

Appendix 2: Toronto Urban Hen Pilot Program Requirements

Enclosure Requirements:

Requirements vary depending on the specific zoning requirements in the area, but coops must be no more than two metres high and a maximum of 100 square feet floor area. Coops must provide each hen with at least four square feet of coop floor area and at least 10 square feet of roofed outdoor enclosure. They must also include a perch that is at least eight inches long and separate nest boxes for each hen. They also need to have a roof and lockable doors.

Yard Placement:

Coops must be located in the backyard, at least one metre away from any property line. It is recommended that the coop is a minimum of three metres away from doors and windows of neighbouring houses. Residents participating in the Pilot must allow City staff to attend and inspect to ensure compliance.

Animal Welfare:

Residents are accountable for the health and welfare of their hens, and failure to maintain standards of care could result in animal cruelty charges and/or fines. Hens must remain on their owners' property and residents must provide a weather-proof and insulated enclosure with suitable temperatures for good health.

Waste and Disposal:

Coops should be cleaned regularly and manure composted or properly disposed of. Deceased hens must be disposed of immediately at a livestock disposal facility, veterinarian or through the Animal Shelter.

Additional requirements:

The resident agrees to take necessary action at their sole cost and expense to reduce the attraction of predators and rodents and the potential infestation of insects and parasites to the satisfaction of the Executive Director.

For more information, please refer to <https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/animals-pets/pets-in-the-city/backyard-hens/>