



Bylaw 49-2022

To Regulate the Keeping of Poultry and Livestock

Information For Residents

What would the bylaw prohibit?

- The keeping of livestock animals except for those properties zoned “rural”.
- The keeping of rabbits, except as a pet.
- The keeping of any type of poultry other than hens.
- The keeping of roosters.
- No more than six (6) hens per property.
- Hens are not allowed to be “at large”. Hens found outside of their enclosure may be impounded.

Enclosure Requirements

- The coop must be fully enclosed and weather resistant
- The coop must have perches and nest boxes for each hen
- The coop must have 0.37 m² (4 sq. ft.) of floor area per hen
- The run must be fully enclosed
- The run must have 0.92 m² (10 sq. ft.) of space per hen
- The enclosure must be clean and free of odours
- No enclosures are allowed in front or side yards.
- Enclosures must be 1.5 m from lot lines, and 3m from windows and doors of neighbouring properties.

The Village of South River’s new bylaw regulating the keeping of poultry and livestock comes into effect January 1, 2022. Under the bylaw, residents on all properties, excluding where farms are permitted in the rural zone, are forbidden from keeping any livestock animals except for hens. Residents who want to keep hens on their property will need to have a licence, and must comply with all applicable provincial and federal regulations on the care and keeping of these animals.

The new bylaw also contains requirements on the size and setbacks for hen enclosures, which includes the hen coop and hen run. These are in place to ensure that proper space is provided for each hen, and to reduce the impact of noise and odour on neighbouring properties. As part of the licencing process, a site inspection will be required to ensure that the enclosure meets these standards.

How do I apply for a licence?

To encourage property owners who already have hens to become compliant, the Village is waving the licence fee for those who have hens to apply for a licence before January 1, 2023. Licence applications will need to be submitted to the Village office and must contain the following information:

- The name, phone number, email address, and address of the license applicant
- Proof that the applicant is over eighteen (18) years of age
- Proof of ownership of the property or, where the applicant is a tenant, written permission of property owner.
- The number of hens to be kept on the property
- A site plan of the property showing all buildings and structures, including the proposed locations of the hen coop and hen run, as well as the dimension and appropriate setbacks

Once an application has been submitted, the applicant must schedule an inspection by the Municipal Law Enforcement Officer to review the site plan and proposed location of the hen enclosure.

Once the inspection has been completed and the Village is satisfied that the property meets all the bylaw requirements, a licence will be issued. In some cases, licences may have specific conditions attached. It will be the responsibility of the license holder to comply with all provisions of the bylaw and any conditions attached to their license.

Note: Licences are not transferable between people or properties. When a licence holder moves, a new licence will need to be obtained from the Village before hens can be kept on the property.

For more information, please contact the Village Office at 705-386-2573