

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF PETAWAWA
BY-LAW XXXX/25

Being a By-law to regulate and license the keeping of backyard chickens
within the Town of Petawawa

WHEREAS Section 11(3) of the Municipal Act, 2001 S.O. 2001 c.25, authorizes the councils of municipalities to pass by-laws with respect to animals;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Town of Petawawa deems it appropriate to enact a by-law for this purpose;

AND WHEREAS certain rules and conditions must be established to limit disruption to residents, as provided for in this by-law;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petawawa enacts as follows:

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this by-law is to establish regulations and conditions under which residents may keep chickens within the boundaries of the Town of Petawawa.

1.2 Scope

Except as otherwise provided, the regulations established by this By-law apply to all backyard chickens within the boundaries of the Town of Petawawa and the owners of backyard chickens.

DEFINITIONS

In this By-law, the following definitions shall apply:

2.1 “Animal” shall mean all species of fauna excluding humans, fish and aquatic invertebrates.

2.2 “Animal Control Officer” shall mean a person appointed by the Council whose duties include the administration and enforcement of this By-law.

2.3 “At large” shall mean to be any animal found in any place other than premises of the owner and not under the physical control of a person responsible.

2.4 “Backyard Chickens” means a domesticated female chicken or a Capon that are permitted under Section 3 of this By-law and does not include roosters.

- 2.5 “By-law Enforcement Officer”** means a person appointed by the Town of Petawawa to enforce municipal by-laws.
- 2.6 “Chicken Run”** means a covered secure enclosure that allows backyard chickens access to the outdoors.
- 2.7 “Coop”** means a fully enclosed and weatherproof structure where chickens are kept, providing shelter, nesting, and roosting space.
- 2.8 “Council” and “Town Council”** mean the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petawawa.
- 2.9 “Dwelling”** means a building or part of a building containing one or more dwelling units.
- 2.10 “Farm”** means land used for the tillage of soil; the growing and harvesting of field crops, vegetables, fruits, horticulture crops and trees; the grazing, breeding, raising, boarding or training of livestock and horses; dairying; beekeeping, fish farming; any other operation that is normal farming practice; and includes one farm dwelling as well as barns, sheds and other accessory structures. A farm use includes a hobby farm but shall not include a Limited Farm.
- 2.11 “Front Yard”** means a yard extending across the full width of a lot between the front lot line and the nearest part of any building, structure or excavation on the lot; **FRONT YARD DEPTH** means the shortest horizontal distance between the front lot line of the lot and the nearest part of any building, structure or excavation on the lot.
- 2.12 “Licence”** means a permit issued by the Town of Petawawa authorizing the keeping of backyard chickens in accordance with this By-law.
- 2.13 “Limited Farm”** means land used for growing and harvesting field, bush, vine, forest or tree crops or grazing and does not include a farm dwelling and accessory buildings and uses.
- 2.14 “Livestock”** means chickens, turkeys, cattle, hogs, mink, rabbits, sheep, horses, goats or any domestic animal used or raised for consumption or for commercial purposes.
- 2.15 “Owner”** shall mean any person, partnership, association or corporation that owns, keeps, possesses or has control, care or custody over an animal, and where the owner is a minor, the person responsible for the custody of the minor.
- 2.16 “Poultry”** means domesticated birds raised for eggs, meat, or feathers, including chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese.
- 2.17 “Rear Yard”** means a yard extending across the full width of a lot between the rear lot line and the nearest part of any building, structure or excavation on the

lot; REAR YARD DEPTH means the shortest horizontal distance between the rear lot line of the lot and the nearest part of any building, structure or excavation on the lot.

- 2.18 “Residential Property”** means land used for residential purposes but does not include Rural Property.
- 2.19 “Rooster”** means a male chicken.
- 2.20 “Rural Property”** means lands zoned Rural (RU) in the Zoning By-law of the Town of Petawawa.
- 2.21 “Setback”** means, with reference to a road, the distance between the centre line of the road and the nearest building or structure and with reference to a water body, the distance between the high-water mark and the nearest building or structure.

GENERAL

3.1 Property Eligibility

- 3.1.1 Only properties with an existing dwelling are eligible.
- 3.1.2 The following residential uses are ineligible: apartment units, condominium units, duplexes, townhomes and other multi-residential uses without individual backyards.
- 3.1.3 Properties with a commercial or industrial use are not eligible.
- 3.1.4 The regulations set out in this by-law do not apply to a farm on a Rural Property that is greater than 5 hectares.

3.2 Hens Only

- 3.2.1 Only hens are permitted.
- 3.2.2 No hen shall be younger than four (4) months of age.
- 3.2.3 This By-law prohibits the keeping of Roosters, with the sole exception being a farm on a Rural Property that is greater than 5 hectares.

3.3 Maximum Number

- 3.3.1 No more than six (6) backyard chickens may be kept per eligible Residential Property.
- 3.3.2 No more than twelve (12) backyard chickens will be permitted on Rural Properties that are less than 5 hectares in area.

3.4 Other Applicable Legislation

Any other applicable federal or provincial legislation will apply in addition to this by-law.

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR KEEPING BACKYARD HENS AND COOPS

- 4.1** Chicken coops, shelters and runs must comply with the Ontario Building Code.
- 4.2** Chicken coops, shelters and runs must be less than 2.4 metres (8 feet) in height.
- 4.3** Chicken coops, shelters and runs are only permitted in the rear yard and shall be a minimum of 3.0 metres from the rear lot line and a minimum of 3.0 metres from the side lot lines of the dwelling lot on which they are located.
- 4.4** Chicken coops, shelters and chicken runs shall be located at least 15 metres from any institutional uses such as schools and churches.
- 4.5** Chicken coops, shelters and runs shall be located at least 7.5 metres from any commercial or industrial uses.
- 4.6** Coops, shelters and runs must be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, free from odours, vermin, and waste buildup.
- 4.7** Backyard chickens/hens must be kept in their coops between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- 4.8** Hens must be provided with daily access to food and clean water, and they must be kept in clean and dry shelters.
- 4.9** The sale of eggs, manure, meat, or hens is prohibited.
- 4.10** Breeding or commercial production is not permitted.
- 4.11** Hens found with parasites or disease must be treated by a veterinarian.
- 4.12** Slaughtering hens on the property is prohibited. Dead hens must be disposed of immediately through a licenced facility or veterinarian.
- 4.13** Manure must be stored in sealed containers, composted or disposed of weekly, and it must be located with the same setback as the coop.
- 4.14** The owner must ensure the keeping of hens is in accordance with the Prohibit Unusual Noises By-law.
- 4.15** No owner shall cause or permit their chicken to be at large.

LICENCE REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Licence Requirement

- 5.1.1 No person shall keep backyard chickens within the Town of Petawawa without first obtaining a valid licence issued by the Town in accordance with this by-law.
- 5.1.2 Tenants must obtain and provide written permission from the property owner to keep backyard chickens on the owner's property.
- 5.1.3 The applicant/owner of the backyard chickens must reside on the property where the backyard chickens/hens are kept

5.2 Licence Application

To apply for a licence, the applicant must submit a completed application form to the Town including a sketch/plan showing details of the coop, shelter and/or run, the location of the coop, shelter and/or run on the property, and the proximity of those elements to property lines and any other structures on the property.

5.3 Licence Fee

The fee for a licence to keep backyard chickens shall be set by the Town and may be amended from time to time.

5.4 Licence Term and Renewal

- 5.4.1 Every licence issued pursuant to this By-law shall expire on the 31st day of December for the year in which it was issued. Applicants are required to renew their licence annually to keep backyard chickens.
- 5.4.2 A change in ownership or occupancy (i.e. new tenants) of the property shall make the Backyard Chickens Licence null and void.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

6.1 Administration

The Clerk or said designate shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of this by-law.

6.2 Offence

- 6.2.1 Every person who contravenes any provision of this By-law is guilty of an offence and shall, upon conviction be subject to such fines as may be provided for pursuant to the provisions of the Provincial Offences Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.P.33, as amended.

- 6.2.2 Each day on which a person contravenes any provision of this bylaw shall be deemed to constitute a separate offence under this bylaw as provided for in section 429(2) of the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, c. 25
- 6.2.3 No person shall obstruct, hinder or otherwise interfere with a Police Officer, Municipal Law Enforcement Officer, or another duly appointed individual in the lawful carrying out of their duties and responsibilities under the provisions of this By-law.

6.3 Interpretation

In the interpretation of this by-law, words in the singular include the plural and vice-versa, words in one gender include all genders, and "person" includes an individual, body corporate, partnership, trust, and unincorporated organization.

6.4 Powers of the Officer

The Officer may enter at all reasonable times upon the lands to ascertain whether the provisions of this by-law are complied with and to enforce and carry into effect the provisions of this by-law.

SEVERABILITY

- 7.1 In the event any part or provision of this by-law is held invalid, the remainder of the by-law shall continue in force.
- 7.2 That it is hereby recognized that this By-law may be revoked and repealed at any time by Council of the Corporation of the Town of Petawawa.
- 7.3 Where there is a conflict between this By-law and the Town of Petawawa Animal Control By-law, the provisions of this By-law shall prevail.

SHORT TITLE

8. This by-law may be referred to as the "Backyard Chickens By-law".

EFFECTIVE DATE

9. This by-law comes into force and effect on the day By-law XXXX/XX [Related Zoning By-law Amendment] comes into force and effect.

By-law read a first and second time this ____ day of _____ 2025.

By-law read a third time and passed this ____ day of _____ 2025.

Signature of the Mayor

Signature of the Clerk

DRAFT