

## ADOPT THE DEEP LITTER METHOD!

Using this method correctly will ensure that your fowls will always be on dry ground and there will be little, if anything to attract flies. Fowl droppings will quickly dry and form part of the litter.

### Starting the litter:

Use dry materials only, such as straw or wood shavings, and spread it to a depth of about 150 mm on the floor surface. Add a further layer several weeks later, and repeat this until the litter is built up to about 250 mm. You can even add lawn clippings occasionally.

### Caring for the litter:

Keep the litter dry at all times. For this reason, the fowls' drinking water should be placed outside the shelter. Cut a hole through the shelter wall to allow your fowl to drink.

Rake the litter occasionally and encourage the fowls to scratch amongst the litter by throwing some wheat under the perches. Any wet litter should be removed. Wet food should never be thrown on the litter.

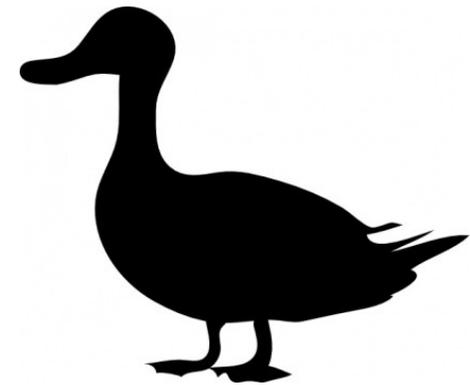
If properly cared for the litter will last for up to one year. After this time, you will have a good supply of garden fertiliser. Replace the litter using the same method as before, using a little of the "old" litter as a starter for the "new".

## DID YOU KNOW:

- 25% of the world's meat supply comes from Chickens!
- Each hen has only one functional ovary, usually on the left side of the body.
- Beak trimming must be performed according to the Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Domestic Poultry (1995). Please consult your Veterinary Surgeon for further details.
- The "Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching" have comprehensive fact sheets available. Contact ANZCCART on 08 8303 7586 (c/o Adelaide University) or <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/ANZCCART>



## A message about POULTRY



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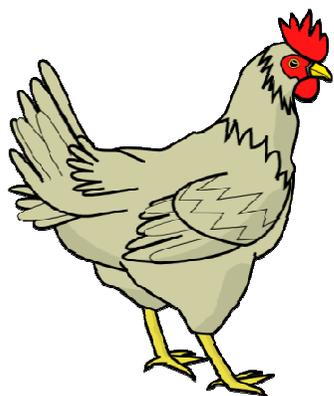
Poultry provide a source of food and enjoyment for many people. They are a common feature of the backyards of suburban Adelaide, which have traditionally been large enough to support a well-maintained enclosure without causing undue offence to neighbours.

With the recent trend towards smaller housing blocks and subdivision of existing blocks, there is greater potential for poultry keeping to cause offence or annoyance in built-up areas.

Problems of this nature which are commonly encountered with poorly constructed and maintained enclosures include:

- Excessive odour
- Noise, especially from roosters and turkeys
- Fly breeding and attraction
- Rat or mouse attraction

Should Council receive a complaint regarding the above problems then an order can be placed on the owner of the animals. This is usually undertaken after informal discussions in an attempt to remedy the issue have failed.



## GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING POULTRY

In an effort to promote the responsible keeping of poultry and animals generally, the City of Marion has devised the following:

All receptacles for the storage of any food for the feeding of such poultry are to be vermin-proof, clean, sanitary and in good order. No such food should be outside of the receptacles unless for the purposes of immediate consumption. The area is to be free of rats and mice.

In the case of fowl care should be taken as follows:

The shelter should be of solid construction, readily cleansable and have a solid impervious floor of an area providing at least 0.4 m<sup>2</sup> for each bird, and which is situated at least 0.6 m from any boundary of the property.

Ensure that noise from the birds does not cause a nuisance to any neighbour.



## CONSTRUCTING THE SHELTER

Bearing in mind prevailing weather conditions, construct the shelter to face north or east, with enough roof overhang to prevent rain entering the shelter. Also, provide for a ventilation opening in the back wall.

The shelter needs to be made completely weatherproof. The roof should be provided with efficient drainage so that all stormwater is carried away from the structure.

The floor should be finished to a height of at least 100 mm above the surrounding ground level.

The establishment of fenced yard areas adjacent to the shelter should be avoided.

## FLY CONTROL

Fly baits and flypaper should be placed inside the shelter, out of reach of the fowls. Check these regularly and replace when necessary.

Many of the complaints we receive directly relate to the keeping of poultry. Your assistance in providing a well-constructed and maintained enclosure will be beneficial to both you and your neighbours (not to mention your chooks!).