

The Urban Farm Guidelines For Chickens

The approved poultry are to be quiet birds as to not disturb neighbors with excessive sound. No roosters, peacocks or larger birds such as turkeys or full size ducks will be permitted. Approved poultry will include, chickens and wild fowl such as calling ducks, pheasants or quail. The birds are to be raised primarily for the purpose of eggs or as pets if that is what you desire. We realize that at one point the life of the birds will come to term and you may want to use them as food. That is fine, eviscerating the birds will not be permitted at Paradise Valley but you can deliver them to a local plant who will provide this service for you.

We would suggest before embarking on a backyard poultry coop that you carefully research what is involved to ensure that you make an informed decision as to whether you are willing to commit to the ongoing requirements that are necessary to ensure the health and safety of the birds you will be maintaining. If you are interested in raising the wild fowl listed above, we would like to stress that they each require a very specific type of dwelling, exterior run and care, with pheasants being quite similar to chickens but calling ducks and quails quite different.

In keeping with our moto, "Living in harmony with nature," we want to ensure the poultry be cared for in the best manner possible. A well constructed poultry coop and outdoor run which meets our development guidelines will ensure the safety needed for the birds from ground and air borne wild predators as well as neighboring dogs and cats. Plans will have to be approved by the developer to meet the requirements stated in our Architectural and Property Guidelines. The building constructed as a coop, could attach to the back of a garage or could be its own stand alone structure, either needing to be finished with the same type of exterior finish and roofing as your home.

Upon doing our own research on poultry care we will also be concerned with such aspects as are listed below:

- Proper placement on lot for adequate drainage in springtime.
- Correct building size ratio to the amount of birds, (ex. minimum rule of thumb for chickens is about 2-3 square feet per chicken inside the hen house and 4-5 sq/ft per chicken in an outside run.)
- Adequate light and heat sources for the winter care of birds including both windows and electrical hookups for heaters if ever needed and an electrical light.
- Installation of ventilation
- Insulation of coop.
- Attention to construction of coop ensuring floor, walls, doors and windows are all sealed properly to discourage entrance of predators.
- Correct construction of the exterior run to ensure both safety from predators as well as the installation of a base that enables the run to be cleaned quickly and easily. It also needs to be out of a material that composts quickly to prevent ongoing odors neighbors might not enjoy. Having properly prepared compost is of course a welcome addition to any garden and general landscaping application.

Here are some internet links that we have found helpful as references for a wide variety of information on care, breeds, coop designs, etc. for poultry and domesticated wild fowl.

<http://www.backyardchickens.com/>

<http://jayduve.hubpages.com/hub/How-to-Start-Raising-Pheasants>

<http://poultryone.com/raisingpheasants.php>

<http://smallfarmcanada.ca/2009/getting-in-the-game/>

<http://therealowner.com/birds/keeping-pet-call-ducks/>

<http://www.cityfarmer.org/quail2.html>