

## Backyard Hen and Duck Enclosure Checklist:

1. Obtain Backyard Hen and/or Duck Permit:
  - Secure a Backyard Hen and/or Duck Permit from the District before keeping backyard hens and/or ducks.
2. Check Property Zoning:
  - Ensure that the property is zoned as R1 (Residential 1), R2 (Residential 2), or R3 (Residential 3).
3. Property and Ownership Requirements:
  - The property is a single-detached dwelling.
  - A resident of the property will be responsible for caring for the hens and/or ducks.
  - Written consent obtained from the property owner (if the applicant is not the property owner).
4. Rooster Restrictions:
  - Note that roosters are prohibited.
5. Hen and Duck Quantity:
  - On properties 500 m<sup>2</sup> or less, a maximum of 4 hens or ducks may be permitted (each additional 100 m<sup>2</sup> of lot area, one additional hen or duck may be kept to a maximum of 8 hens or ducks combined).
6. Coop and Run Location:
  - Locate the hen/duck coop and run in the backyard of the property.
7. Secure Backyard Fencing:
  - Ensure that the backyard is fully fenced without any gaps, holes, or missing fence boards.
8. Coop Size and Placement:
  - The hen and/or duck coop should not exceed 8.0m<sup>2</sup> in size and should not be taller than 2.0m.
  - Maintain a distance of at least 4.0m between any part of the hen and/or duck coop and pen and the property lines.
9. Containment of Hens and Ducks:
  - Ensure that hens and/or ducks cannot leave the premises of the coop and pen.

10. Proper Care for Hens and Ducks:

- Provide sufficient food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, and veterinary care to ensure the good health of the hens and/or ducks.

11. Regular Maintenance:

- Regularly attend to the hen and/or duck coop and pen to maintain a clean habitat and minimize odor.

12. Secure Food Storage:

- Store all food in a secure manner that does not attract bears, vermin, and other wildlife.

If you contravene any of the District's requirements after securing your Backyard Hen and or Duck Permit, you may be liable to have your permit revoked.

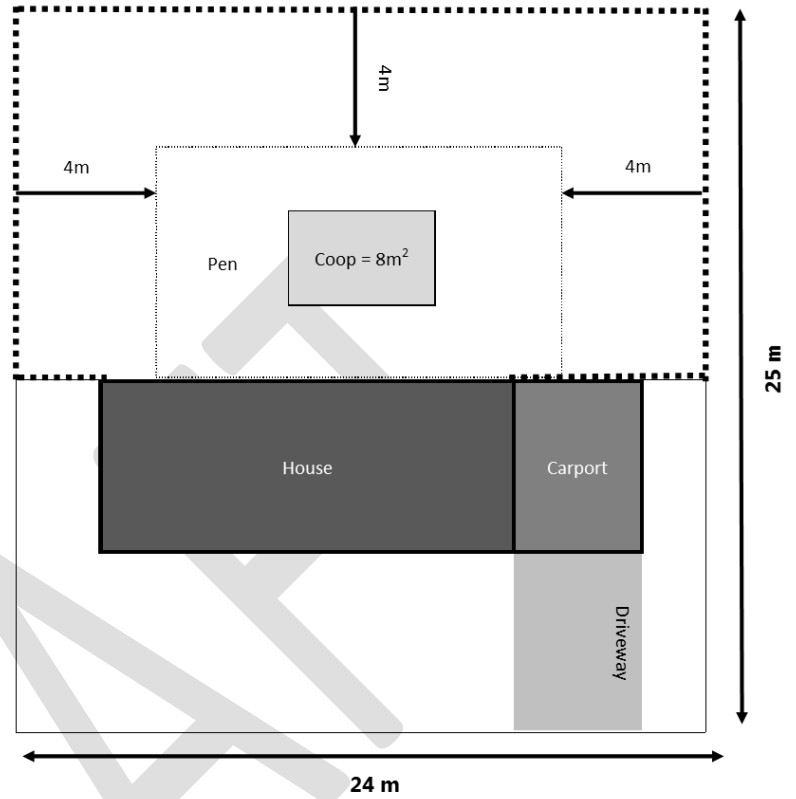
For additional information or inquiries, please contact Animal Control by phone at 250-997-3882 or by email at [animalcontrol@districtofmackenzie.ca](mailto:animalcontrol@districtofmackenzie.ca).

**Regulations from Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, 2017**

**Section 4.24 Backyard Hen and Duck Enclosures**

1. Where permitted within a zone, a backyard hen and duck enclosure must, unless otherwise indicated in a zone, comply with the following regulations:
  - i. Backyard hen and duck enclosures must be clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the dwelling for residential purposes, and must be conducted by a resident of the parcel
  - ii. On properties 500 m<sup>2</sup> or less a maximum of four (4) hens or ducks may be kept.
    - i. For each additional full 100 m<sup>2</sup> of lot area one additional hen or duck may be kept to a maximum of eight (8) hens or ducks combined.
  - iii. A minimum enclosure of 0.37 m<sup>2</sup> (4 ft<sup>2</sup>) must be provided per chicken or duck.
  - iv. The maximum size of a coop is 8.0 metres<sup>2</sup> in floor area and 2.0 metres in height
  - v. A backyard hen and duck enclosure must only use a pen and a coop as defined by this bylaw.
  - vi. A backyard hen and duck enclosure must only use a pen and a coop as defined by this bylaw.
2. A valid permit must be obtained through the District of Mackenzie in order to maintain a backyard hen and duck enclosure.

**Example of a residential lot with a backyard hen or duck enclosure:**



**Lot Size = 600m<sup>2</sup>**

**Backyard must be fully fenced.**

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# Backyard Hen and Duck Enclosure Guide:

The District of Mackenzie now allows the keeping of backyard hens and ducks in certain residential areas within the townsite for egg-laying purposes. This decision was made based on the overwhelming support from the community. To ensure the well-being of the animals and minimize any impact on neighbouring properties, residents interested in keeping backyard hens and ducks must fulfill the District's requirements. Additionally, prospective hen and/or duck keepers need to complete the following tasks before applying for a Backyard Hen and/or Duck Permit:

## 1. Understand your property's zoning:

- Familiarize yourself with the District of Mackenzie Zoning Bylaw No. 1368, which regulates the permitted areas for backyard hen and duck keeping in the townsite.
- Contact the District office for assistance in verifying the zoning of your property to determine if it allows for backyard hens and ducks.

## 2. Complete the backyard hen and duck enclosure checklist and understand District requirements:

- Once you have confirmed that your property is eligible for backyard hen and duck keeping, complete the provided backyard hen and duck enclosure checklist.
- Familiarize yourself with the District's regulations and requirements for backyard hen and duck keeping by reviewing the District's Zoning and Animal Control and Licensing Bylaws.
- If you have any questions or need clarification regarding the requirements, reach out to the District office for further assistance.

## 3. Familiarize yourself with hen and duck care and health considerations:

- Conduct research and gather information about the basics of hen and duck care, including their dietary needs, suitable housing, and health maintenance.
- Educate yourself about common diseases and parasites that may affect hens and ducks and learn preventive measures to keep them healthy.
- Understand proper feeding practices, appropriate bedding materials, and regular cleaning routines for the hen and duck enclosure.

### Resources:

Hens:

<https://spca.bc.ca/news/backyard-chickens/>

Ducks:

<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/how-should-i-keep-and-care-for-my-pet-ducks/>

<https://www.ruralsprout.com/raising-ducks/>

Government of Canada – How to Prevent and Detect Disease in Backyard Flocks and Pet Birds:  
<http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/diseases/bird-health-basics/eng/1323643634523/1323644740109>

Province of BC – Small Flock Poultry Health:  
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small\\_flock\\_manual.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/agriculture-and-seafood/animal-and-crops/animal-production/small_flock_manual.pdf)

**4. Prepare a suitable enclosure for hens and ducks:**

- Ensure that your hen and duck enclosure provides sufficient space, proper ventilation, and protection against predators.
- Set up nesting boxes for hens and ducks to lay eggs and provide suitable bedding material for their comfort.
- Install fencing or barriers to prevent hens and ducks from accessing restricted areas or neighbouring properties.

**5. Address noise and odour concerns:**

- Take proactive measures to minimize potential noise disturbances caused by hens and ducks, particularly during early morning hours.
- Implement effective waste management practices to control odours, including regular cleaning of the enclosure and proper disposal of waste.

**6. Seek support and cooperation from neighbours:**

- Inform your neighbours about your plans to keep backyard hens and ducks, addressing any concerns they may have.
- Foster open communication and offer to address any issues or conflicts that may arise from your hen and duck-keeping activities.

**7. Complete and submit the Backyard Hen and or Duck Permit Application:**

- Fill out the Backyard Hen and or Duck Permit Application form and checklist completely and accurately.
- Submit the application along with the required permit application fee of \$25 to Animal Control/Bylaw Services.
- Ensure that you receive your permit before keeping hens and or ducks on your property.

**8. Schedule an inspection with a District staff member:**

- Once your permit application and fee have been submitted and preliminarily approved by the District office, schedule an inspection of your property with a District staff member.
- Make sure that all the necessary requirements, including the hen/duck coop, pen, and other specifications, are in place before the inspection.

- The inspection will determine if your property meets the requirements for keeping hens and or ducks. If all requirements are satisfied, the District will issue your permit, allowing you to keep hens and or ducks on your parcel.
- In the event that your property is eligible for backyard hens and or ducks but does not meet certain requirements (such as coop/pen location or fencing), you may reapply for a permit by providing an additional permit fee.

Please note that the District staff member will provide specific instructions and guidelines for the inspection process. If you have any further questions or need assistance, contact Animal Control/Bylaw Services at the District office.

Note: Rural residential properties in the Gantahaz and Gagnon subdivision do not adhere to these backyard hen and duck regulations. Please refer to the District's Animal Control and Licencing Bylaw for information on the keeping of these animals in these areas.

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# Backyard Hen and Duck Permit Application

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Permit Applying for: **Hen / Duck (circle one)**

- Applicant is a resident of the property (required)**
  - Applicant is the owner of the property**
  - Applicant has written permission from owner of the parcel (please attach to application)**

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Property Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Zoning: \_\_\_\_\_

Property Size (in metres<sup>2</sup>): \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Number of hens or ducks to be kept on property:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*On properties 500 m<sup>2</sup> or less a maximum of four hens or ducks may be kept. For each additional full 100 m<sup>2</sup> of lot area, one additional hen or duck may be kept to a maximum of eight hens or ducks combined.

**Please provide the information on how the hens or ducks will be kept:**

Provide a description, drawing, photo or sketch of the coop and pen, including the location in your backyard and how feed will be stored.

- I confirm that all of the information above is correct.
- I am aware of the District's requirements for backyard hen and duck keeping and understand that my failure to meet these requirements may result in a fine administered by the District and revoking of my Backyard Hen or Duck Permit.
- I am aware that District staff and or Bylaw Enforcement will inspect my property prior to issuing the hen or duck permit and may conduct inspections as a result of a complaint directed at my property.
- I confirm that I understand the backyard hen and duck requirements and are able to provide sufficient care for and maintain sufficient health of my hens and or ducks.

**Applicant Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit Application to:**

**Animal Control & Bylaw Services  
District of Mackenzie  
1 Mackenzie Blvd, Bag 340  
Mackenzie, BC, V0J 2C0**

**Phone: 250-997-3882**

**Email: [animalcontrol@districtofmackenzie.ca](mailto:animalcontrol@districtofmackenzie.ca)**

**Hours:**

**Monday – Friday  
8:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**To be completed by the District:**

- The applicant has paid the permit application fee of \$25
- The property in question has passed District inspection

**Inspected by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_