

## Urban Farming Guidelines for Domesticated Fowl

All protocols and Architectural Guidelines outlined on our website, as well as the adherence to the Urban Farming Guidelines for Poultry for building approved structures, will apply to all construction for the keeping of domestic fowl. All construction must meet the developments building requirements.

### Domesticated Fowl

#### **Pheasants**

The birds originated in Asia but have since been introduced to many areas of the world including Europe and North America where they have naturalized in some areas. They are a popular game bird for hunting that also adapts well to domestic raising. It's main use is for meat but males also display beautiful plumage which is used for many decorative purposes and for making fishing flies. Pheasant eggs are considered a gourmet delicacy with a large yolk that has less cholesterol than a chicken egg and are prepared in a similar way.

Here is a detailed reference for raising pheasants from the Government of Saskatchewan:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Default.aspx?DN=7a7c2028-ba84-4606-9066-ccb062ece6f9>

#### **Quail**

Quails, small, short-tailed game birds, resemble partridges but are generally smaller and less robust. There are 130 species, 95 species being of the Old World. Their flesh has always been considered a delicacy as was their eggs.

Preferring open country and brushy borders as their natural habitat, quail eat mainly seeds and berries but also take leaves, roots, and some insects.

Quail can be the perfect starter livestock as they require less space and work than chickens. They are quiet and easy to raise as they do not eat a lot. They convert feed into protein efficiently, and are much more congenial creatures than even the sweetest-tempered chicken. Many cities allow quail when chickens are forbidden and given their quiet nature and modest space requirements, they can even be raised on the balcony of an urban apartment. In comparison to the space requirements of 3 sq. ft. per bird that a chicken requires, quails only need 1-2 sq.ft for each bird.

When it comes to eating, quail eggs are nearly identical in taste and are more nutritional than chicken eggs. Their small size determines that it takes about five quail eggs to equal one chicken egg.

#### **Care of Quails:**

**Housing:** Cages are built up off of the floor or off the ground on stilts. They can be built inside an existing winterized chicken coop if wanting to keep birds year round. Kept separately, both birds can cohabitate together. Cages need to be covered with a very small holed chicken wire to prevent quails from predators.

Reference to see an example:

Cage inside a coop - <http://naturalchickenkeeping.com/forum/viewtopic.php?f=11&t=362>

References to read for general care:

<http://www.backdoorsurvival.com/backyard-quail/>

<http://home.earthlink.net/~mtkuo/quail.html>

<http://www.freestylefarm.ca/2013/02/04/raising-backyard-quails/>  
<http://raisequail.com/>

### **Call Ducks**

Call ducks often look a lot like Mallard Ducks although they are smaller. Through specialized breeding they also come in other colors, such as white. The color pattern that is similar to the Mallard is called "grey".

Call Ducks are slightly smaller than Mallards, and at one time were used by hunters to attract Mallards (currently laws in most areas prevent use of live decoys). Call ducks weigh roughly 2 pounds with the female birds being slightly smaller. They are considered to be an **Ornamental Duck**, kept generally for pure entertainment of their owners, but will also eat bugs and insects.

The Call Duck breed is a small, domestic duck that can technically be called a bantam duck breed. Call ducks are similar to Mallard ducks in their plumage and external appearance, but are relatively smaller in weight. This breed is often raised for ornamental purposes.

**Lewis Wright (The Practical Poultry Keeper: Public Domain) states:** "Call Ducks are principally kept as ornamental fowl. The voice of the drake is peculiar, resembling a low whistle. They vary in colour, one variety precisely resembling the Aylesbury in plumage, but with a yellow bill, and the other the Rouen; but in both cases bearing the same relation to them as Game Bantams do to the Game Fowl. The flesh is good ; but there is too little to repay breeding them for the table, and their only proper place is on the lake."

The Call Duck breed may be originally from the Netherlands, though no one is exactly sure. It was first officially recognized as a duck breed in 1865 in Britain. In 1874, the Call Duck breed was recognized as an official duck breed. The Call Duck breed is quite an active duck breed compared to some other domestic duck breeds.

The Call duck reaches an approximate weight of one and a half pounds, or around 0.7 kilograms of weight.

The Call Duck breed can take a number of appearances.

The breed standard colors are White Call Ducks, Buff Call Ducks, Pastel Call Ducks and Magpie Call Ducks.

Here are some recommended books available for reference from our website to assist the beginning duck hobbyist:

- [Storey's Guide to Raising Ducks: Breeds, Care, Health](#).
- [Storey's Guide to Raising Ducks](#)
- [Ducks and Geese: A Guide to Management](#)
- [Storey's Guide to Raising Poultry: Breeds, Care, Health](#).

### **Care of Call Ducks:**

**Housing:** When raising ducks, housing does not have to be elaborate. They can either be housed intensively where the birds are kept inside or semi-intensively with the birds having access to the outside during the day and kept indoors at nights or in bad weather. The housing must be clean and dry with proper ventilation. The site where the coops are located should be slightly sloping rather than flat in elevation as to not impede the drainage of the run area. Ducks cannot withstand too much heat and adequate shade is needed.

**Flooring:** There should be space of 0.2 m<sup>2</sup> for each bird. The shed floor should be covered with wood shavings or some other absorbent material of about 6-7 cm depth, to absorb moisture as well as to prevent egg breakage.

**Nests:** Nests can also be used as there will be fewer breakages of eggs and no exposure to dampness or sun. They should be clean, dry and comfortable. They can be built and placed in rows along the walls. The suitable size is 30 cm by 30 cm by 40 cm deep for one duck. Material such as shavings, sawdust or sand should be placed to a depth of 7 cm.

**Magazine reference for raising gamebirds:**

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

**References to the cautions of game bird keeping:**

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

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