

Feedback from Surrounding Municipalities that Allow Backyard Hens Regarding Complaints

“We had many people send letters of support of how it teaches their children responsibility.” - David Wiedrick, Manager, Bylaw Compliance, Security and Licensing, Operations Department, City of Guelph in response to the positive feedback the City of Guelph has received since allowing backyard chickens.

“In Niagara Falls, where backyard chickens have been permitted for 20 years, there were 10 complaints to the city about the animals in 2016. In that same time period, there were 500 noise complaints about dogs.” – Source Councillor Justin DiCiano, Toronto

“We received 12 complaints of chickens in 2017 (this included chickens running at large, coops too close to property lines, and ensuring the condition of the coops for hygiene). Zero in 2018. Most people are good and communicate with their neighbours and share the eggs laid from the hens.” – Source David Wiedrick, Manager, Bylaw Compliance, Security and Licensing, Operations Department, City of Guelph – February 14, 2018

“In Guelph, there are about 40 chickens per 40,000 households and a handful of complaints from neighbours per year.” – Source CBC News, December 13, 2012

“The City of Kingston issued 23 backyard hen permits in 2017. The By-Law Enforcement Department has received only a couple of complaints over the past several years since the program was adopted. The City has received feedback from stakeholders which include the following benefits:

- Fosters responsibility within the family dynamics (creates potential growth, responsibility, teamwork and leadership from parents to children)
- Promotes community local food source sharing
- Sustainable initiative
- Health and wellness benefits which include an excellent source of protein and Vitamins A, D, E and Vitamin B12
- Education and awareness”

– Source Kevin Pickell, Licensing Agent, Licensing and Enforcement, Planning, Building, Licensing and Enforcement, Community Services, City of Kingston – February 16, 2018