

A message about Poultry



Poultry provide a source of food and enjoyment for many people. They are a common feature of the backyards of suburban Adelaide, which have traditionally been large enough to support a well-maintained enclosure without causing undue offence to neighbours.

KEEPING POULTRY GUIDE

Today, there are a huge variety of chicken breeds available, with at least one of them sure to be right for you! Before you commit to your own flock it is vital to be absolutely sure that keeping your own chickens is right for you.

With the recent trend towards smaller housing blocks and subdivision of existing blocks, there is greater potential for poultry keeping to cause offence or annoyance in built-up areas. Problems of this nature which are commonly encountered with poorly constructed and maintained enclosures include:

- Excessive odour
- Noise, especially from roosters and turkeys
- Fly breeding and attraction
- Rat or mouse attraction

Should Council receive a complaint regarding the above problems then an order can be placed on the owner of the animals. This is usually undertaken after informal discussions in an attempt to remedy the issue have failed.

Council addresses complaints based on nuisance. Nuisance complaints may include birds causing unreasonable noise, dust, odour, lack of containment, or if there are more birds than acceptable.

NUISANCE

All birds should be cared for so that they do not create a nuisance. It is important to ensure that due consideration be given to the location of the poultry shelter so that neighbours are not affected by noise or odour.

KEEPING OF PRESCRIBED ANIMALS

From 1 January 2023, permission is required to keep either a rooster or peacock that is 2 months or older, as they are now considered to be prescribed animals. Application will still be accepted prior to the above date.

A prescribed animal is defined as meaning either a rooster or peacock that is 2 months or older.

Residents may apply to the City of Marion for permission to keep a prescribed animal. The application form can be found at www.marion.sa.gov.au.

SHELTER

A well constructed poultry shelter helps minimise problems associated with poultry keeping. The structure should be made of sound materials (e.g. timber, wire netting and sheet metal) so that it is rat proof, weather proof and allows good ventilation.

It is recommended to have :-

- A floor area of 0.37 square metres is required for Each bird. For example a coop for 12 laying hens must be 2.4 metres long by 1.8 metres wide.
- Planning approval is required for coops more than 10 square metres.
- The coop must be placed at least one metre away from all boundary fences to allow access for cleaning.
- The structure must be neat and tidy.
- Food and straw must be kept in vermin proof receptacles.
- Waste should be cleared up and disposed of weekly in cooler months and more frequently during warmer months.

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SHELTER CONT.....

- Face the open front of the coop in an easterly or southerly direction for better ventilation and to help keep the floor dry.
- Paint the outside green to make it less conspicuous.
- Paint the roof white and plant trees and shrubs around the outside to help make it cooler in summer.
- Concrete flooring is recommended in the Shelter.

SHELTER FLOOR LITTER

(eg straw, hay, shell grit etc.) Keep the litter dry at all times. For this reason, the chicken's drinking water should be placed outside the shelter. Cut a hole through the shelter wall to allow your bird to drink.

FEEDING

Food and water left for animals and birds can attract rats and mice, therefore only give enough food to feed the birds for one day. Consider suspending containers from the roof or place feed on stands that rats and mice cannot climb. These are readily available through hardware and farm suppliers. It is also important to keep bulk storage of food in vermin proof containers.

SANITATION

Poultry enclosures must be kept in a clean and sanitary condition at all times. Droppings need to be cleaned out regularly and either buried, or in the case of poultry manure, may be composted for use as mulch or soil conditioner. Any dropped food needs to be removed or returned to the vermin-proof container. Any dead animals or birds must be disposed of in a sanitary manner .

PEST CONTROL

Fly baits and fly paper may be placed inside the Shelter, out of reach of the birds. Check these regularly and replace when necessary.

Rats and mice should be discouraged by placing all food in vermin-proof containers unless it is for immediate consumption/use.

REMEMBER....

- Keep yards and enclosures clean and free from matter that may create offensive odours.
- Clean poultry enclosures regularly and ensure that all effuse (droppings, food scraps etc.) is disposed of properly.
- Floors of poultry enclosures should be impervious material underneath roosts or perches to assist with cleaning.
- Troughs for drinking water should not cause soggy ground conditions.
- Poultry feed should be stored in sealed containers. Only sufficient feed for your poultry should be given during the day, to avoid attracting vermin such as rats.
- The interior of any enclosures should be treated with insecticide to minimise insects.
- Any timber or other building materials on the site should be removed or stacked so it is clear of the ground to reduce vermin harborage.

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