




# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee


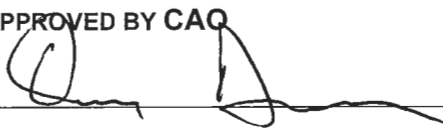
**To:** General Purposes Committee **Date:** April 22, 2020  
**From:** Cecilia Achiam **File:** 08-4040-01/2020-Vol  
 General Manager, Community Safety 01  
**Re:** **Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Allow Backyard Chickens on Properties within the Agricultural Land Reserve**

### Staff Recommendation

That the Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932, Amendment Bylaw No. 10157, to allow the keeping of backyard chickens on properties located within the Agricultural Land Reserve, be introduced and given first, second and third readings.

  
 Cecilia Achiam  
 General Manager, Community Safety  
 (604-276-4122)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Policy Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community Bylaw	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>
	
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>	
	

## Staff Report

### Origin

At the July 8, 2019 Council meeting, staff received the following referral:

*That staff study the viability of the current rules regarding chickens in backyards on properties within the Agricultural Land Reserve and properties outside the Agricultural Land Reserve.*

This report responds to the above referral and presents proposed amendments to Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932 (Animal Control Bylaw) to allow the keeping of chickens on all properties within the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR).

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2018-2022 Strategy #2 A Sustainable and Environmentally Conscious City:

*Environmentally conscious decision-making that demonstrates leadership in implementing innovative, sustainable practices and supports the City's unique biodiversity and island ecology.*

*2.3 Increase emphasis on local food systems, urban agriculture and organic farming.*

### Analysis

#### Current Provisions for Keeping Backyard Chickens in Richmond

For a community with a rich agricultural history such as Richmond, the notion of allowing backyard chickens is not unusual. Keeping backyard chickens has various benefits such as providing fresh eggs, teaching children/family where food comes from, providing personal enjoyment and providing companionship. Eight municipalities in Metro Vancouver allow the keeping of backyard chickens within properties (Attachment 1).

Agricultural land is primarily used for the production of food for human and animal consumption<sup>1</sup>. Under the current Animal Control Bylaw, the keeping of backyard chickens in Richmond is permitted on all properties but there is a requirement that the parcel size, where chickens will be kept, must be no less than 2,000 square metres (m<sup>2</sup>), or 21,529 square feet (sf). This minimum parcel size requirement applies to any zone, including the ALR. Therefore, any parcel less than the minimum size does not allow for the keeping of backyard chickens or poultry. There are approximately 278 parcels within the ALR (zoned AG) in the City that are less than 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>.

Properties located outside of the ALR must also meet the minimum parcel size of 2,000 m<sup>2</sup> to keep backyard chickens. With reference to backyard chickens complaints, staff received a total of 13 calls for service over the last three years (2016 to 2019). Further analysis determined that the current Animal Control Bylaw is sufficient for keeping and enforcing backyard chickens on

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/alc/content/alr-maps/living-in-the-alr/permitted-uses-in-the-alr>

properties outside of the ALR. Thus, there will be no proposed bylaw changes for keeping backyard chickens outside of ALR properties.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment to Allow Backyard Chickens on Properties within the ALR

To allow the keeping of backyard chickens on properties within the ALR, staff propose to amend the Animal Control Bylaw to exempt the parcel size requirements for properties located within the ALR. For clarity, this amendment will allow the keeping of backyard chickens on all parcels located within the ALR, regardless of lot size.

There will be no impact to the keeping of backyard chickens on properties outside of the ALR, which is currently allowed and requires a parcel size of no less than 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>. All other provisions for keeping backyard chickens are unchanged.

**Financial Impact**

None.

**Conclusion**

This report is in response to a Council referral regarding the keeping of backyard chickens within and outside the Agricultural Land Reserve. The current Animal Control Bylaw allows for keeping backyard chickens on any parcel but sets a parcel size requirement of no less than 2,000 m<sup>2</sup>. However, there is an inconsistency between the permitted use of poultry production on properties within the ALR and the Animal Control Bylaw due to the parcel size requirement. Staff recommend that the Animal Control Bylaw be amended to allow the keeping of backyard chickens for all parcels within the ALR.



Douglas Liu  
Program Manager, Business and Operational Analysis  
(604-276-4004)

DL:dl

Att. 1: Environmental Scan of Backyard Chicken Regulations

**Environmental Scan of Backyard Chicken Regulations**

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Permitted to have Backyard Chickens</b>	<b>Minimum Lot Size</b>	<b>Limits in the Number of Chickens</b>	<b>Zone</b>
<i>Richmond</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>2,000 m<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>No</i>	<i>All</i>
Burnaby	Yes	4,000 m <sup>2</sup>	No	Agriculture
Delta	Yes	2,000 m <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Single-family
North Vancouver (City)	Yes	557 m <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Single-family
North Vancouver (District)	Yes	No minimum	Yes	Single-family
New Westminster	Yes	557 m <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Single-family
Surrey	Yes	669 m <sup>2</sup>	Yes	Single-family
Vancouver	Yes	No minimum	Yes	Residential zones
Victoria	Yes	No minimum	No	All
Abbotsford	No			
Chilliwack	No			
Coquitlam	No			
Pitt Meadows	No			
Port Coquitlam	No			
Port Moody	No			
Langley (Township)	No			
Langley (City)	No			



**Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932  
Amendment Bylaw No. 10157**

The Council of the City of Richmond enacts as follows:

1. **Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932**, as amended, is further amended by deleting Section 3.1.1 and replacing it with the following:

“3.1.1 A person must not keep poultry:

- (a) on a parcel with an area of less than 2,000 square meters (21,529 square feet); or
- (b) in, upon, or under any structure used for human habitation

provided that, section 3.1.1(a) shall not apply to any **parcel** located within the Agricultural Land Reserve (as such term is defined in the *Richmond Zoning – Bylaw 8500*).”;

2. This Bylaw is cited as “**Animal Control Regulation Bylaw No. 7932, Amendment Bylaw No. 10157.**”

FIRST READING

SECOND READING

THIRD READING

ADOPTED

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CITY OF RICHMOND
APPROVED for content by originating dept.
APPROVED for legality by Solicitor

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CORPORATE OFFICER