



Quotations from Online Petition

- 19** Anonymous Let's make Toronto a place that is walking the walk, not just talking. If we are a Center of Excellence in Urban Agriculture, than we should be demonstrating full circle food systems.
- 36** Sunny Lam Considering the current energy and food price situation, urban chicken growing is becoming an increasingly viable option as is a lot of urban food production. The research shows its viable - it is primarily a policy issue. (Sunny Lam & Associates)
- 56** John DeLuca-Howard This is ridiculous! The benefits of raising your own livestock when you have room, especially in these times when food shortages are looming, are enormous. The small minded alarmists who seem to think that anything natural is dirty, and therefore unhealthy, and that people can't be trusted to look after their own needs themselves, are clearly in possession of the ear of government. That is why we must allow the citizenry to take action for their own benefit. Real free-enterprise, local, self-sufficient, and cost-effective. We need it now.
- 60** Colette murphy I long for my own eggs, for my natural insect control too. Please change our by-law to allow chickens in our own backyards. Toronto needs to become a leader in the Urban Agriculture movement. Thank you, Colette
- 69** Anne Shadick If pigeons are allowed why not chickens! With so much talk about the importance of eating local food, why is Toronto standing in the way of people keeping a few chickens.
- 71** Lianne Brackett I'd love to be able to use eggs and not worry about feeding antibiotics, hormones or pesticides to my family. Buying organic is pricey, and you can't always trust the label. In the growing oil shortage, we will need to be more self sustainable, as shipping food in will become even more costly... preventing people from doing this is environmentally irresponsible and fundamentally wasteful.
- 115** Pat Bingley a limited number of chicken (perhaps 6 as a max) will not be a problem in backyards. No roosters. If people can collect and keep multiple cats, dogs, rabbits why can't they raise a few chickens to supplement their food sources.
- 116** David Elfstrom Toronto recently hosted a conference on urban agriculture. What would sustainable urban agriculture be without chickens? Maybe a solution is for the city to license chickens, the way it licenses just about everything else, including pets.
- 138** Steven Gray The prohibition on urban chickens is both illogical and contrary to the principles of sustainability. The City of Toronto has pioneered many environmental initiatives such as the green bin, downspout disconnection, the Green Roof Incentive Pilot Program, the Green Development Standard, and many more. Why then are concerned citizens denied the privilege of raising backyard chickens, which turn table scraps into a healthy food source and rich, non-chemical fertilizer for the vegetable garden? Why are citizens allowed to keep unlimited pigeons or several 100lb dogs but not even one chicken? Animal by-laws should be revised to allow a broader range of animals, but stressing responsible pet ownership and placing LOGICAL limits on the numbers and species allowed. With responsible pet ownership, noise, smell, disease and other potential problems are avoided. If the City trusts its citizens to responsibly keep cats (which are often allowed to wander neighbourhoods with out restriction - depositing their biohazardous waste in neighbours' yards) or dogs (who can bark and whose waste is considerably more disagreeable than chicken droppings) then why not a couple of hens?
- 139** Anonymous I've been wanting to raise chickens in my backyard for YEARS. We already grow our own vegetables and fruits, compost, recycle (freecycle too!) and collect rain water. Raising chickens would help with fertilizing the garden and getting rid of earwigs and other bugs. It really is the next step for many of us who are trying to live a sustainable, self-sufficient and environmentally responsible life in the city.
- 159** Anonymous I think it's great that someone is fighting for the right to keep chickens in the city. I remember when I was a kid my mother had a few chickens and I used to help out with them. They make great pets, aren't very loud, keep the insect population down, the eggs are great, and they are great for teaching responsible pet ownership. I hope that this senseless bylaw is removed so that other families can know the joy of having a fun, and friendly pet that also provides them with high quality food and is easier to take care of than a dog once you are set up. This bylaw is also especially hindering in a time when people are worried about their food coming from factory farms and containing harmful chemicals, hormones, and salmonella. Please update the law to allow chickens to be kept responsibly.

189 Maria Victor It is also time to ban the horrendous raising of chickens in battery factories. It is inhuman, it is appalling, it is barbaric. And in the end, we get chickens full of antibiotics -which they need because of the crowding conditions they live in- or, worse, viruses .

200 Kristina Causi We feel very strongly about this. Those who are interested in healthy living must be allowed to raise chickens in a responsible way. In this day of "green thinking" and whole foods, citizens should be encouraged to help themselves and not be hindered by NIMBY laws!

211 George Ivanoff I think it is a great idea for people to be allowed to have a small garden and a few chickens in their yards. HOW CAN IT NOT BE? Please modify the City's bylaws to allow a small number of chickens to be raised by people in the city, as they do in many other cities around the world.

217 Cara McLeod this is precisely why if you ask a city person where you get your eggs..they will say the grocery store..actually they come from chickens. With the amount of processing and cruelty and god knows what else goes on with the chickens that mass produce eggs for grocery stores, it is not wonder that people prefer their own backyard chickens to lay eggs. Crack an egg from a free chicken and one from the grocery store and you will see that the one from the grocery store is very pale in color..lacking nutrients. If people want to feed themselves by caring for their own animals then they should have that right.

234 Maggie Bliss I feel chickens in the cities are a MUST! Nobody said you have to have a rooster, or other loud birds. Take Seattle for example....3 chickens allowed, enough for a family in general sure! If you have more land, you can apply to have more. There are sooooo many benefits to have urban agriculture is almost insane NOT to have them allowed. Bylaws and restrictions sure, but bans no way. Very Silly on a city councils part to disallow them. They are NOT loud, they are NOT smelly...just to name two things. Read "There a Chicken in my Backyard" for starts. Food sustainability begins with the people being "allowed" to grow their own food!

242 Sue Joyce We should be doing everything we can to reduce the load on our fragile food distribution system. We also could totally benefit from a closer connection to our food sources. As the largest city in Canada, Toronto needs to be a leader in self-sustaining urban living.

390 Alejandro Ramos Please Allow chickens to be permitted in backyards of Toronto homes...They will contribute to the society economically, in health-care, and most importantly in the education of new generations; they are sure to inspire a whole new generation of people towards a healthier and better relationship with nature and food.

400 Alison Chan If Toronto wants to be more sustainable, chickens have to be part of the solution so that people can grow their own food. I don't want to be a part of chicken abuse in factory farming, and the only way to guarantee that in a city is to raise my own chickens.

446 Karen Sabourin My neighbours dog makes more noise than 1000 chickens would. I've worked on large hen laying operations. Placing restrictions on numbers of hens and sex would eliminate any noise problems. As for issues of cleanliness its no different than cleaning up after any other pet. My compost can become a rat haven if I don't maintain it and these are sold by the city.

459 Laura Shilliday If you are truly committed to greening up the City and promoting local food sustainability, then this should not be a problem.

465 Chip Pitfield It is lunacy that the City of Toronto prohibits the keeping of chickens. It would be entirely reasonable to create a household limit, but the blanket prohibition is senseless.

481 Kate Harris Earwigs are out of control in my neighbourhood, eating every herb, flower and veggie that anyone plants. Chickens are the only birds that eat earwigs. Please legalize chickens.

539 Brian Young I'm old enough to remember when you could buy a live chicken in Kensington Market. If there are health issues I think Toronto can find ways to handle them. Chicken manure is rated one of the best natural fertilizers and anyone can compost it to make it pathogen free.

606 Anonymous Hoping that the bylaws change sooner rather than later. This is a great organic and GREEN solution for our city. Eliminates wastage of plastic and corrugated cardboard that comes with eggs.