

# View Royal Supports Chickens & Bees

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## CHANGES IN VIEW ROYAL

In 2009 the Town's Sustainability Task force presented a series of recommendations to Council on ways that the Town could become more sustainable. One of the recommendations was to allow the keeping of chickens and bees in residential areas. This was intended to meet two different needs. The keeping of a small flock of chickens on a residential property produces a steady supply of eggs for household use, as well as excellent fertilizer for the garden! Bees in a neighbourhood aid greatly in pollination of fruit trees and gardens and as an added side benefit produce honey and beeswax.

To enable these recommendations, Council amended the Zoning Bylaw and the Animal Control Bylaw. The basic "rules" for each are as follows:

### CHICKENS

The keeping of chickens is permitted in the R-1, R-1A and R-1B zones with the following restrictions:

- No more than 4 hens may be kept on a property, all of which must be over the age of 4 months;
- Roosters are prohibited;
- The sale of eggs and meat is prohibited;
- The slaughter of chickens is prohibited;
- Henhouses shall be located in the rear yard of a residential property and must be set back a minimum of 3 meters from the rear, side and flanking lot lines;
- Chickens must be contained in the rear yard at all times.

NOTE: There are separate provisions for chickens in the P-4 Zone

If you're interested in having chickens on your property, Westshore Recreation may sometimes offer courses. To check availability please go to [www.westshorerecreation.ca](http://www.westshorerecreation.ca).



### BEES

The keeping of bees is permitted on lots within the R-1, R-1A and R-1B, P-1, P-3, and P-6 zones with the following restrictions:

- On lots up to and including 600m<sup>2</sup> no more than 2 beehives are permitted;
- On lots greater than 600m<sup>2</sup> no more than 4 beehives are permitted;
- On lots zoned P-4, no more than 8 beehives are permitted.

To ensure the proper height of a bee flight path:

- the top of a beehive must be situated 2.4 meters or more above ground level; and
- the beehive entrance must be directed away from all neighbouring lots and the beehive must be situated behind a solid fence or hedge that is a minimum of 1.8 meters in height and runs parallel to the lot line; and
- a beehive must be located a minimum of 7.5 meters away from any rear, side and flanking lot lines.

The keeping of chickens or bees is NOT permitted within:

- 15 metres from the natural boundary of the sea; or
- 30 metres from the natural boundary of any lake, pond, marsh or stream, subject to the Provincial Riparian Area Regulations.

For beginner and intermediate Beekeeping courses see Royal Roads Continuing Education for offerings at <http://www.royalroads.ca/continuing-studies/>. There is also the Capital City Beekeepers Association at <http://victoriabeekeepers.ca/>.

### LEARN MORE

Contact Town Hall to find out if your property meets the zoning and size requirements or for any other information.

