

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF THESSALON
DRAFT BY-LAW NUMBER 2737

BEING A BY-LAW to regulate and licence the Keeping of Backyard Hens with the Municipality of the Town of Thessalon.

WHEREAS, the Municipal Act, 2011, S.O. 2001, c. 27 as amended (the “Act”) provides that municipalities may pass by-laws respecting matters within the following spheres of jurisdiction: animals;

AND WHEREAS, the Act authorizes the council of a municipality to pass by-laws to provide for a system of licences and imposed fees or charges for services or activities provided or done by or on behalf of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Thessalon will undertake a limited Backyard Hen Pilot Program for a two-year period;

AND WHEREAS, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Thessalon recognizes the benefits of backyard chickens and deems it desirable to permit them;

THEREFORE, the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Thessalon hereby **ENACTS AS FOLLOWS**:

1. That the keeping of backyard chickens be permitted by approved permit, in the Town of Thessalon subject to the provisions in Schedule ‘A’; and that this by-law is known as the “Backyard Chicken By-law”.
2. No person shall keep backyard chickens pursuant to this By-law, unless that person has submitted an application and receives a licence from the Town of Thessalon.
3. That any other by-laws, policies, or resolutions or parts of by-laws, policies or resolutions inconsistent with this by-law to establish and regulate the keeping of backyard hens are hereby repealed;
4. This permit forms part of a pilot program limited to ten (10) participants. Following the issuance of all available permits, a waiting list shall be established for eligible applicants pending program review or expansion.
5. That Schedule ‘A’ and Schedule ‘B’ attached hereto shall form part of this by-law;

This By-law shall come into force and take effect upon the immediate passing thereof.

PASSED in Open Council this 20th day of April, 2026.

Seal

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer



SCHEDULE A

The Corporation of the Town of Thessalon

187 Main Street, Thessalon, ON. P0R 1L0

705-842-2217

townofthess@thessalon.ca

Animal Control Officer means a person or a person employed by a third-party contractor appointed by the Corporation of the Town of Thessalon for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this bylaw.

At Large means a hen found at any place other than on the property of the owner of the hen outlines in their Hen Coop Permit Application form.

Backyard Chickens means the accessory keeping of hens for the purpose of companionship as a pet or providing eggs for personal consumption by occupants of a dwelling on the same lot, and does not include accessory livestock, or agricultural uses.

Coop means a fully-enclosed weatherproof structure where hens are kept and the interior of which includes nest boxes for egg laying, perches for hens to roost on and food and water containers.

By-law Enforcement Officer means a person or a person employed by a third-party contractor appointed by the Corporation of the Town of Thessalon for the purposes of enforcing the provisions of this bylaw and other municipal By-Law's and related provincial offences by authority of the Ontario Police Services Act, 1990, Chapter P. 15, Section 15.

Front Yard means a yard extending across the full width of the lot between the front lot line and the nearest main walls of the main building or structure on the lot.

Hen means a domesticated female chicken that is at least four months old.

Hen Run means a covered secure enclosure that allows hens access to outdoors.

Licence means authorization given by Council of the Town of Thessalon issued under this By-law.

Owner means any person who possesses, harbours or keeps a hen.

Property Owner means the registered owner(s) of a property within the Town of Thessalon.

Poultry includes game birds and roosters but does not include any bird sold as a household pet or a hen.

Rear Yard means a yard extending across the full width of the lot between the rear lot line and the nearest main walls of the main building or structure on the lot.

Residential Property means a lot or parcel of land containing a detached dwelling unit used for residential purposes.

Setback means the distance by which a building or part of a building is set back from the property line.

Slaughtering means the killing of livestock for purposes that include the use of meat for food.

Backyard Hens Rules and Regulations

1. Roosters are not permitted.
2. The applicant or licensee must reside on the lot where the hens are kept.
3. This bylaw applies to Residential Property. Notwithstanding this general application, the keeping of hens is not permitted on certain dwelling types, including but not limited to semi-detached dwellings, townhouses, duplexes, triplexes, apartments, and other forms of multi-residential housing.
4. You may keep backyard hens if your property meets the site requirements.
5. You may have up to 4 hens.
6. Your backyard chickens must be hens. To ensure that all chickens are female, hens must be at least 4 months old before residing on your property.
7. Hens must be kept in an enclosed hen run when not in their coop.
8. Your hen coop must meet the requirements outlined in the Town of Thessalon's Zoning By-law, such as but not limited to accessory building setbacks.
9. The slaughtering of backyard chickens/hens is prohibited.
10. Sales of eggs, manure or other products associated with the keeping of hens are prohibited.
11. All backyard chickens/hens must be kept securely in a coop or outdoor run at all times.
12. Hens must be banded with owner contact information.
13. Backyard chicken/hen coop must be locked from 9pm to 6am.
14. All backyard hens must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times, free from vermin, obnoxious smells and substances and in good repair.
15. Backyard chickens/hens must be provided with food and clean water at all times, shelter, light, and ventilation.
16. Food and water shall be kept in solid, rodent-proof and weather proof containers.
17. A change in occupancy or ownership of the property shall make the Backyard Chicken License null and void. The new occupant and/or owner shall submit a new initial application, not a renewal application.
18. The permit must be displayed in a clearly visible location in a window of the premises.

Fees

1. To keep backyard chickens, an initial fee of \$50.00 along with an approved application is required.
2. To renew your chicken license there is an annual fee of \$25.00
3. All permits expire on December 31st and must be renewed by March 1st of the year of the following year.
4. Licence Fees are non-refundable.

Cancellation of Licence

The Town of Thessalon may revoke or cancel a permit where the permit holder voluntarily withdraws from the program or is found to be in contravention of the terms and conditions of the permit or this bylaw.



SCHEDULE B

The Corporation of the Town of Thessalon

187 Main Street, Thessalon, ON. P0R 1L0

705-842-2217 townofthess@thessalon.ca

Application for Backyard Hen Licence

Licences expire on December 31st of the year in which it is issued. The initial licence application fee is \$50.00 and payment is due on the next page. Licences must be renewed in advance of March 1st of the following year. The annual licence renewal fee is \$25.00.

Applicant Information:

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Property Owner Information (if not the same as the applicant)

Property Owner Name:

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Permission:

I _____ am the property owner of the address listed above, grant permission for the occupant _____ to keep hens at my property listed above.

Property Owner Signature

Date

I have reviewed the attached educational resources on the keeping of backyard hens.

Yes _____

Site Plan (Mandatory):

A site sketch/plan is required for new applications or for a renewal with changes to the coop/manure area. The sketch or plan shall illustrate the location and size of the coop, outdoor run and manure storage area on the property, complying with the Coop Regulations (as outlined below) and set out in the By-law. A maximum of one (1) backyard chicken/hen coop and one (1) outdoor run shall be permitted per property.

Site plan/sketch attached to application: _____ Yes

Applicant Declaration:

1. That I/We am/are the applicant(s) for the grant of a licence authorizing me/us to keep backyard hens pursuant to By-Law 2737 within the Town of Thessalon now and hereafter in force. I/We undertake to conform to the terms, conditions and regulations set out in By-Law 2737 and understand that I must comply with all applicable regulations and requirements
2. That I/We understand that any licence issued pursuant to the said application is subject to revocation.
3. That the statement contained in this application is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Signature of Applicant

Date

TOWN OF THESSALON

BACKYARD HEN PERMIT

Permit Number: 2026-01

Permit Holder: _____

Address: _____

This permit authorizes the keeping of backyard hens at the above address under the Town of Thessalon Bylaw No. 27XX.

Conditions:

- This permit is part of a pilot program limited to ten (10) participants.
- This permit must be displayed in a clearly visible location in a window at all times.
- Non-compliance with By-law Rules and Regulations will result in immediate cancellation of the licence.
- All permits expire on December 31st and must be renewed by March 1st of the year of the following year.



Municipal Staff

Date Issued

TOWN OF THESSALON - 187 MAIN STREET - P.O. BOX 220. THESSALON, ON. P0R 1L0