

In 2009 many residents of Saanich requested that Council amend the Animals Bylaw to allow the keeping of Chickens on smaller properties than what was currently allowed in the Animals Bylaw. A petition, letters, and e-mail had been received requesting that the keeping of chickens be allowed on property with an area less than 1,114.8 m<sup>2</sup> (12,000 ft<sup>2</sup>).

Saanich Council requested staff to receive and consider feed back from community stakeholders and residents; and to provide options for allowing chickens on residential property of less than 1,114.8 m<sup>2</sup> (12,000 ft<sup>2</sup>) in a report to Council.

Saanich staff reviewed regulations pertaining to the keeping of chickens in other North American municipalities; consulted Council committees, community associations and the Peninsula Agriculture Commission; conducted a survey to gather resident's opinion on keeping chickens on smaller lots; and held two open houses to provide residents the opportunity to discuss the keeping of chickens in urban residential areas.

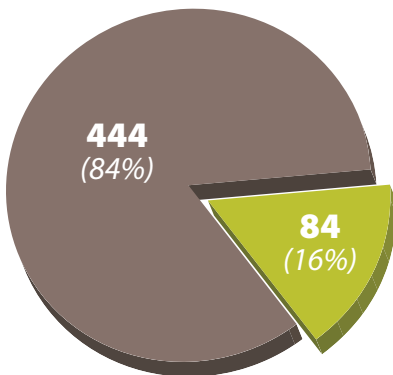
On June 14, 2011, following the bylaw amendment review process and a public hearing, Saanich Council approved an amendment to the Animals Bylaw to allow up to five (5) chickens on single family residential property with an area greater than 557 m<sup>2</sup> (6,000 ft<sup>2</sup>).

## Results of the Backyard Chickens Survey

A survey was conducted in 2010. Results of the survey are presented below. Comments and thoughts from Saanich residents on other aspects of keeping chickens in an urban residential setting were included in the survey.

### Question 1

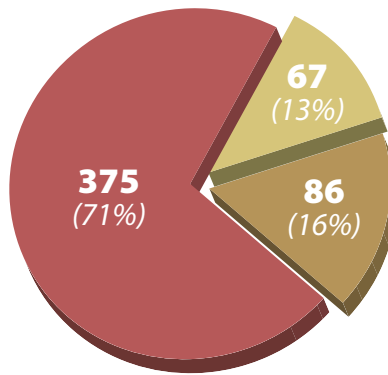
In general, do you support the keeping of up to five chickens (no roosters, hens only) on single family residential properties in Saanich?



**444** Yes  
**84** No

### Question 2

What do you think would be acceptable as the minimum sized single family lot for the keeping of chickens?

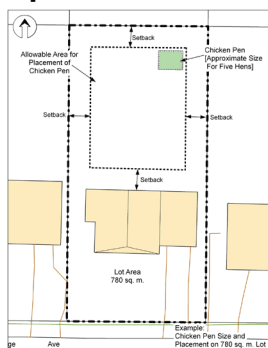


**86** Option 1 - Lots with an area of 780 m<sup>2</sup> (8,396 ft<sup>2</sup>) or greater. This is the minimum area required for lots within the RS10, RS10A & RS11 zoned single family zone. (approximately 20 m (65 ft) wide by 39 m (130 ft) deep) See Map 2 & Diagram 1

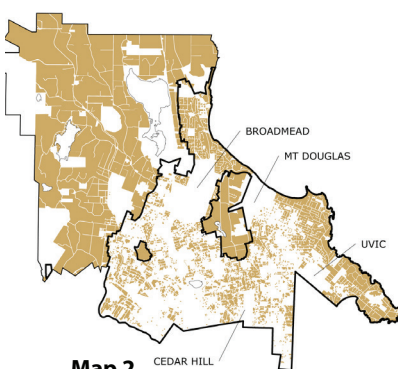
**375** Option 2 - Lots with an area of 560 m<sup>2</sup> (6,028 ft<sup>2</sup>) or greater. This is the minimum area required for lots within the RS6 & RS 6A zoned single family zone. (approximately 16m (52 ft) wide by 35 m (115 ft) deep) See Map 3 & Diagram 2

**67** The number of Respondents who did not answer question 2.

#### Option 1

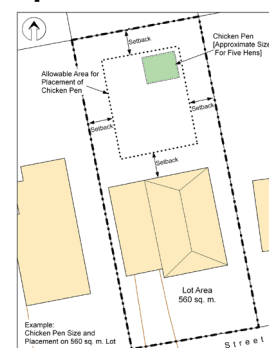


**Diagram 1**  
780 sq. m

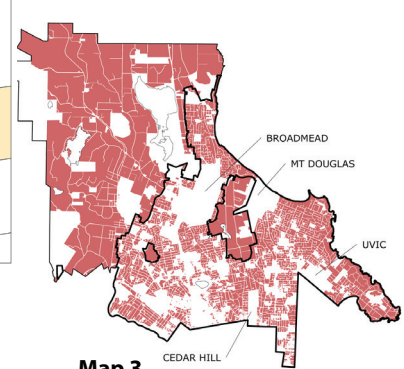


**Map 2**  
Lots > 780 sq. m (8,396 sq. ft.)

#### Option 2



**Diagram 2**  
560 sq. m



**Map 3**  
Lots > 560 sq. m (6,028 sq. ft.)

Diagrams 1 & 2 show the approximate size (in green) of a chicken coop & run for five hens on a typical lot.