

**From:** Jeff Donkervoort

**Sent:** Thursday, November 09, 2017 3:48 PM

**To:** Morris, Lauren <[lmorris@london.ca](mailto:lmorris@london.ca)>; Murphy-Myers, Kelly <[kmyers@london.ca](mailto:kmyers@london.ca)>; PEC <[pec@london.ca](mailto:pec@london.ca)>; ASKCITY <[ASKCITY@london.ca](mailto:ASKCITY@london.ca)>

**Subject:** Proposed allowance of backyard chickens

Hello staff reached by this correspondence,

I am writing you all to voice some serious concerns with the proposal before council to allow residents to keep chickens in backyards within London city limits.

I have compiled a short list of the very likely negative affects if this were to be passed by council. I also fail to see any potential up-side to allowing this.

Here is my list of downsides to allowing people to "own" chickens.

1. Issues with predators looking for easy meals. We know there will be conflicts with coyotes, racoons, and even bears and cougars which periodically wander in Southern Ontario. Police and MNR resources will be stretched even more dealing with these calls, never mind the public safety aspect.
2. What happens when these birds get sick and/or injured, will there be by-laws protecting them from abuse and who will enforce them?
3. There are very few Veterinarians who are trained to deal with fowl and other "farmed" animals, will these animals receive proper care?
4. Will there be requirements for living conditions for these chickens? ie; adequate protection from our cold winters and hot summers, how many birds per ft<sup>2</sup> of living space etc...
5. The inevitable escapes. Yes, chickens can fly short distances and who is responsible for safely re-capturing these escapees.? The Humane Society, L.A.C.C., MNR, London Police, the owners???
6. The ethical issue of where these animals will be bought from. Egg laying hens are separated from their male siblings at birth and every single male is either gassed to death or ground up alive simply because they are born male and cannot lay eggs.
7. What will happen to these hens once they cannot lay eggs anymore? Will there be mechanisms in place to humanely euthanize them? I know sanctuaries are full already and this added burden cannot be accommodated. Where will all these animals go?
8. There are lots of cases of avian flu viruses associated with the keeping of birds and they are easily transmittable to human populations.
9. The burden placed on bylaw officers to ensure the 15 m setback from dwellings and structures would place a huge strain on their already massive workloads.

I would like this correspondence to be entered into the public record and forwarded to everyone involved in voting for this proposal please,

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this,

Jeff Donkervoort