

April 6, 2015

City of Dana Point  
33282 Golden Lantern  
Dana Point, CA 92629

Attention: City Council

I am writing to address the issue of chickens in the backyards of our neighbors.

We have lived in Dana Point and Capistrano Beach for the last 15 years and sincerely value the unique community in which we live. And while we personally have yet to experience a neighbor with chickens as pets, I must assure you my husband and I have no desire to have to deal with that in addition to some of the other factors plaguing our neighborhoods.

I grew up in Glendora on an acre of land with horses, dogs, cats, rabbits and a few chickens. That was the nature of the community at the time and I love animals. Our family has 2 cats, a rabbit, a fish and a frog. Our neighbors have dogs that we care for as much as if they were our own. These are the types of animals appropriate for a home in such a densely populated neighborhood.

In Dana Point and Capistrano Beach, our average home lots are not nearly as large as where I grew up and we rely on the courtesy of our neighbors for quality of life. We live at the beach not on farms and just because we could technically have a goat or pig living in our backyard doesn't mean we should. There are other areas to live where these types of animals, such as chickens, make sense to have as pets; Nellie Gail, San Juan Capistrano, Trabuco Canyon, Fallbrook and Temecula, for example. Large parcels of land where other neighbors live similarly.

Our understanding of what having a pet chicken means in terms of smells, noise, flies, increased rodent population and coyote sightings is what has compelled us to support our less-popular neighbors in their pleas to you to uphold the current ruling voted on by the Dana Point Planning Commission.

Farm animals need adequate space which simply does not exist in the vast majority of our city's parcels of land. Please do not overturn the position against allowing chickens.

Respectfully,

Eileen & David Waters  
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Agenda Item No. 25  
4/7/15