TOWN OF NANTON

Information Supplement

URBAN CHICKENS AND BEEKEEPING LICENSING

This information sheet provides basic information on the Urban Chicken and Beekeeping application process. The information is a summary of the Town's Urban Chicken Bylaw and Urban Bee Bylaw. In the event of any discrepancy/omission, the Bylaws take precedence – you are encouraged to review them.

Pre-application meetings are not required for Chicken and Bee Licenses. Staff may require a pre-application meeting if the complexity of the application warrants it. If you would like to speak with the Town Office before submitting your application, please contact us at 403-636-2029 and we would be pleased to assist you further.

May I raise chickens or bees on my property?

Yes, the Town permits backyard chicken husbandry and/or beekeeping in certain types of residential properties, including the R-GEN Land Use District (zone), under certain conditions:

- Principal dwelling/ accessory use setbacks established in the Land Use Bylaw for your property must be observed if applicable.
- A single parcel of residential property cannot be licensed for both Urban Chickens and Beekeeping together unless the site is equal to or greater than 0.3 acres or 1,214 square metres in area.
- Adjoining neighbours to a license-holding residence cannot hold a license for the same animal unless their residential parcel is equal to or greater than 0.3 acres or 1,214 square metres in area.

URBAN CHICKEN/ Bee License Application Requirements

- Chicken and Bee License application form
- Annual License Fee (must renew annually): Chickens - $60 (max 3) / Bees - $100 (up to 2 hives)
- Provide written description, drawings and/or photos that describe exactly where on the property the coop/beehive will be placed.
- You must consult all neighbours (anyone with whom you share a property line) – *the Town strongly recommends that you have an open and honest dialogue with your neighbours about an application well before you apply. This is good for the neighbourhood in general.*

What do I need to do before I apply for an URBAN CHICKEN/ Bee License?

- Each applicant must complete a chicken husbandry or beekeeping or course from an accepted organization or association in order to be approved for a license (alternate experience will be considered).
- Obtain a Premises Identification Number through provincial government services
- Consider contacting the Calgary and District Beekeepers Association or Alberta Farm Animal Care (Urban Chickens).

You are encouraged to also investigate liability insurance coverage in the event that a neighbour/visitor/ member of the public might be impacted by an incident related to your chicken or beekeeping.

Other Important Information - CHICKENS

The following is a summary that does not cover all rules and regulations.

- You must obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulations of the *Alberta Animal Health Act*
- You should obtain liability insurance
- Operation is for personal use only (no sales)
- No more than 3 hens are allowed per property. **No roosters.**
- Each hen must be provided with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the hen in good health.
- No hen shall be slaughtered on the property. Hens will be disposed of by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other operation that I lawfully permitted to dispose of hens.
- Coops are restricted to rear yards with reasonable protection from access to other animals or children.
- Each coop must provide each hen with at least 0.37sq. m of interior floor area and at least 0.92 sq. m of outdoor area within the enclosure. There must be at least one nest box per coop and one perch per hen that is at least 15 cm long.
- Maintain the coop in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances
- Construct and maintain the coop to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal.
- There must be one nest box per coop and one perch per hen that is at least 15cm long.
- Peace Officers will have the automatic right of entry to your property for inspection.
- The Town has the right to revoke your license if you are not following the regulations. You can appeal the decision to revoke or to otherwise deny you of the license to the CAO.

Other Important Information - BEES

The following is a summary that does not cover all rules and regulations.

- Only *Apis melifera L*, (honeybees) are allowed
- No more than 2 hives are allowed per property.
- Hives may be in the rear yards only.
- Hives must be within yards enclosed by a 1.8 m high hedge or solid fence
- Hive entrances are to be directed away from neighbouring properties.
- Operation is for personal use only (no sales)
- You must annually register with Alberta Agriculture through the Provincial Apiculturist for Alberta. Unregistered owners are subject to fine or imprisonment under the Bee Act
- You must obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulations of the *Alberta Animal Health Act*
- You should obtain liability insurance
- Peace Officers will have automatic right of entry to your property for inspection.
- The Town has the right to revoke your license if you are not following the regulations. You can appeal the decision to revoke or to otherwise deny you of the license to the CAO.

FINES

The specified penalties for any contravention of THESE BYLAWS are specified for within a twelve (12) month period, as follows:

First Offence: $250.00 Second Offence: $500.00 Third Offence: $750.00