Chamberlain, Lisa

Subject: RE: Backyard hens pilot project

From: Jessica Hodgins
Sent: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 11:38 AM
To: clerk@hamilton.ca
Subject: Backyard hens pilot project

This email is in regards to and for the backyard hens pilot project.

During the outbreak of Covid19, I though it would be a really wonderful experience raising baby chicks with my five year old son. He wasn't able to see his friends or his grandparents, and I thought this would be a good distraction. I thought we would raise them until they were old enough to go to my friends farm. I didn't know that we would fall in love with them like we did our dog and our cat, but we did. We talked to our immediate neighbours and they all agreed that as long as we didn't have a rooster and didn't attract rats that they had no problem with us keeping our two lovely barred rock hens in our own backyard. I did a lot research and learned that chickens themselves don't attract rats, but it was there food. We built a cute little henhouse and secured it with hardware cloth around the entire coop including the bottom and stored our food inside our house. Our chickens ran around the yard eating bugs including ticks(which have become a nuisance in Hamilton area) and fertilizing our grass and gardens. Chickens are not just mindless meat nuggets. They have personality and are loving and my family loved them. They would run to greet us, looking for treats, just like my dog would do. They loved us and we loved them. When we had to give them to my friend to live at her farm it was really difficult. My son and I were saddened and frustrated that we couldn't have our two little pets to keep at our home.
I think what is holding Hamilton back from having backyard chickens, which many people support, is education. There are ways to raise chickens in a respectful, clean, and humane way, for which benefits greatly outweigh the negatives.

Thank you for considering this pilot project and maybe we will be able to bring our friends back home

Sincerely,
Jessica Hodgins