



CHARTERS TOWERS REGIONAL COUNCIL

Exceptional Service for an Exceptional Community

FACT SHEET: Keeping of birds and poultry

If you keep birds or poultry, they must be kept in accordance with Council's *Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011*.

Keeping poultry in your backyard has many benefits and, if done properly, will reduce kitchen and food waste and reward you and your garden. If you keep birds and poultry on your property, it is your responsibility to ensure they are kept in accordance with Council's Local Law provisions.

HOW MUST I KEEP THEM >>

Birds and poultry must be kept without causing a nuisance:

- Birds and poultry must be contained within an appropriate enclosure on the property. The enclosure must prevent the birds and poultry from wandering off, or flying away, from the land.
- The enclosure must be cleaned thoroughly at least once per week.
- Food must be stored within a vermin-proof container.
- Bird and poultry noise must not cause a nuisance.

The enclosure must be located:

- not less than 2 metres from the property boundary
- at the rear of, and behind, any residence
- not within 10 metres of any residence, food storage or preparation areas.



HOW MANY CAN I KEEP? >>

Breed	Property Size	Number Permitted
Rooster	Less than 4000m ²	Not permitted
Poultry (other than a rooster), duck or goose	Less than 1000m ²	Six
Poultry (other than a rooster), duck or goose	Between 1001m ² and 4000m ²	Twelve
Cockatoo, galah or other bird of a similar size, peahen or peacock	Less than 4000m ²	One – with Council approval only.
Budgerigar, canary or other bird of a similar size or racing pigeons	Less than 4000m ²	Twenty. More than Twenty requires Council approval.

If you wish to apply for a permit to keep more than the allowable number of animals, complete the [Application Form Special Approval](#). This form is also available from the Charters Towers Regional Council website www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au.

ROOSTERS >>

Avoid roosters – they are not needed to produce eggs and are not allowed on smaller properties. The noise of a rooster crowing at unsociable hours won't be popular with your neighbours! They also tend to make chickens broody (sit on their eggs to hatch chickens), which will reduce the number of eggs they lay. If you have a noisy rooster, restricting the height it can raise its head to crow will assist in noise reduction.



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YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CONTROL ANIMAL NOISE >>

If you are keeping birds or poultry on your property you must ensure that the animals are not causing a nuisance to your neighbours.

There are many popular breeds of chickens you can consider for backyard pets including Rhode Island Red, Lowan Brown or Isabrown. You should investigate a breed that suits your living circumstance to ensure that neighbour nuisances are avoided.

Chickens traditionally make noise when laying eggs, which often occurs in the early morning. It has been found that reducing light can assist in noise reduction. Options may be to invest in blackout boxes or to install block out curtains in enclosures.

MY NEIGHBOUR'S ANIMALS ARE NOISY – WHAT DO I DO? >>

Talk to your neighbour as soon as the problem arises. They may not be aware that their animals are bothering you.

Give your neighbour this information and if the noise persists after a week or two, speak with your neighbour again to provide feedback.

If your neighbour is unapproachable, or does not agree that a problem exists, you should contact Council for further advice.



EXCESSIVE NOISE >>

Excessive noise is an offence and Council staff will respond to reported noise problems. If an animal's noise exceeds six (6) minutes accumulated time in any hour between 7:00am and 10:00pm, or three (3) minutes accumulated time in any 30 minute period between the hours of 10:00pm and 7:00am, then it is considered to be excessive.

If the problem continues and further complaints are reported, Council will investigate.

Irresponsible owners who fail to comply with Council recommendations will face significant penalties including on-the-spot fines.

Council staff can help you with animal noise problems in the community so that you do not suffer the nuisance caused by animals that make too much noise.

CONTACTING COUNCIL >>

If you require any further information about this or any other responsible pet ownership issue, please call Council's Planning and Sustainable Development Department on phone 07 4761 5544, fax Council on 07 4761 5344 or visit the Charters Towers Regional Council website www.charterstowers.qld.gov.au.

MORE INFORMATION >>

Complete information on Council's Local Laws and Local Law No. 2 (Animal Management) 2011 is available via the Charters Towers Regional Council website.

Your Council is committed to encouraging responsible pet ownership to benefit the entire community.

Please be a considerate and competent owner.