation of the floor of the coop and outside runs. Face the front of the coop, the windows and outside run to the south which allows the sun to warm and dry the coop and soil. Allowing an adequate level of space per bird also helps keep the humidity level in the coop to a minimum.

Keeping poultry totally confined to together with fence and covered runs are your best protection from predators. If you are building a new facility, consider laying a concrete floor, and start the wall with one or two concrete blocks. This prevents rodents, snakes, and predators from digging under the walls and the floors. Windows and doors must be securely covered with heavy-gauge mesh wire or screening when opened.

With outside runs, bury the wire along the pen border at least 12" deep, and toe the fence outward about 6 inches. This stops most predators from digging under the fence. Animals always dig at the base of a fence. By toeing the fence outward and burying it, the predator digs down right into more fencing. Some people run electric fencing around the outside of their pens 4" off the ground about one foot from the main fence to discourage predators. If your outside runs are not predator-proof, you need to lock up your poultry before dark.

To prevent problems with hawks and owls, cover your outside runs with mesh wire or netting. A good ground cover of millet, broomcorn, sorghum or other tall leafy vegetation also provides cover for the birds to hide under. Many times a 3-4 ft. grid over the pen constructed of boiling twine will give excellent protection from flying predators.

To protect the birds from theft, lock your building and pens securely whenever you are not home. Have your neighbors watch for visitors while you are away. Some people actually have burglar alarms in their bird coops. A protective dog kept near your coop usually works well to discourage predators and unwanted visitors.

Build your poultry house to prevent possible injury to your birds. Remove any loose or ragged wire, nails, or other sharp-edged objects from the coop. Eliminate all areas other than perches where the birds could perch more than 4 feet above the floor. Remove perching areas such as window sills, nest box tops, or electric cords whenever possible. These extra measures could eliminate any injury to you or your birds and may prevent damage to the coop, as well.

2. Adequate Space:

Birds need adequate space for movement and exercise as well as areas to nest and roost. Space requirements vary with the type of bird you raise.

Pigeons require a minimum of 4 square feet per breeding pair. One-eighth inch perch and two 9 inch x 9 inch nests per breeding pair are recommended.

Minimum Space Requirements		
Type of Bird	Sq ft/bird inside	Sq ft/bird outside runs
Bantam Chickens	1	4
Laying Hens	1.5	8
Large Chickens	2	10
Quail	1	4
Pheasant	5	25
Ducks	3	15
Geese	6	18

Perches: With chickens, always provide 6 to 10 inches of perch space per bird. Perches are not usually used with meat chickens and waterfowl.

Nests: Always provide at least one nest for every 4-5 females in the flock.

3. Easy Access to Feed and Water:

Feeders and waters should be placed conveniently throughout the pen for birds' access. Place the bottom of the waterers and top lip of the feeders at the birds' back height. This will keep the feed and water clean and prevent wastage.

Small birds like pigeons, bantams and quail, only require 1 linear inch/bird of feeder and water space and large birds require 2-3 linear inches/bird.

When possible, place the waterer in the outside runs, especially for waterfowl. This helps to keep the humidity level lower inside the coop.

4. Source of Light:

If you wish to produce eggs from your flock year-round, you must have a source for electric light. One electric light every 40 feet at ceiling height is appropriate. Most small poultry houses do very well with one light above the feeding and watering area.

Windows placed on the southside of the coop will also be a good source of light and warmth in winter and a good source of ventilation in summer.

5. Ventilation:

Ample air movement without a draft is essential. Fresh air brings in oxygen while excess moisture, ammonia or carbon dioxide are removed the stale air moves out of the house. Dampness and ammonia build-up are a sign that there is not enough ventilation. For small coops windows or vents on one side of the house usually provide plenty of ventilation. Well-ventilated houses must also have plenty of insulation and a good vapor barrier. Failure to insulate or ventilate properly causes moisture to accumulate on the walls and ceiling in cool weather. Poultry can handle cold very well if they are dry. However, cool and humid conditions can create many health problems. Locate openings on the side away from prevailing winds. The south or east side is usually best.

6. Appearance:

The appearance of any poultry house or outside run that is visible to the neighborhood should never detract from the over-all appearance of the surroundings. Exteriors of structures should be kept painted and well-maintained. Weeds and trash should be removed from around all facilities. Proper landscaping can provide screening and also help muffle sounds from the birds. Unsightly structures are not good for the image of bird raising and may lead to new laws restricting the raising of birds in your area.

7. Use Common Sense:

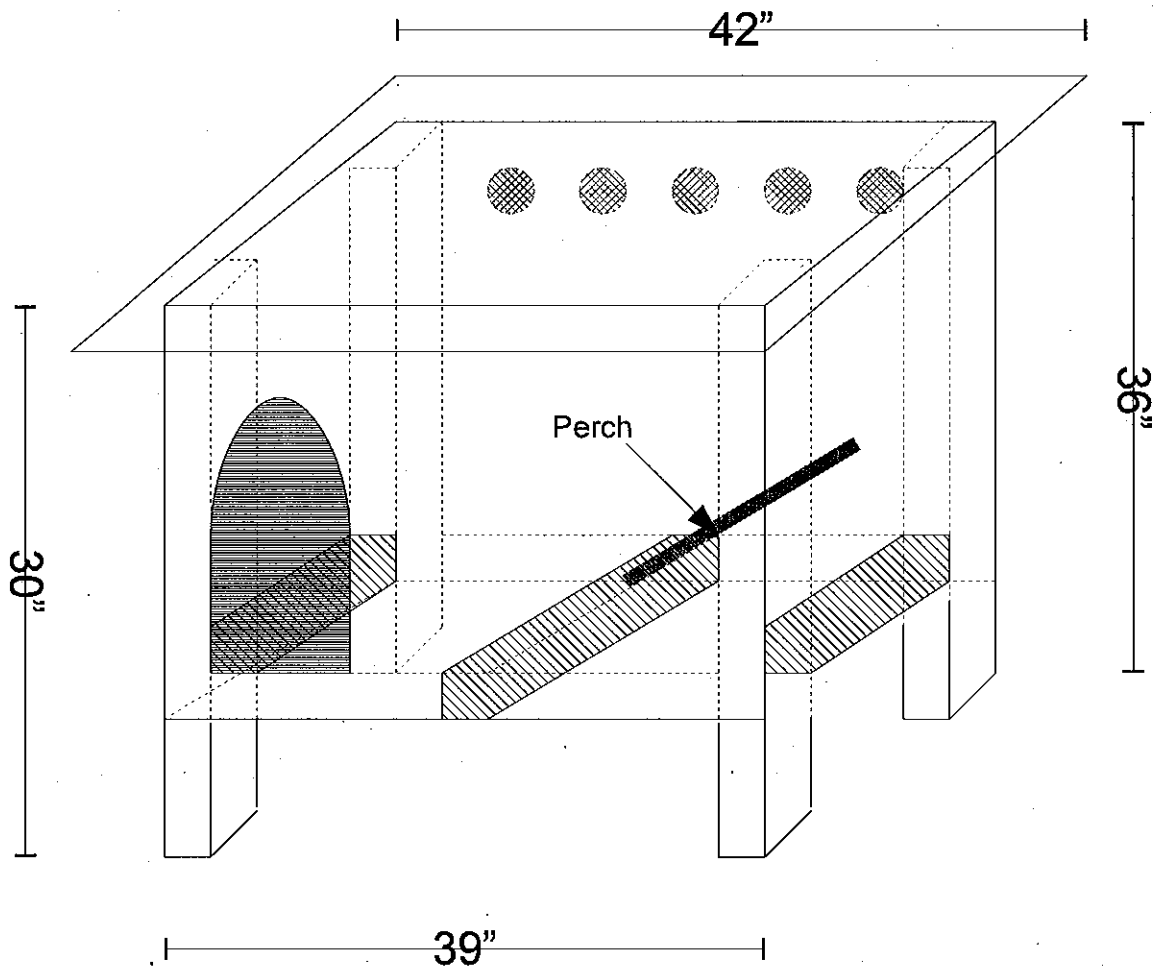
When building a poultry house, use common sense in designing the structure. Build the roof high enough and situate such permanent structures as nests, roosts, and feeders for easy access and to make it easier to clean all areas of the house. Install doors so that they open inward. Using sliding windows so that the birds cannot roost on them rather than windows which swing in or out. Use building materials which will be easy to clean and disinfect. Slightly sloping the floor toward the door can help prevent puddling in the building and will make the building easier to spray out and dry between uses.

Designs for Small Poultry Structures

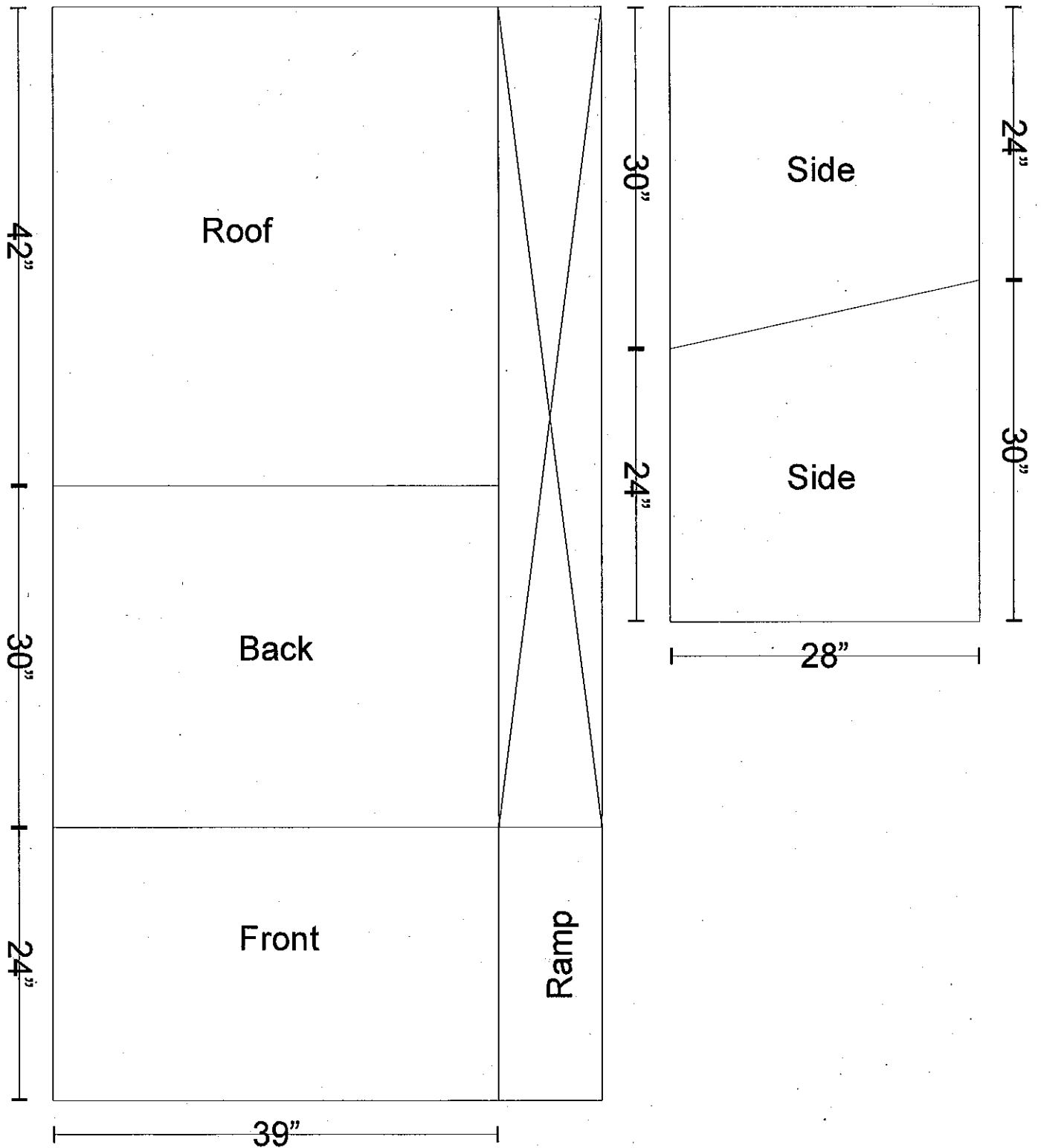
Visit [Virginia Cooperative Extension](#).

The Fabulous Chicken House

8



- Plywood & 2x4 construction
- Tar paper on roof
- Roof hinges have removable pins
- Locking brace for roof
- Hole-sawed vents with screen
- Hinged & latched ramp & door
- Screen floor with reinforcement bar under middle



4' x 8' sheet of light plywood + scrap
 3 - 8' 2x4
 25" of ~1" dowel (broom handle) for perch

Chicken Digestion (just the highlights)

-Chickens are omnivores (eat plants and animals) and monogastrics (have one stomach, like us, and unlike a cow, who has four).

-Chickens have **saliva** in their mouths, which starts the digestion process (just like us).

-Food is stored in their **crop**, which is located just behind their breastbone. If they are too thin (their crop is empty), their breastbone looks like the keel of a ship, sharply angled, and it is very easy to feel. If the chicken is well fed, their crop is full, and they almost look like they have swallowed a tennis ball. You can barely feel their breast bone, and can't easily see where it is.

-Food moves from their crop to their **gizzard**, where it is ground up small enough to continue on down the digestion process. Birds don't have teeth, instead they have a gizzard. Birds eat grit, which goes into their gizzard, along with their food. The gizzard clenches, and grinds up their food with the aid of the grit.

-final excretions go out the **vent**.

Water

The most important nutrient. Always provide fresh water. It is very important in winter to provide non-frozen water, and to provide abundant fresh water in the summer.

To keep water non-frozen in the winter, the best idea is to use an electric water dish, that keeps the water just warm enough not to freeze. If you have a chicken coop that is part of a shed or garage that stays above freezing, or use a heat lamp in your hen house, water can be kept in there where it won't freeze, just be sure it stays full, clean, and isn't soaking the surrounding area. An emergency solution, not a long-term solution, is to bring out hot water twice a day.

In the summer, you will be amazed how much water the chickens drink, and how much evaporates. Make sure to keep their water full and clean. They **MUST NOT** run out of water.

Feed

I recommend using pre-made chicken feed rather than home made feed. Commercially made feed already contains the required amounts of protein, vitamins, minerals (except Calcium), and other nutrients to keep your hens healthy and productive. As a matter of fact, feeding additional scratch (grains) to your hens actually dilutes the nutritional value of their feed, so it is best to avoid or use very little scratch.

Feed comes in crumbles (aka mash) or pellets, and either will provide complete nutrition for full grown and full sized hens. Crumbles are preferred for bantam hens (miniature breed) and pullets (teen-agers, between chick and laying hen). Pellets are preferred for full grown, full sized hens because they waste less, meaning they make less of a mess!

Chicks or pullets have different nutritional requirements than hens, so they should be fed chick or pullet feed.

Chicken Feeding Requirements, Age or Type of Chicken, Protein, Calcium

Broilers (to 6 wks) - 23 % Protein, 0.9% Calcium

Broilers (to mkt) - 10 % Protein, 0.08% Calcium

Chicks (to 8 wks) - 20 % Protein, 0.9% Calcium
Pullets (8-20 wks) - 14 % Protein, 0.8% Calcium
Layer Hens - 16 % Protein, 3.0% Calcium

Feed should be provided in a Chicken Feeder. There are various types, easily found in feed stores and even many local pet supply stores. The feeder should help prevent the hens from throwing their food around (which they love to do) which causes a wet smelly mess that attracts rodents and insects, and feeders prevent waste, which will save you money. Our favorite feeder is a very old fashioned kind. It is a tin dish, with round feeding holes in it, which screws to the top of an ordinary canning jar (small mouth, quart or larger). You fill the jar with feed, screw on the dish, turn it over, and set it in the chicken yard in a place where it will stay dry, you can easily clean the area, and the hens can't tip or drag it over (we made a little dished area to set it in, so the hens can't drag it).

Scratch

Scratch is grain that is fed to chickens. As noted in the Feed section, scratch actually dilutes the nutritional value of the Feed, so if you use scratch, use it judiciously.

Scratch usually consists of cracked corn, with or without a combination of other cracked or whole grains and/or legumes. Whole corn is too large, as are some other whole grains, legumes, or seeds, so use common sense when deciding on a scratch. Wheat, oats, barley, rice, millet, milo, flax, peas, and lentils are all possible, and fine, scratch ingredients. If you should decide to feed soybeans, they must be roasted or heat treated, soybean meal is fine because it has been heat treated.

Scratch has a few uses that I'll mention here.

- Chicken treat. Chickens will love person that feeds them scratch. This is a useful tool.
- Scratch, particularly corn, can help put weight on a thin or less than vigorous chicken, and can help to keep them warm.
- Scattering a bit of scratch on the ground of their chicken yard will make them happy all day. Chickens need to scratch at the ground, looking for grains, bugs, worms, and grit, most of the day in order to be truly healthy and happy. Chickens that can't scratch are stressed and will often turn to pecking their companions out of frustration. I feel that this is the most important use for scratch.

Grit and Oyster Shell

Grit is small stones or rocks, all birds look for this in their environment. Grit is small gravel bagged and sold just for chickens. Hens use #2 Grit (chicks use #1 grit and turkeys use #3 grit).

Oyster Shell is actually mined ancient oyster shells that are ground, bagged, and sold for chickens. Chickens use "lay blend" oyster shell. It is also available in a grind for chicks and as a flour which is feed grade for other livestock, or to be used as lime in the garden.

Oyster Shell and Grit are necessary for 2 reasons:

- 1) Birds don't have teeth, instead they have a gizzard. Birds eat grit, which goes into their gizzard, along with their food. The gizzard clenches, and grinds up their food with the aid of the grit.
- 2) Oyster Shell is fed to hens to give them extra Calcium, which hens need to give their eggs strong, thick shells. This oyster shell also works as grit for the hens. If your hens lay eggs with

thin or even incomplete shells, you know they need more Calcium. If your hens eat their eggs, they may need more Calcium or Protein. (If they are eating eggs, increase their oyster shell, and wait to see if they stop. If they don't stop, increase protein in their diet, fish meal and/or dairy products work well)

Grit and Oyster shell are most often mixed equally and offered free choice. This can be scattered on the ground for the hens to scratch and peck (best choice), offered in its own feeder (they will consume what they need), or may be mixed in with their feed (may encourage them to throw their food around).

Grit and Oyster Shell for chickens are both available at feed stores and some pet supply stores.

OTHER

Food Scraps

There are many food scraps that hens will enjoy, that are also good for them. Keep in mind that the commercially formulated feed is the best feed for them, so don't overwhelm their diet with other foodstuffs. Chickens don't have teeth or cutlery to get their food into small pieces, and too much food in the birds crop can lead to compaction there, which is a life threatening problem. Therefore, it is a good idea to chop up the scraps that you feed to them. We call this "chicken-chop" in our house. Chopping scraps also makes them more attractive, so the scraps are more likely to be eaten, rather than becoming rodent bait or becoming moldy and rotten in their yard..

There are also things to avoid. If something is clearly rotten, moldy, or inedible don't feed it to your chickens, just compost or toss it.

Cereal products, such as bread, cereal, pasta (for a good time, hand feed your hen spaghetti!), and pastry are fine.

Lean meats (cooked or raw) and fish, fish skin, and dairy products are good for chickens, since they usually benefit from added protein. Keep in mind that too much fat can lead to serious health problems. Most fruits and vegetables (peels, cores, ends, tops, etc...) are fine, cooked or raw. Chopping them makes them more attractive. They don't like citrus peels, and apple seeds are bad for them if too many. Feed brassicas, like broccoli, cauliflower, kale, and choy's, in moderation, too much is not good for Chickens.

Pet Food – Don't feed cat food to Chickens, even though they love it. Cat food is formulated with the nutrient needs of cats in mind, and it contains dangerous levels of certain amino acids for chickens.

Garden Waste and Toxic plants

A long list of possibly toxic plants: <http://www.poultryhelp.com/toxicplants.html>.

Possibly toxic plants, the highlights: Allium (all onion family of plants), amaranth, columbine, azalea, bitter gourd, bleeding heart, boxwood, brassicas (broccoli, cabbage, choy family of plants. A little bit is OK, but not too much), beet (greens, not too many), buckwheat, cacti, Canada thistle, cannabis, cassia, Chinese lantern, hellebore, clematis, daphne, cocklebur, vetch, lilly-of-the-valley, ranunculus, daffodil,

delphinium, foxglove, fox tail, English ivy, horse tail, euphorbia, flax, four o'clock, snowdrop, soybean (raw plant, leaves), heliotrope, holly, hyacinth, hydrangea, St John's wort, morning glory/bindweed, potato vine, iris, lobelia, birdsfoot trefoil, may apple, milkweed mock orange, nicotiana/tobacco, oleander, poppies, buttercup, vinca/periwinkle, rhubarb, black locust, rue, elderberry, Scotch broom, cassias, ferns, sorrels, sorghum, sweet pea, skunk cabbage, tansy, yew, tomato/potato plants, white clover, wysteria

Grass – Do not feed cut grass to chickens and don't expect them to eat grass. Chickens thrive when kept on grass, but they don't eat it. They eat seed heads and young sprouts of grass, along with other seeds, weeds, grit, insects and worms that might be in the grass. Long blades of grass can wad up in their crop and become compacted, which is a life threatening situation.

Insects and Animals

Chickens are omnivores and crave protein, like all omnivores. Chicken's favorite treats are all kinds of insects, worms, and even mice (chickens are actually very good mouse hunters).

Chicken Digestion

Chicken digestion begins in its **beak**. In the beak, saliva mixes food so that it can be easily swallowed. The food then moves to a storage organ called the **crop** and then through to the stomach, called the **proventriculus**.

Food mixes with enzymes and digestion continues. Next food moves to the **gizzard**. Grit and gravel that has been picked up by the bird helps to grind the food particles in this organ. The food moves through the **intestines**, where absorption of food particles primarily occurs. Undigested food passes through the **ceca** where the water is absorbed from the food. The remaining undigested food moves through the **colon** and rectum to the cloaca, where they it is excreted out the vent.

How hens lay eggs. The highlights.

Hens can lay unfertilized eggs without the attention of roosters

It takes a hen 23 – 30 hours to lay an egg.

A hen lays an average of 2 eggs in 3 days.

Eggs vary in size depending on breed and age of hen. Older hens often lay larger eggs.

Double-yolked eggs are not uncommon in young hens and hens who lay large eggs.

The egg-laying process, abbreviated:

A follicle in the ovary releases a mature ova, which is the egg yolk.

Fertilization occurs, if rooster is present, as the yolk travels down the oviduct. Sperm may be stored there for seven to fourteen days.

The first albumen layer is deposited.

The rest of the albumen is deposited.

Inner and Outer shell membranes are deposited.

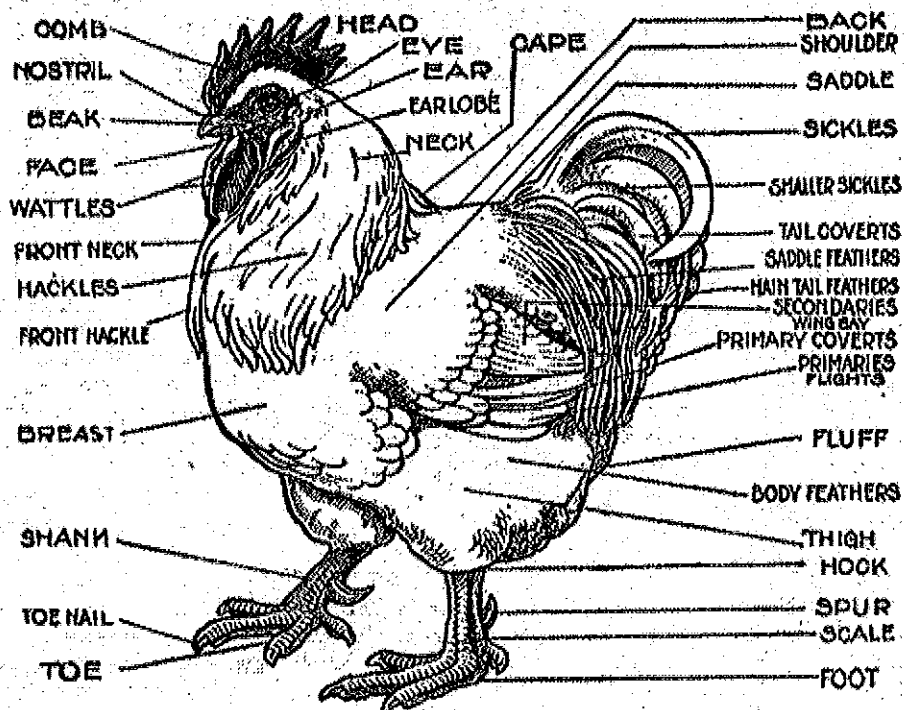
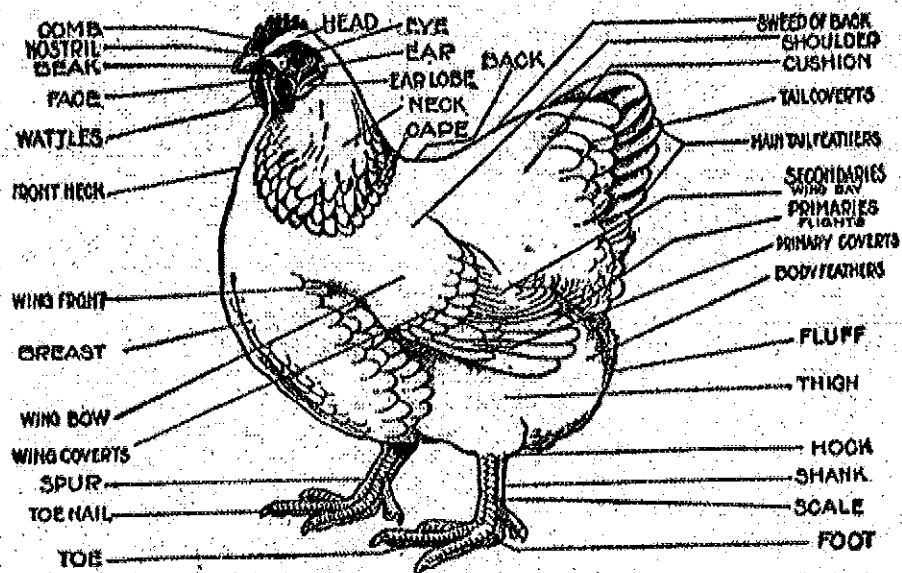
The egg moves from the oviduct to the uterus. The shell is created. The egg spends approximately 12 hours in this stage.

Egg Shell Color is acquired in last 5 hours. Egg shell color is determined by the color of their earlobe (the skin below their cheeks). White ear lobe = white eggs, colored ear lobe = brown eggs (or in the case of Araucanas, Ameraucanas, and their crosses, colored lobe = green eggs).

The egg moves into the vagina, then the reproductive tract shared with the digestive and urinary systems.

The egg leaves the hen's body through the vent, which is also where digestive excretions leave her body.

About 30 minutes after she lays her egg, her ovary releases another mature ova, and the process begins again.



Conkey's Poultry Book 1932

Problems with hen raising:

Egg binding is a problem when a particularly large egg becomes lodged in the hen's vent. This problem is not very serious, but a hen can be hurt if the situation is not fixed immediately.

Lubricate your finger and insert it into the hen's vent (or ask someone else who has done it before). Gently squeeze/massage the hen's abdomen, easing the egg out with a slow, steady pressure. If the egg refuses to come out, you should carefully break the egg and remove it piece by piece. This may take a while, but be patient.

Be careful not to harm hen's delicate innards with the sharp broken eggshell pieces. After the hen's vent is cleared, you should clean it if the hen's insides have been lacerated.*

Prolapse is when the pink tissue from inside a hen's vent is pushed to the outside, maybe after an unusually large egg was laid. Carefully push the tissue back into the hen and apply hemorrhoidal cream. Isolating the hen while she's healing might help, especially since exposed wounds can tempt other chickens to peck at her.*

Cannibalism and Egg Eating

Cannibalism is when the hens peck (and perhaps eat) each other. Chickens lowest in the pecking order, smaller, or youngest chickens are most affected and may even be killed. This process usually starts by plucking at another's tail area, which leaves the affected chickens without tail feathers and with bare bottoms.

Egg Eating is when hens eat their or other's eggs. They do this when they are lacking protein or Calcium.

Giving the chickens adequate space, food, water, and light usually prevents this. Proper nutrition can help, because cannibalism is often caused by deficient protein, or other nutrients. (Usually protein is the lacking nutrient. Fish meal, dairy products, or lean meats work well. Do not feed egg or chicken products)

Pests such as mites, ticks, and fleas, rodents.

External and internal parasites literally suck the life out of the animal, and will kill the animal if the infestation is bad enough.

You can dust hen houses, coops, perches, feed, feeding troughs, and chickens with Diatomaceous Earth, which will kill insects but not hurt mammals or birds, just wear a mask, it is not good to breath it. Having areas where hens can dust themselves (clean dry dirt, not "dirty" dirt) will be helpful because this dusting prevents insect infestations.

Rodents are a problem to be avoided very seriously. Feed **MUST** be kept in metal containers, under cover, and off of the ground. Uneaten feed scattered outside of feeders **MUST** be removed almost daily. Uneaten feed will attract rodents and other animals, and it will mold and smell bad. Rats can attack hens and chicks and eat their eggs, along with spreading diseases and insect pests. Mice spread disease, but won't hurt the hens. Chickens **LOVE** to catch and eat mice, if they can catch one, which is just fine, as long as the mouse isn't poisoned or diseased, which can't be gauranteed.

Predators

Chickens need to be kept withing a fenced area at all times (your yard is fine, as long as it is well fenced). During daylight hours dogs, foxes, raptors (eagles and hawks) may attack chickens. Chickens can usually, but not always, defend themselves against cats. At night, it is **IMPERITIVE** that you lock your chickens in a structure that a small child couldn't find a way into, and it must also be strong 17

enough that a strong animal couldn't chew or tear its way into it in a night. At night raccoons are the biggest problem, but rats, dogs, and coyotes are also problems.

Covering your chicken's enclosure with some kind of mesh is a good way to keep hawks and eagles from stealing your chickens.

Unfortunately disgruntled neighbors also attack and/or steal chickens, so do your best to be a good chicken neighbor. Keep your hen's house and area attractive, painted, clean, and out of sight as much as possible of the neighbors and the street. Also remove roosters.

Escape

First, make sure your chickens enclosure has an adequate fence. If your hen is still able to escape, clip her flight feathers with a scissors. It is very easy, painless, and many good instructional videos and articles are online showing how to do this.

* = some info from: www.poultryOne.com

Veterinarians who are interested in providing services to small flock poultry owners:

Dr. Sharon Prus
King George Veterinary Hospital
902 – 7380 King George Hwy.
Surrey, BC
604-597-7387

Dr. Drew Hilts
Albatross Veterinary Services
45 - 216th St.
Langley, BC
604-530-1409

Dr. Chris Byra
Greenbelt Veterinary Services Ltd.
8451 Harvard place
Chilliwack, BC
604-792-1501
604-316-6974 (cell)

CFIA Veterinarians (could be contacted as backup to private veterinarians):

Dr. Sudagar Sohi
CFIA Surrey (Wingtat)
604-882-0051

Dr. Withold Wince
CFIA – Vernon District Office
2814 - 48th Ave.
Vernon, BC
250-260-5030

Please note, Urban Hens have been allowed in Victoria fairly recently, and we have a list of 8 vets that are interested in seeing small backyard flocks in Victoria and around Vancouver Island. Therefore, it is likely that once small backyard flocks are allowed in Vancouver and other Lower Mainland Municipalities, this list of vets who want to see small poultry flocks will probably grow.

Also, if you need to see a vet for your backyard chicken, and can't get in to see one of the vets above, you can always try any vet that specializes in bird care, they might be interested in helping you.

Vancouver Metro Area Chicken Feed and Supply Stores

<p>Roddick Feed & Farm Supply 4119 40 Street Delta, BC V4K 3N2 (604) 946-2771 www.roddickfeedandfarm.com</p>	<p>Tisol Pet Supply 5431 Number 3 Road Richmond V6X 2G7 604.276.2254 http://www.tisol.ca/content/locations/locations.asp</p>
<p>Westway Feed & Seed Ltd 10600 Ladner Trunk Delta, BC V4K 3N3 (604) 590-9355</p>	<p>Tisol Pet Supply 7117 Gilley Avenue Burnaby V5J 4W9 604.434.2812</p>
<p>Vanderveen Hay Sales Ltd 18726 56 Avenue Surrey, BC V3S 1G1 (604) 576-1177 (800) 663-2678 www.vanderveenhay.com</p>	<p>Tisol Pet Supply #103 - 3010 152 Street South Surrey V4P 3N7 604.536.2330</p>
<p>Newmac Animal Feeds 5-17967 56 Avenue Surrey, BC V3S 1E2 (604) 576-2848</p>	<p>Tisol Pet Supply 2949 Main Street Vancouver V5T 3G4 604.873.4117</p>
<p>Otter Co-Op 3600 248 Street Aldergrove, BC V4W 1Y8 (604) 607-6900 www.ottercoop.com</p>	<p>Pet Solutions Supermarket & Grooming 10616 King George Highway Surrey, BC V3T 2X3 (604) 585-3737</p>
<p>Country Feeds 25236 Fraser Highway Aldergrove, BC V4W 1Z8 (604) 856-1611</p>	
<p>Westland Feeds Ltd 2212 272nd St Aldergrove, BC V4W (604) 856-9011</p>	
<p>Buckerfields 34633 Vye Road Abbotsford, BC V2S 8J7 (604) 556-7477 www.buckerfields.org</p>	

Vancouver Metro Area Urban Poultry Laws and their websites

New Westminster BC

Yes, 6000 sq ft lots or more.

Bylaw 4271, 1967

Poultry are allowed on lots 6000 sq ft or more, not less than 50 ft from a dwelling (which makes it impossible on most city lots). This bylaw is being discussed by city council now.

http://www.newwestcity.ca/cityhall/Leg_Info/Bylaws/4271phb.pdf

http://209.85.173.132/custom?q=cache:_xvv94lqdXwJ:www.newwestcity.ca/cityhall/Leg_Info/Electronic_Packages/2008/1006_Oct6/CW/Reports/CW13.pdf+health+bylaw&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1

Burnaby BC

Yes (Unclear)

Bylaw 9609-Animal Control Bylaw 1991, and Health bylaw509

Poultry are not allowed to be at large. Fowl must be in an enclosed area, and not under, attached to or in a dwelling.

<http://burnaby.fileprosite.com/contentengine/launch.asp?ID=303>

Vancouver BC

Not Yet (under consideration)

Animal Control bylaw 9150

ANIMAL CONTROL BY-LAW NO. 9150

Prohibition against keeping certain domestic animals

7.2 A person must not keep in any area, temporarily or permanently, any horses, donkeys, cattle, swine, sheep, goats, ducks, geese, turkeys, chickens, pheasants, quail, or other poultry or fowl, except that this prohibition does not apply to areas in which the Zoning and Development By-law allows the keeping of such animals, to licensed pet shops or kennels, or to slaughter houses, and except as permitted by section 7.4.

<http://vancouver.ca/bylaws/9150c.pdf>

Victoria BC

Bylaw_92-189, 2 & 37

Yes, fowl and poultry, other than roosters, are allowed.

No "farm animals" or roosters allowed in the city. "Animals" defined: include fowl and other members of the poultry genus. Animals are not allowed to trespass anywhere where they do not have permission to be.

http://www.victoria.ca/common/pdfs/bylaw_92-189.pdf?zoom_highlight=rooster

Richmond BC

Only on half acre lots (2000 sq m)

Bylaw 7137, City of Richmond Bylaw 7230, Animal Control Bylaw No. 7932

3.1.1 A person must not keep poultry:

- a) On a parcel less than 2,000 sq meters (21,529 sq ft); or
- b) In, upon, or under any structure used for human habitation.

3.1.2 Each person keeping poultry must ensure that:

- a) Such poultry does not create a nuisance; and
- b) All lands and premises where such poultry are kept, are maintained in a sanitary condition at all times, and that excrement is not permitted to accumulate and cause, in the opinion of the Medical Health Officer, an objectionable odor or nuisance.

http://www.richmond.ca/__shared/assets/072400_bylaw71371280.pdf

Surrey BC

Yes / No

Only allowed on acre lots

Zoning Bylaw, No. 12000

The Surrey Zoning By-law, No. 12000 makes provisions for the keeping of animals on properties in Surrey. Each lot in Surrey may have a maximum of 2 dogs. Cats, birds, etc. have no limit on a property.

On properties in the RA, RH, RF and RF-SS zones, there are provisions for allowing the keeping of livestock, poultry, rabbits and chinchillas. **Properties that wish to keep these animals must be a minimum of 1 acre in size.**

<http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Bylaw+Compliance/Animal+Control+Issues.htm>

Port Coquitlam, BC

Bylaw 1020, - 27

Unclear

Poultry are classified under "cattle", and are not allowed to be "at large in the city", however it is not specified that they are not allowed in the city if not "at large".

Chicken Books

***Chickens In Your Backyard: A Beginner's Guide - by Rick Luttmann

***Chicken Tractor: The Permaculture Guide to Happy Hens and Healthy Soil - by Andy Lee and Pat Foreman

***Storey's Guide to Raising Chickens: Care / Feeding / Facilities - by Gail Damerow

Pastured Poultry Profits - by Joel Salatin

Keeping Chickens: The Essential Guide [ILLUSTRATED] - by Jeremy Hobson, Celia Lewis

Living with Chickens: Everything You Need to Know to Raise Your Own Backyard Flock - by Jay Rossier

Barnyard in Your Backyard: A Beginner's Guide to Raising Chickens, Ducks, Geese, Rabbits, Goats, Sheep, and Cows - by Gail Damerow

Chickens: Tending a Small-Scale Flock for Pleasure and Profit (Hobby Farms) - by Sue Weaver

Building Chicken Coops: Storey Country Wisdom Bulletin A-224 - by Gail Damerow

Day Range Poultry: Every Chicken Owner's Guide to Grazing Gardens and Improving Pastures - by Andy Lee, Patricia Foreman, and Gene Logsdon

Chicken Websites (***) are my personal favorites)

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Good websites to help you learn to keep backyard chickens:

All you need to know, simplified -

***Just Food: NYC chickens <http://www.justfood.org/cityfarms/chickens/>

Portland OR Urban Chicken experts -

***Growing Gardens-Portland OR-Chickens <http://www.growing-gardens.org/portland-gardening-resources/chickens.php>

***Great series of "How To" chicken videos - http://www.expertvillage.com/video-series/2839_chickens.htm

***Backyard Chickens.com <http://www.backyardchickens.com/forum/index.php>

***Raising Chickens in the Backyard | Poultry Articles for Raising Chickens at poultryOne.com
<http://poultryone.com/raisingchickens.php>

***Virginia Cooperative extension Poultry Factsheets

<http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/poultry/factsheets/3.html>

http://www.ext.vt.edu/news/periodicals/livestock/aps-97_05/aps-783.html

*** <http://www.mypetchicken.com/Links.aspx>

Cary Chickens.com <http://carychickens.com/benefits>

the urban chicken project. <http://www.urbanchickenproject.com/Welcome.html>

The Urban Chicken Underground <http://urbanchickenunderground.blogspot.com/>

Small Scale Poultry Housing <http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/poultry/factsheets/10.html>

Chickens | Animal Lovers Web Chickens | Keeping Chickens

<http://www.animalloversweb.com/chickens.html>

The Ultimate Backyard Chicken Coop <http://www.henspa.com/>

Masters Of Chicken Keeping <http://www.chickenkeepingsecrets.com/masters/?code=S01>

What Is a Chicken? - Incubation and Embryology - University of Illinois Extension Agripedia |

<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/eggs/res08-whatish.html>

Digestive Tract of Chicken <http://www.ca.uky.edu/agripedia/glossary/digechic.htm>

Legalizing backyard chickens in Vancouver and surrounding municipalities:

British Columbia Urban Chickens Google Group <http://groups.google.com/group/BCUrbanChickens>

Vancouver Chicken group <http://groups.google.com/group/chickens-in-vancouver?hl=en>

Kamloops group http://www.campusclimatenetwork.org/wiki/Urban_Hen_Movement

The Bantam Menace, by Rachel Dewhurst - Documentaries - Showcase of Student Work from Vancouver Film School http://www.vfs.com/showcase.php?id=3&category_id=25&project_id=838

The next Food Policy Council meeting is Wednesday January 14th | Vancouver Food Policy Council <http://www.vancouverfoodpolicycouncil.ca/next-food-policy-council-meeting-wednesday-january-14th>

City Farmer, Vancouver BC <http://www.cityfarmer.info/category/livestock/>

Chicken bylaws, codes, and ordinances in North America (a few):

Victoria BC pro-chicken bylaw http://www.victoria.ca/common/pdfs/bylaw_92-189.pdf?zoom_highlight=rooster

Burnaby BC pro-chicken bylaws <http://burnaby.fileprosite.com/contentengine/launch.asp?ID=303>

City of Surrey - Animal Bylaw (only allowed on acre lots in city) <http://www.surrey.ca/Living+in+Surrey/Bylaw+Compliance/Animal+Control+Issues.htm>

Richmond bylaw (only allowed on half-acre lots in the city) 072400_bylaw71371280.pdf (application/pdf Object) http://www.richmond.ca/_shared/assets/072400_bylaw71371280.pdf

Toronto chx code - 349-1 Chapter 349 ANIMALS ARTICLE I Definitions § 349-1. Definitions. ARTICLE II http://209.85.173.132/search?q=cache:-XaKsrCqIIJ:www.toronto.ca/legdocs/municode/1184_349.pdf+Chapter+349-2+of+the+Toronto+Municipal+Code.&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=ca&client=firefox-a#15

Seattle Municipal Code for Keeping Chickens (allowed) — Seattle Tilth <http://www.seattletilth.org/resources/articles/citychickensregulations>

Portland OR pro-chicken ordinance - 13.05.015 PDX CHX law-Permit Required for Specified Animal Facility. <http://www.portlandonline.com/auditor/index.cfm?&a=185339&c=28228>

Municipal Codes Web Library by LexisNexis <http://municipalcodes.lexisnexis.com/>

Comments on: Understanding our local animal by-laws <http://kaleforce.wordpress.com/2008/07/17/now-with-jazzy-new-decision-tree>

Other Chicken or sustainable/urban agriculture websites:

City Farmer, Vancouver BC <http://www.cityfarmer.info/category/livestock/>

Garden Girl TV - urban sustainable home gardening techniques, tips, style and plans <http://www.gardengirltv.com/>