

Backyard chicken crusader wins bylaw fight

Last Updated: Thursday, March 25, 2010 | 5:48 PM MT [Comments65](#)[Recommend42](#)

[CBC News](#)



Paul Hughes holds one of his chickens in his Calgary backyard. (Meghan Grant/CBC)

The city is dropping charges against a Calgary man for raising hens in his backyard.

Paul Hughes said he received a letter from the city on Thursday advising him it is cancelling a bylaw ticket — which Hughes intended to fight in court — for illegally keeping poultry in Calgary.

A city bylaw forbids raising livestock in most urban areas, though there is an exemption for pigeons.

Hughes, president of the Calgary Liberated Urban Chick Klub (CLUCK), has been fighting for the right to keep his six hens, which he raises for their eggs.

"It's a great day for Calgarians asserting their position and I think it's a great day for urban agriculture and local food systems. I think it's a great day for the city as a whole," he said.



A Calgary bylaw prohibits people from raising livestock, including chickens, within city limits. (Meghan Grant/CBC)

Hughes said the next step is working on a pilot project with city that will allow about 40 Calgary families already raising chickens for eggs to continue to do so.

Mary March was charged under the same bylaw in September 2009 for keeping three chickens in the backyard of her Tuxedo home, but her ticket has also been withdrawn by the city.

The city is concerned about backyard chickens being a nuisance to neighbours, becoming a potential health concern, or attracting predators.

More than 300 cities in North America, including Vancouver and New York, have amended their bylaws to allow urban chickens.

- This story is now closed to commenting.

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. Please note that comments are published according to our [submission guidelines](#).

Story comments (65)

Sort: [Most recent](#) | [First to last](#) | [Agreed](#)

JackRyan wrote: Posted 2010/03/29

at 12:36 PM ET We live in a city, not some backwater town in the middle of no-where. You want to have livestock go to Langdon or Strathmore it's all farmland out there.

- [3](#)
- [25](#)

[3 Agree](#) [25 Disagree](#) [Policy](#) [Report abuse](#)

[BethMilliken](#) wrote:Posted 2010/03/29

at 11:02 AM ETIce? I gathered eggs from 75 hens every day after school for years and never had a louse! I also have backyard hens and have no complaints from my neighbors. Their coop is cleaned regularly, their movable fence keeps them eating bugs and weeds, and they are locked in secure pen when we are not home, also locked in the coop at night. The dogs barking in the neighbourhood are far more of a pain in the rump. Also, the chickens do not defecate in my flower beds like the neighborhood cats do!!!

- [15](#)
- [1](#)

[15Agree](#) [1Disagree](#)[Policy](#) [Report](#) [abuse](#)

[The Anti-CLUCK](#) wrote:Posted 2010/03/26

at 9:14 PM ETThat's it,

New facebook group called ANTI-CLUCK has been formed.

Time to take action people and get city hall to realize that these fringe groups are not the majority.

Does it not seem a tad strange that Bil IBruce dropped these charges. On whose instructions I wonder.

- [4](#)
- [36](#)

[4Agree](#) [36Disagree](#)[Policy](#) [Report](#) [abuse](#)

[Doug C](#) wrote:Posted 2010/03/26

at 4:03 PM ET"...becoming a potential health concern, or attracting predators."

My neighbours haven't figured out that ya got to put meat and similiar residuals into a solid garbage can vs just plastic bag tossed on the ground next to the fence. Otherwise the unsecured neighbours dog or cat or even the occ. coyote (hoping for an unsecured cat or skunk, will be trashing the unsecured trash left out by the same people who are against urban chickens !!

- [19](#)
- [0](#)

[19Agree](#) [0Disagree](#)[Policy](#) [Report](#) [abuse](#)

[smeyyc](#) wrote:Posted 2010/03/26

at 3:46 PM ETAt least chickens don't sting and they generally don't fly into neighbour's yards either. Might give all the neighbourhood cats something to watch. As long as there are no roosters crowing at 5am and the 'chickens**' is cleaned up and disposed of just like all the dog owners do (HA), I really don't see why this is a huge issue. I wouldn't mind raising my own eggs - not sure I'd want my kids watching 'clucky' heading for the roasting pan though.

- [22](#)
- [4](#)

[22Agree](#) [4Disagree](#)[Policy](#) [Report](#) [abuse](#)

- First
- Previous
- [1](#)

- [2](#)
- [3](#)
- [4](#)
- [5](#)
- [6](#)
- [7](#)
- [8](#)
- [9](#)
- [10](#)
- [Next](#)
- [Last](#)

This story is now closed to commenting.

Note: The CBC does not necessarily endorse any of the views posted. Please note that comments are published according to our [submission guidelines](#).