

LESLEY HARDER
AMHERST, NS
902-661-1204



August 5, 2018

ANDREW FISHER
Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
AMHERST, NS

Dear ANDREW FISHER,

GAME OF CHICKEN

Do we want this in the town of Amherst??

Some aspects of the urban environment are not compatible with keeping backyard hens and crowing roosters. The attraction to rats and other wild animals such as foxes and skunks etc. are of a concern. Foxes will dig a hole 12 ft. deep in order to get under a coop. Happy chickens require 3' – 4' sq. feet per chicken inside and 8' to 10' square feet per chicken outside. Skimping on space can cause stress, cannibalism, pecking and death. The approximate 10 hens and 1 rooster which were the subject of the article in the Amherst News, were not given this required space. These birds were kept confined for days at a time when they should be let out daily. SPCA quote “not a suitable practice for individuals with little or no knowledge for keeping of chickens”. On a positive note, four chickens will provide enough eggs for a family of four. Some municipalities across Canada do allow this but not the keeping of a rooster which can have a negative impact on surrounding property.

Sincerely

Lesley Harder

cc: JASON BLANCH (Councilor)
cc: DAVID KOGAN (Mayor of Amherst)

