

RODENT CONTROL

Rats and mice are attracted to poultry premises and unless effective steps are taken to deal with or guard against these nuisances an offence under the Health Act 1956, Section 29 (c) may be committed. Essential preventive or other control measures are listed as follows:

1. Ensuring that as far as practicable all poultry food is stored in rodent proof hoppers, buildings or on covered metal drums.
2. Adequate poisoned rodent baits or other controls should be maintained to effectively eradicate any rodent infestation which could occur from time to time. (NOTE: not to be placed where poultry have access)
3. Excess poultry food should not be left in the poultry house unless adequately protected from rat and mice. When signs of rat infestation are noted in a poultry house, food troughs should not be filled in excess of daily requirements and remaining food should be removed at night, to deny rats access to an alternative food supply, until the rat infestation has been cleared up.

FURTHER ADVICE

Should you require and further information on any of the above items, please feel free to contact our Environmental Health Officers on the telephone number below.

Rotorua District Council, Civic Administration Building
1061 Haupapa Street, Private Bag RO 3029, ROTORUA
Telephone: (07) 348-4199



KEEPING OF POULTRY





POULTRY KEEPING

Poultry keeping, (ducks, geese, pigeons, turkeys and domestic fowls of all descriptions) is permitted within a predominately urban area, but there are certain conditions which must be met if a nuisance is not to arise.

Poorly housed and kept poultry nearly always cause a serious fly problem, offensive odours and attracts rats.

The Rotorua District Council General Bylaw has set down certain requirements in order to reduce problems which may arise. If fully observed these will help to prevent a nuisance, but only strict and regular attention to cleanliness will permit poultry to be kept without creating conditions offensive to both yourself and your neighbours.

POULTRY HOUSES AND RUNS

1. There must be a properly constructed poultry house, with a floor of concrete or other approved material with a surrounding nibwall. (NOTE: before erecting any poultry house please check with the Building Services division as to Building Consent requirements.)
2. A run may be attached to the poultry house.
3. Poultry houses and runs must be further than 2 metres from any boundary, and 10 metres from any dwelling, factory or other building. This distance of course includes neighbouring buildings.
4. No more than twelve head of poultry may be kept on any site zoned Residential.
5. Runs must be adequate to prevent poultry from escaping; poultry are not permitted to roam free, but must be confined.

MAINTENANCE OF POULTRY HOUSES

1. Every poultry house and poultry run shall be maintained in good repair, in a clean condition free from any offensive smell or overflow and free from rats or mice or other such pests.
2. Every run must be cleaned out weekly. When cleaning runs and houses, droppings should be buried with at least 25 cm of soil to prevent odour and flies breeding.

ROOSTERS

The Bylaw does not permit anyone to keep any noisy animal, bird, or poultry which causes a nuisance to residents in the neighbourhood.

It is strongly recommended that roosters are not kept in residential areas if friction with your neighbours is to be avoided.

If Council receives a complaint regarding crowing roosters, or a noisy bird then an officer may investigate.

If the investigating officer determines that the rooster(s) or aviary birds are causing a noise nuisance, then the birds may be required to be removed from the property or the owner may be required to implement some approved control measures.

FLY CONTROL

Conditions giving rise or likely to give rise to the breeding of flies are a nuisance within the meaning of the Health Act 1956, Section 29 (q). It is therefore essential that adequate and effective measures are taken at all times to guard against fly breeding. Such measures should include:

1. The regular spraying of droppings, houses and runs with an effective insecticide.
2. The preventive aspect of fly control, keeping litter and droppings dry, the regular cleaning out and removal of droppings especially under battery cages and perches every week to reduce conditions likely to contribute to or encourage fly breeding, infestation and odours.
3. Proper disposal of droppings by burying with at least 25 cm of soil cover immediately or alternatively disposing of the droppings in a suitable refuse container.

