



TOWN OF  
**HALTON HILLS**  
*Working Together Working for You!*

## REPORT

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**TO:** Mayor Bonnette and Members of Council

**FROM:** Susie Spry, Manager of Enforcement Services

**DATE:** August 10, 2022

**REPORT NO.:** ADMIN-2022-0034

**SUBJECT:** Amendments to Responsible Pet Owner's By-law No. 1994-077

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### RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Report No. ADMIN-2022-0034 dated August 10, 2022 regarding amendments to the Town's Responsible Pet Owner's By-law 1994-077 be received;

AND FURTHER THAT By-law 1994-077, a by-law to regulate, licence and control the keeping of dogs and animals other than dogs within the Town of Halton Hills be amended to allow for the keeping of Urban Hens on any property where compliance with the regulations can be met;

AND FURTHER THAT Council approve and execute the amendments to allow for the keeping of Urban Hens as well as other housekeeping amendments to By-law 1994-077 as outlined in the draft By-law (Appendix A).

### KEY POINTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- Staff were directed to assess the feasibility of an Urban Hen program.
- Council received and approved ADMIN-2021-0016 and ADMIN-2021-0031 which reported on public feedback and outlined the proposed regulations.
- Staff are ready to implement and enforce new regulations under the Responsible Pet Owner's By-law that allow for the keeping of Urban Hens and are seeking Council approval of the draft By-law.

## BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:

In 2021, Council received reports ADMIN-2021-0016 and ADMIN-2021-0031 with respect to the keeping of Urban Hens. These reports provided Council with an overview of the public consultation that was completed through two on-line surveys and a Public Open House. The majority of respondents indicated support for allowing Urban Hens and the proposed regulations. The keeping of Urban Hens requires commitment to becoming educated about how hens must be cared for to ensure that they are kept in a manner that protects animal welfare and public health. Enforcement of the provisions would fall under the responsibility of the Town's Canine Control Contractor as enforcing the Responsible Pet Owner's By-law is the primary function of the service.

There are additional amendments listed below that are not in relation to the keeping of Urban Hens but have been identified as requiring updating due to the changes in fees for various services and licenses.

By-law 1994-077 would be amended as follows:

Section 1, DEFINITIONS be amended to include the following;

- (a) "At Large" means in the case of a dog being in a place other than a property owned or occupied by its owner and not under the control of its owner or another person acting on behalf of the owner and, in the case of a hen, means being outside of a coop or run;
- (b) "Coop" means a fully enclosed weatherproof building where hens are kept and which the interior of includes nest boxes for egg laying, perches for the hens to sleep on and food and water containers;
- (c) "Hen" means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four months old;
- (d) "Hen Run" means a covered secure enclosure that allows hens' access to the outdoors;
- (e) "Herding Dog" means a dog that has been trained to and is actively being used in a bona fide farming operation for the purposes of controlling livestock on the farm;
- (f) "Livestock Guardian Animal" means an animal that works and/or lives with domestic farm animals (eg. Cattle, sheep, poultry) to protect them while repelling predators and is used exclusively for that purpose.
- (g) "Service Dog" means a dog that has been trained to assist a person who has a disability.

Section 4(a), REGISTRATION AND LICENSING will be amended to read;

- 4(a) Every owner of a dog shall pay the license fee prescribed in the Town's Rates and Fees By-law.
- 4(b) Notwithstanding subsection above, an owner of a Herding Dog, Livestock Guardian Animal or Service Dog shall not be subject to any licensing fees.

Section 6.1, PROHIBITED ANIMALS will be amended to read:

- 6(1)(e) No person shall keep, or cause to be kept, a horse, donkey, pony, mule, cow or steer, goat, swine, sheep, duck, or goose within the Town of Halton Hills except on land zoned and lawfully used for agricultural purposes pursuant to any restricted area by-law enacted under Section 34 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 Chap.P.13, as amended.

Section 7(d)(ii), ANIMAL CONTROL will be amended to read;

- 7(d)(ii) upon payment of the redemption fees as set out in the Town's Rates and Fees By-law.

Schedule "B" Section 1, DOG LICENCES will be amended to read:

- 1. The licence fee as set out in the Town's Rates and Fees By-law shall be determined for the following licences:
  - (a) Annual Licence
  - (b) Extended 2 – Year Licence
  - (c) Extended 3 – Year Licence

2. REPLACEMENT TAGS

As set out in the Town's Rates and Fees By-law.

Schedule "C" will be amended to read:

REDEMPTION FEES PAYABLE TO THE TOWN'S CONTRACTED ANIMAL SERVICE

- (a) Where a dog has been caught running at large the redemption fee shall be as set out in the Town's Rates and Fees By-law.

Schedule "F" will be added to read:

## SCHEDULE "F" TO BY-LAW 94-077

### Regulations for the keeping of Hens

#### **Keeping of Hens**

1. Every owner of hens shall keep them in accordance with the following requirements:
  - a. a maximum of 4 hens shall be permitted to be kept per lot;
  - b. all hens shall be a minimum of 4 months old;
  - c. hens shall be kept in a hen coop or hen run at all times; and
  - d. subject to the exception that hens shall be kept in a locked hen coop from 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., hens shall have access to a hen run at all times.
2. Every owner who keeps both hens and pigeons on a single lot shall ensure that they are kept in separate enclosures and no other type of animal shall be permitted to be kept within a pigeon loft, hen coop or hen run.
3. Every owner must ensure that their hens shall be:
  - a. provided with adequate access to food and clean water;
  - b. kept in a clean and healthy condition free from disease and, where necessary, shall be provided with veterinary care; and
  - c. provided with appropriate space and environmental conditions conducive to good health, including but not limited to, the opportunity to socialize and engage in fundamental behaviours such as scratching, roosting and dust bathing.
4. Every hen owner shall:
  - a. reside on the lot where such animals are kept; and
  - b. ensure that their hens are kept in a manner to not cause a nuisance to any adjacent neighbour.
  - c. within seven (7) days following the date a hen comes into his/her possession, shall be licensed and registered with the Town.
  - d. The license fee shall be as set out in the Town's Rates and Fees By-law.

**STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:**

This report is administrative in nature and does not have an impact on the Town's Strategic Plan.

**RELATIONSHIP TO CLIMATE CHANGE:**

This report is administrative in nature and does not directly impact or address climate change and the Town's Net Zero target.

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT:**

Public Engagement has been conducted as follows: 2 Online Surveys and an Open House/PIC/Workshop

**INTERNAL CONSULTATION:**

Throughout the process, Enforcement staff have worked with Communications for the public engagement as well as the development of a webpage dedicated to Urban Hens with educational resources and other useful information to ensure residents are equipped with the tools and information required to be a successful hen keeper.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This report is administrative in nature and does not have any financial implications.

Reviewed and approved by,

Valerie Petryniak, Town Clerk & Director of Legislative Services

Chris Mills, Chief Administrative Officer