

So, You Want To Keep Chickens

Here's what you need to know:

1. Rules and Regulations
2. What Chickens Need
3. Coop Making Tips
4. READY, SET, GO!

1. RULES & REGULATIONS

The Basics

Once you've decided to own chickens, you'll need to review Vancouver's bylaws, learn how to care for your hens and register your hens with the city.

You are allowed to own a maximum of 4 hens in the City of Vancouver. That's only hens! No roosters, no goats and no ducks.

You cannot use your chickens for commercial purposes and backyard slaughter is prohibited!

Resources

You can find out more about backyard chickens at:

- The City of Vancouver website (vancouver.ca)
- The BC Chicken Growers' Association website (bcchicken.ca)

2. WHAT CHICKENS NEED

Food and Water

Chickens are omnivores, which means that they can eat a wide variety of items. Chickens typically eat grain mixtures, including corn, barley, wheat, rye and soy. This diet can be supplemented with various vegetables from your kitchen.

Make sure to change your chickens' water regularly to keep it free of dust, debris and feathers. During the winter months, be sure to use a water dispenser with a built in heater, so that the water doesn't freeze.

Companionship

It is important to have at least two chickens, as they are flock animals and need companionship. Chickens will develop a social hierarchy, also known as a pecking order. So, you don't need to worry if you see an occasional peck!

3. COOP MAKING TIPS

Walls

Build your walls with water resistant, anti-fungal materials that can be easily cleaned. Treated wood works well and is good for keeping out cool drafts!! purposes and backyard slaughter is prohibited!

Roof and Windows

Make sure your roof is well insulated and slanted for water runoff. A layer of tar paper will help protect the coop from large rainfalls. A window will provide much needed ventilation.

Floor

Plan for a coop floor that will be easy to clean and will retain heat. Concrete is ideal—easy to clean, discourages rodents and can be better insulated with the addition of some straw.

4. READY, SET, GO!

Owning chickens is a responsibility not to be clucked at. Chickens have distinctive personalities and can live for up to 10 years. If, after doing some research about what's involved in caring for chickens, you feel that you could provide a good chicken home, then it's time to get started.

Chicken feed can be found at pet or agricultural supply stores. You can find coop building materials at your local hardware store or you can purchase coop building blueprints and kits from an online retailer.

Last but not least, enjoy your chickens!