

BEE AND CHICKEN LICENSES

Planning & Development / Town of High River

This information sheet provides basic information on the Urban Bee and Chicken application process. The information is a simplification of the Town's [Urban Bee Bylaw](#) and [Urban Chicken Bylaw](#). In the event of any discrepancy/omission, the Bylaws take precedence.

Pre-application meetings are not required for Bee and Chicken Licenses. If you would like to speak with the Planning & Development Services Division before submitting your application, please contact us at planning@highriver.ca or at 403.652.2110 and we would be pleased to assist you.

Staff reserve the discretion to require a pre-application meeting if staff believe that the complexity of the application warrants it.

Applicants must fill in the Bee and Chicken License application form (found at highriver.ca/development-permits) and submit all requirements (unless otherwise discussed with staff). The Town does NOT accept incomplete applications.

May I raise bees/chickens on my property?

Yes, the Town permits backyard agriculture, beekeeping, and / or chicken husbandry in every Land Use Bylaw zone.

Town Bee License Application Requirements

- Bee and Chicken License application form (highriver.ca/development-permits)
- Fee (must renew annually): \$75 per year
- Provide written description, drawings and/or photos that describe exactly where on the property the beehive will be placed.
- You must notify all immediately adjacent neighbours

What do I need to do before I apply for a Town Bee License?

- Each beekeeper must complete a beekeeping course from an accepted organization or association in order to be approved for a license
- Obtain a Premises Identification Number through Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
- Obtain liability insurance (could be asked to produce proof of liability insurance by Bylaw Enforcement Officer at any time)
- Consider contacting the Calgary and District Beekeepers Association at

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calgarybeekeepers@gmail.com if you have any questions about the beekeeping courses, the Premises Identification Number or about liability insurance.

Other Important Information

The following is a simplification of the [Urban Bee Bylaw](#) and does not cover all rules and regulations.

- Only *Apis mellifera* L, (honeybees) are allowed
- No more than 2 hives are allowed per property.
- Hives may be in the rear yards only.
- Hives must be a minimum of 2.4 m above ground or within yards enclosed by a 1.8 m high hedge or solid fence
- Hive entrances are to be directed away from neighbouring properties.
- Operation is for personal use only (no sales)
- You must annually register with Alberta Agriculture through the Provincial Apiculturist for Alberta. Unregistered owners are subject to fine or imprisonment under the Bee Act
- You must obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulations of the *Alberta Animal Health Act*
- You must obtain liability insurance and produce it on demand by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer
- The Town has the right to revoke your license if you are not following the [Urban Bee Bylaw](#) regulations. You can appeal the decision to revoke or to otherwise deny you of the license to the Town Manager.

Town Chicken License Application Requirements

- Bee and Chicken License application form (highriver.ca/development-permits)
- Fee (must renew annually): \$75 per year
- Provide written description, drawings and/or photos that describe exactly where on the property the chicken coop will be placed.

What do I need to do before I apply for a Town Chicken License?

- Each chicken keeper must take urban chicken training or equivalent, which is designed to provide adequate information regarding the successful keeping of chickens in an urban area in order to be approved for a license.

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- Obtain a Premises Identification Number through Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development
- Obtain liability insurance (could be asked to produce proof of liability insurance by Bylaw Enforcement Officer at any time)

Other Important Information

The following is a simplification of the [Urban Chicken Bylaw](#) and does not cover all rules and regulations.

- You must obtain a Premises Identification (PID) under the Premises Identification Regulations of the Alberta Animal Health Act
- You must obtain liability insurance and produce it on demand by a Bylaw Enforcement Officer
- Operation is for personal use only (no sales).
- No more than 3 hens are allowed per property. No roosters.
- Each hen must be provided with food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, all sufficient to maintain the hen in good health.
- No hen shall be slaughtered on the property. Hens will be disposed of by delivering it to a farm, abattoir, veterinarian, or other operation that is lawfully permitted to dispose of hens.
- Coops are restricted to rear yards with reasonable protection from access to other animals or children.
- Each coop must provide each hen with at least 0.37sq. m of interior floor area and at least 0.92 sq. m of outdoor area within the enclosure. There must be at least one nest box per coop and one perch per hen that is at least 15 cm long.
- Maintain the coop in good repair and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and noxious or offensive smells and substances
- Construct and maintain the coop to prevent any rodent from harbouring underneath or within it or within its walls, and to prevent entrance by any other animal.
- The Town has the right to revoke your license if you are not following the [Urban Chicken Bylaw](#) regulations. You can appeal the decision to revoke or to otherwise deny you of the

