

Please accept the following as a formal submission to Council - i give my permission for its publication.

Hi,

I note that Council will be voting on the Urban Agriculture Strategy - there are some really good parts to the Plan, environmentally and holistically, however the inclusion of backyard chickens or 'urban hens' is of great concern. Some facts for the Committee and Council to consider:

- a) EVERY URBAN HEN HAD A BROTHER - the breed of hen used for egg-laying obviously only wants females - once sex is determined at a day or two old, all of the males are killed (they are the wrong breed for meat) in the cheapest way possible - ground up alive, or suffocated or gassed. Would you buy a kitten if only females were wanted and to use her you had to kill a beautiful boy?
- b) WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SHE STOPS LAYING? Hens will naturally live for 8-10 years but only lay eggs productively for 2-3 years. Will the City be taking responsibility for the full life cycle of these beautiful beings?
- c) WILD HENS PRODUCE 10-20 EGGS A YEAR - the breed used today is heavily genetically modified to lay almost 1 egg per day. This takes a terrible toll on her body. All for a product that makes humans sick - a major source of bad cholesterol.
- d) SPREAD OF DISEASE - salmonella is naturally occurring in poultry - by approving urban hens, the risk of salmonella - almost 1,000 people in the US infected so far this year from salmonella. And prepare for mass slaughters the next time the hint of a bird flu arises

I don't believe the Council has fully considered these facts, or wants their legacy to formally include approval of the use of females in this way. Chickens are intelligent, sentient beings who just want to live their lives and not be used by humans.

Please nip this in the bud - you will see regular protests at any demo project launched in this City.

Thanks you for your consideration.

Rob McNeil