

Keeping poultry

Keeping poultry, like any other animal, has rewards but requires the keeper to maintain poultry and their surrounding grounds in hygienic conditions.

The keeping of poultry may lead to the creation of an insanitary condition. An insanitary condition is a condition that a reasonable person could consider to be a public health risk or offensive to community standards. Where an insanitary condition occurs, or may occur, ACT Health may issue a direction to remove or prevent the condition. The relevant legislation is the *Public Health Act 1997* and the *Public Health Regulation 2000*. Below is information to assist you in keeping poultry in conditions that do not become insanitary.

How you can help prevent a yard or enclosure from becoming insanitary

- Keep yards and enclosures clean and free from matter that may create offensive odours.
- Clean poultry enclosures regularly and ensure that all refuse (droppings, food scraps, etc) is disposed of properly.
- Floors of poultry enclosures should be of an impervious material underneath roosts or perches to assist with cleaning.
- Troughs for drinking water should not cause soggy ground conditions. Drinking nipples where used, should be protected from conditions, which may freeze the water source.
- Poultry feed should be stored in sealed containers. Only sufficient feed for your poultry should be given during the day, to avoid attracting vermin such as rats.
- The interior of any enclosures should be treated with insecticide to minimise insects.
- Any timber or other building materials on the site should be removed or stacked so it is clear of the ground to reduce vermin harbourage.
- If you suspect you have vermin nesting in your property take appropriate action or call a pest control operator in to assist.

If you have questions relating to the welfare of poultry, you may wish to contact the RSPCA ACT at 12 Kirkpatrick Street, Weston ACT 2611, phone: 02 6287 8100, www.rspca-act.org.au.

To access the legislation, including the *Animal Welfare Act 1992*, please visit www.legislation.act.gov.au.