

# FACT SHEET



## Keeping of Poultry and Birds

*A household poultry or bird flock can be a rewarding hobby, but there are certain requirements in place to ensure your poultry or birds are kept in the best possible condition to ensure their comfort and prevent nuisance to neighbours.*



Before acquiring poultry or birds it is important to know how many can be kept and ensure that you have an appropriate place to keep them.

### Enclosure Requirements?

All birds or poultry kept within a town area must be kept in an appropriate enclosure or aviary. Council's local laws specify the following requirements:

- Enclosures must be at least 2m from the property boundary and located at the rear of any premises
- Enclosures for domestic hens, geese, ducks, turkeys or pigeons must be at least 10m from another dwelling
- Enclosures for cockatoos, galahs, corellas, and the like must be at least 25m from another dwelling.
- Cages must be constructed to prevent the birds from escaping, and prevent spread of disease or odour, or vermin infestation
- Enclosures must be kept clean and odour free

### How many can I keep in a town area?

| Poultry   | Max. No.      |
|---|---------------|
| Allotment size $\leq 350\text{m}^2$ or<br>Multiple dwelling unit/complex                              | Not permitted |
| Allotment size $350\text{m}^2 - 500\text{m}^2$  | 2 birds       |
| Allotment size $> 500\text{m}^2$ to 2 ha  | 12 birds      |
| No more than 4 geese, turkeys or ducks in total   |               |
| <b>Roosters</b><br><b>Peacock, peahen, guinea fowl,</b><br><b>pheasant, emu, ostrich</b>              | Not Permitted |
| <b>Caged birds</b>  |               |
| Allotment size $\leq 350\text{m}^2$ or<br>Multiple dwelling unit/complex                              | 4 birds       |
| Allotment size $350\text{m}^2 - 500\text{m}^2$  | 10 birds      |
| Allotment size $> 500\text{m}^2$  | 20 birds      |
| <b>Cockatoo, Galah, Corella</b>   | 2 birds       |
| <b>Pigeons</b>  |               |
| Allotment size $\leq 350\text{m}^2$ or<br>Multiple dwelling unit/complex                              | Not permitted |
| Allotment size $350\text{m}^2 - 500\text{m}^2$  | 10 birds      |
| Allotment size $> 500\text{m}^2$ to 2 ha  | 20 birds      |
| Pigeons must also be kept in accordance with any endorsed code of practice for the keeping of pigeons |               |

### Want more than the maximum number?

You may apply for approval to keep more than the maximum number of *some* types of poultry, caged birds or pigeons, subject to a number of conditions. It is recommended that you contact Council prior to making an application to determine whether the allowed types and conditions apply to you.

### What sort of henhouse or aviary do I need?

Factors to consider include:

- Easy access for cleaning
- Made from materials that are easy to clean and do not retain heat (unpainted metals will retain heat)
- Well ventilated but still offering adequate protection
- Concrete floor with rat wall is desirable
- Spread litter 100mm deep and keep dry to reduce odour. Suitable litter includes sawdust, straw or untreated pine shavings
- A covered water trough outside the shelter will reduce wet litter inside the henhouse
- Self-feeding troughs are ideal
- Mount nesting boxes on cooler side of shelter and off the ground
- Pest proof (snakes, foxes etc)

### Health and Hygiene

Owning poultry or birds carries the same responsibility as any other domestic animal.

If a member of a flock shows signs of disease or illness it must be isolated to reduce further contamination. Ensure you seek veterinary assistance prior to reintroducing a sick bird to the flock.

Eggs and poultry meat can be a source of salmonella bacteria. For more information about how to prevent Salmonellosis or food poisoning, refer to Council's food site <http://www.banana.qld.gov.au/food> or contact Council's Environmental Health Officers on the number provided at the bottom of the page.

### Healthy Flock, Happy Neighbours

Great ways to keep a healthy flock and happy neighbours include:

- Keep the henhouse/aviary clean to prevent odour and fly breeding
- Store food in pest proof containers
- Avoid putting out excess food as this may encourage rats and mice
- Clean up all manure at least every 7 days and ensure it's appropriate containment, disposal or composting
- Replace water daily
- Commercially prepared foods are nutritionally balanced for the health of your birds/poultry
- It is illegal to feed poultry or birds animal matter or other waste contaminated with animal matter (swill)
- Ensure any household vegetable scraps are consumed within 5-10 minutes and remove excess scraps.

### Making a nuisance complaint

If your neighbour's poultry are causing a nuisance you may register a complaint with Council by completing the relevant complaint form or contacting Council by one of the options at the bottom of the page.

However, Council does recommend that you discuss your concerns with your neighbour before registering a complaint. On most occasions your neighbour will not realise that they are causing a nuisance and will be happy to address the issue.

### Considering a commercial operation?

If you need more information about commercial poultry farming, producing and selling eggs, or animal welfare contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 13 25 23 or visit their website: <https://www.daf.qld.gov.au/animal-industries/poultry>.