

Canadian Association of Poultry Veterinarians

Position Statement regarding Backyard Poultry Flocks

The Canadian Association of Poultry Veterinarians (CAPV) is committed to supporting the health, welfare and well being of poultry across Canada, as well as safeguarding the health of poultry producers and consumers of poultry products. The CAPV is aware of a growing interest in urban poultry production, and can only deem acceptable production systems that provide for the physical needs of the poultry being raised. In order to be an acceptable facility, all flock owners, regardless of flock size or location must be aware of and provide for the physical needs of the birds under their care. These requirements include provision of fresh water; knowledge of and provision of feedstuffs that support the production type of the fowl; suitable housing that protects from predators and vermin, provides shelter, and maintains comfortable temperatures for all weather conditions to which the birds will be exposed; and suitable access to a health program and advice from a professional source, preferably a veterinarian knowledgeable in poultry medicine. The CAPV also supports the position that anyone producing eggs or meat for human consumption without government inspection must be knowledgeable in the safe handling of eggs and/or meat that is produced. Poultry production anywhere in Canada must adhere to the provincial and municipal regulations in place regarding the sale of these poultry products off the farm or out of the home. Protocols for handling soiled or cracked eggs or contaminated carcasses must be in place to ensure human health. Finally, the CAPV encourages all producers, regardless of size, to be environmentally sustainable, and have plans in place for removal and disposal of waste products, including manure and carcasses.

The CAPV encourages municipalities who support urban poultry production to develop a licensing and auditing system that ensures urban producers are identifiable, have the knowledge and facilities to provide for the necessities of their poultry, have an arrangement for health care for the birds, and are responsibly disposing of all waste products. In supporting these goals, the CAPV strives to maintain good bird welfare, while protecting the health of the people involved in poultry production and consumption.