

PEAFOWL INFORMATION SHEET

GENERAL INFORMATION: This information sheet is provided only as a starting point for raising peafowl. It is highly recommended that you read multiple articles from the Internet to include:

- **Peafowl 101:** <http://www.backyardchickens.com/t/388465/peafowl-101-basic-care-genetics-and-answers>
- **Peafowl:** <http://www.hopkinslivestock.com/peafowl.htm>

Peafowl have an average lifespan of 20 years. Compared to chickens, peafowl mature at a much slower rate not fully maturing until year three; some hens may lay a few eggs late during their first year and most males have a small train their second year. Peachicks are generally babied during their first year of life.

1. **PEACHICKS:** Young peachicks have a high mortality rate until they are several months old. If you buy young chicks, they must be carefully cared for until they reach 3-4 month months; this include adequate heat, protection from drafts and the elements, and a clean environment.
2. **FEEDING CHICKS:** Personally, I feed peachick a mixture of ½ medicated chick starter (20% protein) and ½ unmedicated game bird starter (28% protein) until they are 24 weeks old. Many breeders recommend feeding only medicated chick starter to ensure that they have a sufficient dosage of medication. Some breeders recommend feeding medicated chick feed until chicks are a full year old.
3. **FEEDING ADULTS:** Personally, I feed adult birds 20% chicken laying pellets. Some breeders recommend feeding higher protein game bird maintenance while others recommend regular 17% chicken lay pellets during most of the year and 20% chicken laying pellets just prior to and during laying season.
4. **COCCIDIOSIS:** Young peachicks seem more susceptible to Coccidiosis than chickens and are generally raised in a coop with hardware cloth flooring until they are 14 weeks old. Medicated chick/game bird starter feed is recommended. If a raised coop is not available, peachicks should raised on fresh, clean, dry ground where chickens have not been raised.
5. **RAISING WITH CHICKENS:** Chickens sometimes carry diseases such as Blackhead that barely affect them but are deadly to turkeys and peafowl. Most professional breeders do not recommend raising peafowl in the same pens where chickens have been during the previous three year. However, many hobbyist raise peafowl and chickens together without any ill effects. If you plan to mix chickens and peafowl, it is highly recommended that you institute a strict worming regime as parasitic worms often host the problem causing protozoa.
6. **HOUSING:** Peafowl require a minimum of 80 square feet per bird with a minimum height of 6 feet (a male's train is often 5 feet long). They generally do well during the winter cold in shelters with three sides with a southerly side open. A shelter of 7 ft x 7 ft x 7 ft should be sufficient to house two or three birds.
7. **FREE RANGE:** Peafowl have been successfully free ranged in many parts of the country including here in East Texas. For best success, birds should be penned for long enough to ensure that they know where home is. Male peacocks may wonder off seeking a mate if a peahen is not available. Free range birds will roost in trees and of roof tops and have been know to enjoy pooping on guest and neighbor automobiles.
8. **PREDATORS:** Peafowl kept in pens have no means to escape predators should one enter their pen. Personally, I avoid the use of regular chicken wire and at minimum use 5 ft tall welded wire with the bottom of the wire being buried in a trench 8-12" deep. I also use 2 inch nylon knotted netting to cover all pens.
9. **FLIGHT:** Peafowl are excellent flyers preferring to roost in trees or on roof tops and they can easily jump a 6 foot fence even with clipped wings. Peafowl that are not free ranged are kept in flight pens with netting tops.
10. **NOISE:** My peafowl are for the most part quiet birds; however, that changes during breeding season where the male becomes extremely loud calling for a mate. Raising peafowl where noise is a concern is not recommended.
11. **GENDER:** Determining the gender of young peafowl can be difficult and generally not accurate until they are at least 8 weeks old, one full year for Whites.
12. **COLORS & PATTERNS:** Unlike most poultry, peafowl only come in two breeds (species): Green and Blue. Green peafowl are temperamental, more susceptible to cold, and rarer than the better known India Blue. India Blues generally come in different **patterns:** barred, black shoulder, pied, silver pied, and white. They also have come in a variety of **colors** such as Blue, Pied, Silver Pied, White, Purple, Cameo, etc. Frequently, a bird may carry the genes for more than one pattern/color but only display the dominate pattern/color with the less dominate pattern/color showing up in subsequent generations.
13. **WORMING:** Breeders recommend worming at least twice a year worming in March before the Peacock laying season and in September when it is over. Panacur or Safeguard (Fenbendazole Suspension 10%) is frequently recommended and is available at Tractor Supply. To break the life cycle of parasites for birds not regularly wormed, repeat the worming process in 10 days.

HUMAN SALMONELLA INFECTIONS FROM BABY POULTRY: Baby poultry can carry harmful germs called Salmonella. After you touch a chick, duckling, or other baby bird, or anything in the area where they live and roam, WASH YOUR HANDS so you don't get sick!

