

## Backyard Hen and Duck Enclosure Guide:

The District of Mackenzie now allows the keeping of backyard hens and ducks in certain residential areas within the townsite for egg-laying purposes. This decision was made based on the overwhelming support from the community. To ensure the well-being of the animals and minimize any impact on neighbouring properties, residents interested in keeping backyard hens and ducks must fulfill the District's requirements. Additionally, prospective hen and/or duck keepers need to complete the following tasks before applying for a Backyard Hen and/or Duck Permit:

### 1. Understand your property's zoning:

- Familiarize yourself with the District of Mackenzie Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, which regulates the permitted areas for backyard hen and duck keeping in the townsite.
- Contact the District office for assistance in verifying the zoning of your property to determine if it allows for backyard hens and ducks.

### 2. Complete the backyard hen and duck enclosure checklist and understand District requirements:

- Once you have confirmed that your property is eligible for backyard hen and duck keeping, complete the provided backyard hen and duck enclosure checklist.
- Familiarize yourself with the District's regulations and requirements for backyard hen and duck keeping by reviewing the District's Zoning and Animal Control and Licensing Bylaws.
- If you have any questions or need clarification regarding the requirements, reach out to the District office for further assistance.

### 3. Familiarize yourself with hen and duck care and health considerations:

- Conduct research and gather information about the basics of hen and duck care, including their dietary needs, suitable housing, and health maintenance.
- Educate yourself about common diseases and parasites that may affect hens and ducks and learn preventive measures to keep them healthy.
- Understand proper feeding practices, appropriate bedding materials, and regular cleaning routines for the hen and duck enclosure.

#### Resources:

Hens:

<https://spca.bc.ca/news/backyard-chickens/>

Ducks:

<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/how-should-i-keep-and-care-for-my-pet-ducks/>

<https://www.ruralsprout.com/raising-ducks/>

Government of Canada – How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds:  
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>

Province of BC – Small Flock Poultry Health:  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small\\_flock\\_manual.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small_flock_manual.pdf)

**4. Prepare a suitable enclosure for hens and ducks:**

- Ensure that your hen and duck enclosure provides sufficient space, proper ventilation, and protection against predators.
- Set up nesting boxes for hens and ducks to lay eggs and provide suitable bedding material for their comfort.
- Install fencing or barriers to prevent hens and ducks from accessing restricted areas or neighbouring properties.

**5. Address noise and odour concerns:**

- Take proactive measures to minimize potential noise disturbances caused by hens and ducks, particularly during early morning hours.
- Implement effective waste management practices to control odours, including regular cleaning of the enclosure and proper disposal of waste.

**6. Seek support and cooperation from neighbours:**

- Inform your neighbours about your plans to keep backyard hens and ducks, addressing any concerns they may have.
- Foster open communication and offer to address any issues or conflicts that may arise from your hen and duck-keeping activities.

**7. Complete and submit the Backyard Hen and or Duck Permit Application:**

- Fill out the Backyard Hen and or Duck Permit Application form and checklist completely and accurately.
- Submit the application along with the required permit application fee of \$25 to Animal Control/Bylaw Services.
- Ensure that you receive your permit before keeping hens and or ducks on your property.

**8. Schedule an inspection with a District staff member:**

- Once your permit application and fee have been submitted and preliminarily approved by the District office, schedule an inspection of your property with a District staff member.
- Make sure that all the necessary requirements, including the hen/duck coop, pen, and other specifications, are in place before the inspection.

- The inspection will determine if your property meets the requirements for keeping hens and or ducks. If all requirements are satisfied, the District will issue your permit, allowing you to keep hens and or ducks on your parcel.
- In the event that your property is eligible for backyard hens and or ducks but does not meet certain requirements (such as coop/pen location or fencing), you may reapply for a permit by providing an additional permit fee.

Please note that the District staff member will provide specific instructions and guidelines for the inspection process. If you have any further questions or need assistance, contact Animal Control/Bylaw Services at the District office.

Note: Rural residential properties in the Gantahaz and Gagnon subdivision do not adhere to these backyard hen and duck regulations. Please refer to the District's Animal Control and Licencing Bylaw for information on the keeping of these animals in these areas.