

# STANDARD FOR KEEPING POULTRY & BIRDS

(See General Bylaw, Control of Stock, Poultry & Bees 2019)

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Poultry means any live bird that is kept or raised for the purpose of producing eggs, hatching eggs or poultry products, and includes chickens, ducks, geese, peacocks, peahens, pheasants, roosters and swans but not emus and ostriches.

Due to the proximity of neighbours in urban areas, you are limited on the number of poultry you can keep. This number is six (6).

The Bylaw requires that you comply with this standard. If Council detects situations or receives complaints it will make sure you are doing the right thing.

## STANDARD FOR KEEPING POULTRY

Responsible ownership includes the welfare of your poultry and ensuring they do not create a nuisance or cause a public health concern.

### Providing shelter:

Poultry shall have access to an area of land greater than three square metres and include:

- A properly constructed poultry house, which is weathertight for sleeping and laying eggs.
- A run must be attached to the poultry house.
- A surface for pecking and scratching.
- A secluded nesting area.
- Perches positioned off the ground, so poultry can maintain a natural position on top of the perch when roosting.

### You can achieve this by providing:

- An enclosed coop with an attached run, or
- An enclosed coop and adequate fencing of the premises.

You must provide daily feed and fresh water to all poultry.

### Placement of coops

When preparing your coop, you must consider how the location may affect your neighbours and locate the coop in a place that is least likely to cause a nuisance.

- Coops are to be at least 3 metres from neighbouring fences and 10 metres from any dwelling or other occupied building. This distance includes neighbours dwellings.

It is your responsibility to keep your coop clean to minimise potential smells and health problems for both poultry and people. This is a requirement of the Health Act 1956.

### To keep your coop or aviary clean and vermin free, you must:

- Line nesting boxes and coop floors with hay, wood chips or sawdust (untreated), or shredded newspaper so that it can be easily removed when cleaned out.
  - Remove waste at least once a week as excess food and chicken bedding waste can attract flies, vermin.
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## **Vermin**

Once vermin find an accessible food supply, they will continue to return and can contaminate feed and water. They can also expose owners and neighbours to diseases unless effective steps are taken to deal with or guard against these nuisances. It is an offence under the Health Act 1956.

Essential preventative or other control measures are listed as follows:

- Ensure that as far as practicable all food is stored in vermin proof containers, specifically for poultry feeding. These also keep out the rain and give poultry good access to dry pellets or grain.
- Adequate poisoned rodent baits or other controls must be maintained to effectively eradicate any vermin infestation which could occur from time to time. Bait must not be placed where poultry have access.

## **PIGEON AND BIRD AVIARIES**

If you have an aviary on your property, these are to be at least 3 metres from neighbouring fences and 10 metres from any dwelling or other occupied building. This distance includes neighbours dwellings.

If you are keeping pigeons you must ensure they are not a nuisance to anyone else or causing health and safety issues to the public.

## **PROHIBITED**

Keeping of Roosters, Turkeys and Peacocks is prohibited in the District.