

## **907 N Detroit St.**

Buchanan, MI 49107

5/27/21

Buchanan City Commission  
C/o Barbara Pitcher  
302 N Redbud Trail  
Buchanan, MI 49017

To Whom it May Concern:

We are writing to ask the commission to consider putting an item on the agenda for a vote. The amendment we are proposing is concerning Chapter 12 of the City of Buchanan, Michigan Code of Ordinances, Animals and Fowl. The change would specifically relate to sections 12-1 and 12-5, Definitions and Keeping of Domestic Chickens, respectively. The amendment we are requesting is the addition of ducks to the list of domesticated fowl.

We understand as the verbiage currently stands; domesticated chickens are the only type of fowl permitted in the city of Buchanan. We started our endeavor wanting to get chickens as permitted, but after many hours of research, we learned that perhaps ducks would be a better option for our backyard. In short, ducks appear to be a cleaner and healthier bird—with stronger immune systems, making them less likely to contract diseases; quieter—some breeds are even considered to be noiseless!; hardier--ducks have an additional layer of fat and waterproof feathers, making them much more suited to the elements; and most importantly: the friendlier option for backyards. Ducks adhere to a far less aggressive pecking order and are known for their backyard tranquility. Having a four-year-old (and one more on the way) who will undoubtedly want to help care for the birds, this is especially appealing to us.

As far as eggs are concerned, ducks are far more prolific egg layers than their chicken counterparts. They are known to consistently outperform chickens, especially in the winter months, laying at a 75-100% rate whereas chickens drop down to a 40-50% rate. Not only do they outperform in numbers, but the nutritional value of duck eggs vs. chicken eggs is much higher as well. This is the main reason we began looking into adding chickens/ducks to our backyard in the first place—having year-round access to nutritious eggs that we knew had been raised, fed, and taken care of properly.

To conclude, we feel that ducks would not only be beneficial to our backyard, but to anyone in Buchanan wanting to feed their family nutritious, home-grown eggs. We are hoping the commission will consider putting this amendment on the agenda for a vote as to whether or not this is something they would like to add. We appreciate your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

John & Nicole Longmore