

GOOLAWAH INTRODUCED ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.

DATE = 12th OCTOBER 2023.

MEMBER = FRANKLIN DYKSHOORN

SITE = 15 RED HILL

① REASONS FOR HAVING THE ANIMALS ~

chicken Hens: Eggs, Manure to use as compost in garden, to consume food scraps, for social interaction

Roosters: Occasionally we keep a Rooster to consume as food.

Turkeys: Breeding, meat consumption, seasonal eggs (spring/summer), manure to use as compost in garden, to consume food scraps, for social interaction.

② ANIMAL SPECIES AND NUMBERS

chickens: We have 4 hens
we do not plan to breed chickens

Turkeys: currently we have 3 Adults
(1 x Tom and 2 Hens) plus 10 chicks.

All chicks are viewed as potential source of protein.

We plan to breed Turkeys once a year.

We will be consuming the male at the end of this month so there will be no more breeding til 2024 Spring.

Turkeys only lay eggs over Spring and summer.

We will keep the Hens til chicks are raised and also for eggs (approx 3-6 months). Then they will be consumed as meat.

③ CARE AND WELFARE

All our poultry are kept in an enclosed pen, with cyclone fencing. There are 2 coops, water containers and the Mature Turkeys and chickens cohabitat together.

The hens with chicks are kept in seperate coops until the chicks are of an age to integrate with rest of flock.

Grain, food scraps and greens are given to the birds on a daily basis. We purchase specific formula food for the chicks.

We grow greens in our veggie patch specifically for the birds.

coops are cleaned approx. once a week and manure collected for compost around fruit trees.

We have used recycled barrels and a lawn mower catcher as nesting boxes.

We use cut grass as mulch and "straw."

Usually the Turkeys roost on a tall pole that has been erected in the centre of the pen. The chickens sleep in a coop.

We researched extensively prior to getting the Turkeys about their needs and care. Both of us have previous experience with chickens.

When we are away we have been able to get neighbours on Red Hill to feed and monitor the bird's welfare.

④ RANGE AND CONTAINMENT.

Our birds are contained in a pen that is 162 sq m. It has high cyclone fencing and metal poles sunk into ground with concrete. There is no overhead covering in pen but coops are covered.

Adult Turkeys have had their wings clipped to prevent them from flying out of the pen.

We are growing fruit trees inside the pen for shade. We have also recycled an old wooden boat as a place of shade for the birds.

There are several grape vines planted strategically to grow along fence lines.

Usually the chickens are locked in a coop overnight ~ however currently this is being used for a Turkey hen and her 7 chicks. Our second Turkey hen is in a separate hutch (borrowed from Craig) with 3 chicks.

When the chicks are 6 weeks of age they will be integrated into the main flock and our chicken hens will go back to sleeping in the enclosed coop.

If any of our birds escape containment we will put a message on phone tree if we need assistance getting them back.

The Adult Turkeys have been trained to walk with us using bamboo poles. It's always best to approach them in a calm and gentle manner, with a bit of distance. If startled, they will run rather than walk!

They like to keep together in a group rather than moving independently.

The Turkeys are very familiar with their "home territory" in the pen and will walk through an open gate.

We have signs on all our gates that they be closed at all times.

The Turkeys and hens can also be "cornered" and picked up by hand if necessary.

⑤ ENVIRONMENT, WASTE & MAINTENANCE.

We check water containers every day
we clean coops once a week and
around once a month replenish
straw for nesting boxes.

Poultry manure is used as compost
around fruit trees.

Food is kept in lidded rubbish bins.

We are growing lavender next to
coops to assist with odour. Regular
cleaning of coops keeps odour in
check.

Once a bird is butchered, its remains
that are not consumable are put into
a specific compost bin.

We have tried to ensure our pen is
as secure as possible with 1.8m
high cyclone fencing. There is also 1
foot of metal tin around bottom of
fence line.

Our birds offer minimal impact to local
flora and fauna. They could be a
potential food source for predators
such as quolls, dingoes, goannas and
pythons.

They don't pose a threat of establishing a wild feral population as they would be eaten by predators if not in our care.

If native animals enter the pen, we have gates we can open to guide them out.

⑥ NOISE AND IMPACT.

All the birds make noises to communicate and express themselves.

The chicken hens "sing" when laying an egg.

The male turkey is probably the main consideration ~ making a "gobble gobble" sound during daylight hours.

If our birds were ever a nuisance (we have not had any complaints so far), we would kill them to consume.

If we have a rooster, we have an old eski that we use to house it overnight. This has proved to be a very effective system.....

⑦ REMOVAL OF ANIMALS.

We have Turkeys as a source of meat to eat as well as eggs.

Franky has a lot of experience butchering and dressing birds to eat. He prepares his axe beforehand and does the process at night ~ offering a quick and efficient death with minimal stress to the bird. From gathering the animal to the point of death usually occurs in around a 5-10 time frame.

One strike for the kill.

⑧ LAWS, APPROVALS, LICENCES.

None that we are aware of.

This plan has been written by Tania Magennis in collaboration with Franklin Dykshoorn.