DISTRICT OF KITIMAT
BYLAW NO. 2088, 2026

Hen and Chicken Keeping Animal Control Bylaw No. 2088, 2026

A BYLAW TO AMEND PART 5, DIVISION 5 OF THE KITIMAT MUNICIPAL CODE WITH RESPECT TO THE KEEPING OF HENS AND CHICKENS

WHEREAS under the authority of the *Community Charter*, Council may, by bylaw, regulate, prohibit, and impose requirements regarding animals;

AND WHEREAS, the District of Kitimat has a consolidation of regulatory bylaws referred to as the *Kitimat Municipal Code*;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the District of Kitimat deems it is in the public interest to amend the *Kitimat Municipal Code* to permit and regulate hen and chicken keeping;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the District of Kitimat, in open meeting assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. This bylaw may be cited as “Hen and Chicken Keeping Animal Control Bylaw No. 2088, 2026”.

2. Part 5 – Police and Fire Regulations, Division 5 – Animal Control, Subdivision 1 - Interpretation of the *Kitimat Municipal Code* is hereby amended by adding the following new definitions:

   Chick means a Chicken under the age of 4 months.
   Chicken means a Hen, Rooster and Chick.
   Chicken Keeping means the keeping and care of Hens, Roosters, or Chicks on a parcel of land occupied by a resident within the District of Kitimat.
   Coop means a covered enclosure, excluding outdoor areas, meant to contain and shelter Hens or Chicks.
   Dwelling means a building used for residential purposes.
   Hen means a female domestic Chicken, older than 4 months, kept for the purposes of egg production.
   Hen Keeping means the keeping and care of Hens or Chicks on a parcel of land occupied by a resident within the District of Kitimat.
   Pen means a fully enclosed outside area meant to contain Hens or Chicks.
   Rooster means a domesticated male Chicken older than 4 months.
   Wildlife Resistant Container means a container that is sufficient to accommodate normal uses of the property, is designed to discourage and prevent access by wildlife, and has a sturdy cover capable of being completely closed and secured with a latch or locking device.

3. Part 5 – Police and Fire Regulations, Division 5 – Animal Control of the *Kitimat Municipal Code* is hereby amended by adding new Subdivisions 11, 12 and 13 as follows:

Subdivision 11 – Registration Process for Keeping of Hens or Chickens

1. Any person keeping Hens or Chickens must register their property with the District of Kitimat.
2. The fee for registering Hens or Chickens with the District of Kitimat shall be $0.
3. Registration will include the following in a form established by the Director of Corporate Administration:
    a. Property where the keeping of Hens or Chickens is occurring.
    b. Property owner and applicant information.
    c. Declaration that the applicant is agreeing to the terms and conditions of keeping Hens or Chickens in Kitimat.
    d. Declaration that a self-inspection for the Coop, Pen and fencing has been completed.
    e. Other information that the Director of Corporate Administration deems necessary for registration.
4. A registration application must be completed and validated by the District of Kitimat for a property to be considered registered.

Subdivision 12 - Conditions of Hen Keeping in Residential (R) Zones

1. A minimum of 2 Hens or Chicks to a maximum of 6 Hens or Chicks may be kept provided that no neighbourhood health, environmental or nuisance problems result and the conditions of Hen Keeping are met.
2. Roosters are prohibited.
3. All Hen Keeping shall comply with all related regulations in Part 9 – Planning of the Kitimat Municipal Code.
4. Hens must be registered with the District of Kitimat.
5. Hen Keeping shall only be permitted by an owner who resides on the property, or with the written consent of the property owner.
6. Hens must be sited in a rear or side yard which is fully fenced.
7. Fencing in yards with Hens must be a minimum of 1.2 metres high and meet fencing requirements contained in the Kitimat Municipal Code.
8. Fences must be built of durable, high-quality materials to withstand weather and deter wildlife.
9. Hens shall not be kept within a Dwelling or on a balcony, roof, or deck.
10. Coops must be sited a minimum of 3 metres from the principal building and/or any Dwelling.
11. Coops must not abut side and rear property lines and must be located in a manner that reasonably allows for space to clean waste and debris from the surrounding area.
12. Coops must be a minimum size of 0.5 square metres of floor area per Hen.
13. Each Hen must be provided a 15-centimetre perch and a nesting box.
14. Coops and Pens must be a minimum height of 1 metre, to a maximum height of 3 metres.
15. Pens must be enclosed on all sides in a manner that will keep predators from entering and Hens from escaping.
16. Each Pen must be a minimum size of 1 square metres of floor area per Hen.
17. Hens and Chicks must be provided with adequate food, water, shelter, light,

ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, in sufficient capacity to maintain good health in the Hen.

18. Hens or Chicks must be kept in a secure Coop from sunset to 7:00 a.m.
19. Coops must be fully enclosed by an electrified fence that is designed and maintained in accordance with the electric fencing guidelines of the WildSafeBC program developed by the British Columbia Conservation Foundation.
20. The Coop must not be sited less than 1 metre from the electric fencing.
21. Manure and feed must be kept separately in Wildlife-Resistant Containers and shall not generate excessive heat or odour.
22. Coops and Pens must be kept in good repair and in sanitary conditions.
23. Waste from Hens shall not be deposited in the District's sanitary sewer or stormwater drainage systems.
24. Waste or manure may be delivered to the Kitimat landfill or placed at curbside; if placed at curbside, manure must be in a compostable bag within a food waste bin. During the seasonal yard waste pickup, manure may also be placed at curbside in a Kraft Bag.
25. Properties with Hens and Chicks must be kept free of vermin and pests.
26. Slaughter of Hens is prohibited in the boundaries of the District of Kitimat unless performed by:
    a. A licensed veterinarian; or
    b. A federally or provincially licensed abattoir.
27. Deceased Hens shall not be disposed of other than by delivery to a veterinarian, landfill in a sealed bag, a farm, an abattoir, or other facility which has the ability to lawfully dispose of the carcass.
28. Hens shall not be kept in a cage except for the purposes of transportation.
29. Properties must follow standard biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
30. Properties must comply with all Provincial regulations pertaining to the keeping of Hens or Chicks.
31. Properties must comply with all Federal or Provincial reporting requirements in relation to sick or deceased Chickens.

<u>Subdivision 13 - Conditions of Chicken Keeping as an Accessory Agricultural Use in Greenbelt (G) Zones</u>

1. Chickens may be kept as an Accessory Agricultural use, as defined in Part 9, Division 1, Subdivision 1 of the *Kitimat Municipal Code*, provided that no neighbourhood health, environmental or nuisance problems result and the conditions of Chicken Keeping are met.
2. All Chicken Keeping as an Accessory Agricultural use shall comply with all related regulations in Part 9 – Planning of the *Kitimat Municipal Code*.
3. Chickens must be registered with the District of Kitimat.
4. Chicken Keeping shall only be permitted by an owner who resides on the property, or with the written consent of the property owner.
5. Chickens shall not be kept within a Dwelling or on a balcony, roof, or deck.
6. Coops must be sited a minimum of 3 metres from the principal building and/or any Dwelling.
7. Coops must not abut side and rear property lines and must be located in a manner that reasonably allows for space to clean waste and debris from the surrounding area.
8. Coops must be a minimum size of 0.5 square metres of floor area per Chicken.

9. Each Chicken must be provided a 15-centimetre perch and one nesting box per Hen.
10. Pens must be enclosed on all sides in a manner that will keep predators from entering and Chickens from escaping.
11. Each Pen must be a minimum size of 1 square metres of floor area per Chicken.
12. Chickens must be provided with adequate food, water, shelter, light, ventilation, veterinary care, and opportunities for essential behaviours such as scratching, dust-bathing, and roosting, in sufficient capacity to maintain good health in the Hen.
13. Chickens must be kept in a secure Coop from sunset to 7:00 a.m.
14. Coops must be fully enclosed by an electrified fence that is designed and maintained in accordance with the electric fencing guidelines of the WildSafeBC program developed by the British Columbia Conservation Foundation.
15. The Coop must not be sited less than 1 metre from the electric fencing.
16. Manure and feed must be kept separately in Wildlife-Resistant Containers and shall not generate excessive heat or odour.
17. Coops and Pens must be kept in good repair and in sanitary conditions.
18. Waste or manure may be delivered to the Kitimat landfill or placed at curbside; if placed at curbside, manure must be in a compostable bag within a food waste bin. During the seasonal yard waste pickup, manure may also be placed at curbside in a Kraft Bag.
19. Properties with Chickens must be kept free of vermin and pests.
20. Slaughter of Chickens is prohibited in the boundaries of the District of Kitimat unless performed by:
    a. A licensed veterinarian; or
    b. A federally or provincially licensed abattoir.
21. Deceased Chickens shall not be disposed of other than by delivery to a veterinarian, landfill in a sealed bag, a farm, an abattoir, or other facility which has the ability to lawfully dispose of the carcass.
22. Chickens shall not be kept in a cage except for the purposes of transportation.
23. Properties must follow standard biosecurity procedures recommended by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.
24. Properties comply with all Provincial regulations pertaining to the keeping of Chickens.
25. Owners must comply with all Federal or Provincial reporting requirements in relation to sick or deceased Chickens.

4. This bylaw shall come into force and be binding on all persons from the date of adoption.

READ a first time this	19th day of	May, 2026
READ a second time this	19th day of	May, 2026
READ a third time this	day of	,2026
ADOPTED this	day of	, 2026

MAYOR

Philip Germuth

CORPORATE OFFICER _____

Tracy Tavares