

Subject: Advocating for Responsible Backyard Fowl Ownership in [Your City]

Dear [City Council Member's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. My name is [Your Name], and I am a concerned citizen in our community. I am writing to bring attention to the topic of backyard fowl ownership and to advocate for responsible regulations in [Your City].

As a member of our community, I believe that responsible backyard fowl ownership can contribute positively to our city's community, sustainability, and overall well-being. I have outlined key points below that highlight the benefits, address potential concerns, and provide considerations associated with this issue:

1. Backyard Fowl Limit:

- I propose an increase in the current fowl limit from [Current Limit] to [Proposed Limit]. This adjustment aligns with the social nature of chickens and ducks, ensuring they have adequate companionship for their well-being.
- Data from neighboring cities, such as Edina (4), Bloomington (4), Minneapolis (30), and St. Paul (15), indicates a range of permissible limits. The average flock size in the Twin Cities metro area is 6, suggesting that a limit of [Proposed Limit] would be reasonable for [Your City].
- [If you have a petition, public comments, or any other type of community support for your initiative, include those here]

2. Considerations for Implementation & Education:

- Lot sizes in [Your City] can accommodate more than [Proposed Limit] fowl; however, coop and run space should be regulated, following [a rule of 10 square feet](#) per chicken/duck.
- Model after successful programs in cities like Minneapolis, implementing a one-time permit process that includes a required backyard chicken/duck class and a coop inspection. This would help ensure that fowl owners are educated about proper care and maintenance.
- Allowing residents to keep backyard fowl provides educational opportunities for families, schools, and community groups. It fosters a deeper understanding of animal husbandry, agriculture, and the importance of responsible food production.
- Backyard fowl ownership offers an opportunity for residents, especially children, to connect with nature in an urban setting. Learning and appreciating the natural behavior of chickens and ducks fosters a sense of environmental stewardship.

3. Individual & Community Benefits

- Backyard fowl ownership can serve as a catalyst for community bonding. Shared experiences of caring for chickens and ducks can bring neighbors together, creating a sense of camaraderie and shared responsibility within our neighborhoods.
- Chickens and ducks are excellent at foraging and consuming kitchen scraps, contributing to waste reduction. Their droppings also make valuable fertilizer, promoting natural and eco-friendly practices in waste management.
- Caring for animals, even on a small scale, has been shown to have [positive effects on mental health](#). The daily routine of tending to fowl, interacting with them, and enjoying the outdoors can enhance overall well-being for individuals and families.
- Backyard fowl ownership supports the concept of urban agriculture, allowing residents to take a step towards self-sufficiency in food production. This aligns with a broader movement towards local resilience and food security.
- Chickens and ducks make excellent, low-maintenance pets. Promoting their ownership encourages responsible pet ownership practices and provides an alternative for individuals seeking companionship beyond traditional pets like cats and dogs.

I understand the importance of a balanced approach to this matter, and I am open to discussing these points further. Your time and consideration on this issue are greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone if you would like more information or if there is an opportunity for further discussion.

Thank you for your dedication to serving our community, and I look forward to positive developments regarding responsible backyard fowl ownership in [Your City].

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[Your Email]

[Your Phone Number]