



Backyard chickens not likely: Moscoe

By **IAN ROBERTSON**, TORONTO SUN

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The Toronto councillor who oversees animal permits says chickens belong down on the farm — not in or near city residences.

Councillor Howard Moscoe, who heads licensing and standards committee, says having a paltry amount of poultry might be okay under the right circumstances.

But the problem with okaying chickens at Toronto homes "is it could get out-of-hand," Moscoe said in an interview Wednesday.

"It would be acceptable if we could find a way to limit it," he said.

Instead of a handful of egg-laying hens, Moscoe said some people might bring in a flock and the feathers would fly with neighbour disputes.

"I have a rooster in my neighbourhood," he said. "It's not annoying."

The owner has no hens, Moscoe added. "It's become part of the atmosphere."

A few years ago, North York passed a bylaw permitting residents to keep pigeons, but owners must be members of a registered pigeon club.

"They know when to feed them and when to let them out to fly," Moscoe said.

He said Councillor Joe Mihevc cracked the issue of allowing chickens at city homes on the licensing and standards committee "and the committee told him to get lost.

"I think at that point Mihevc laid an egg on that one," Moscoe chortled.

Issues of barnyard animals are not new, he added.

"I've had complaints of goats on balconies in the Jane and Finch area," Moscoe said. "Toronto is a city of immigrants and in a lot of places, raising a chicken or two is allowed," he said. "The question is how to raise them. "You may have a formula for problems," Moscoe said, adding "the jury is out on the question of whether we allow them."