

From: Jeremy Compton
Date: 14 January, 2012 10:42:04 AM EST
To: "McHattie, Brian" <Brian.McHattie@hamilton.ca>
Cc: Dale Brown <Dale.Brown@hamilton.ca>
Subject: Urban Chickens in Hamilton.

Mr. McHattie, (and Mr. Brown)

I recently read an article from the Hamilton Spectator in regards to city council voting to remove restriction on limitations on how many "pets" can be owned/housed on a property in Hamilton. I also read that council also voted down the proposed review of positive and negatives of allowing "urban chickens" in our city limits.

To me it sounds very irresponsible to not have restrictions on the amount of pets permitted to be owned by a resident. Yet at the same time, I am very disappointed that Hamilton will not even consider allowing chickens in our city.

The Spectator indicated Public health has said the risks with chickens is no different than with cats or dogs.

I would really like to see city council really look at the "urban chicken" idea and give some serious consideration.

Having a limit to 2 or 3 chickens would be reasonable, as would a 'no rooster' rule.

Current city by-laws would be mostly enough to control any problems that could arise. Realistically, if chickens were permitted, I believe very few people would even acquire chickens. This means the chances of issues are small, and limited, as it's likely only people who actually have the time and knowledge would actually even consider owning chickens.

There is currently a petition in the baby stages which is hoping to bring council to really look into the chicken issue.

I really hope that you will take into consideration that there are hundreds, if not thousands, of Hamiltonians who are responsible enough to care for chickens and not disturb others in the process.

Urban farming and self sufficiency is something many people in Hamilton value, and this would very much enrich the lives of those citizens.

Thank you for taking the time to hear/read my words, I am grateful.

Jeremy Compton