Appendix H

The Winnipeg Humane Society

Position Statement on Backyard Poultry

November 2, 2012

Animal shelters across North America, which are in jurisdictions that allow urban backyard chickens, have witnessed an alarming increase in the number of chickens surrendered to the shelters.

Unwanted chickens are surrendered for a number of reasons:

- the chickens proved far more difficult to care for than the owners realized
- roosters are being turned over because the owners believed they were receiving hens
- noise complaints from neighbours
- owners cannot face the reality of having to slaughter spent birds
- rats, mice, foxes, and raccoons are attracted to the chicken coops
- the issue of disease control and veterinary care has not been thought through by the owners until problems occur
- Winnipeg's winter climate is not suitable for chickens without adequate insulated shelter with heating and lighting

Animal shelters were created to deal with unwanted dogs and cats. Such shelters are not equipped to deal with chickens and the associated costs.

Shelters are finding that the chickens are very difficult to place, adoption wise, especially roosters.

Therefore, The Winnipeg Humane Society is not in favour of The City of Winnipeg amending the current Pound By-Law to allow urban chicken flocks.

Issued By:
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