

## **FINDING A NEW HOME FOR DOMESTIC FOWL**

The recent interest in having chickens and other domestic fowl has overwhelmed animal rescue organizations with inquiries from people wanting to find homes for chickens who are no longer wanted or have been abandoned. Like all other animals surrendered to shelters, rescue organizations cannot help them all. There are never enough homes for displaced animals. The most responsible course is to honor your commitment to the bird by continuing to provide a safe and loving environment. Many housing options can be seen in our Facebook photo albums at

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Chicken-Run-Rescue/475016785200>

and in the information on our main website at [chickenrunrescue.org](http://chickenrunrescue.org).

### **FREE TO GOOD HOME ADS / POULTRY SWAPS / FEED STORE "TRADE-INS" - DON'T!**

Free to good home ads, swaps and blind online classified ads are not responsible or appropriate ways to find homes for animals who have depended on you for their food, shelter and companionship. Giveaway leaves them vulnerable to slaughter, abuse, neglect or use as bait for animal fighting or training.

### **SURRENDER TO SHELTERS / RESCUES**

Before surrendering a bird to a local shelter or animal control agency, inquire if the bird will be placed through a screened adoption, transferred to a reputable rescue organization, or euthanized. If the bird would be euthanized or released to individuals with no adoption screening, plan to place the bird yourself.

### **Roosters**

It is extremely difficult to find good permanent homes for roosters. National adoption websites are flooded with homeless roosters. As nature would have it, roosters are 50% of the chickens hatched. Those who promote breeding or buying chickens from hatcheries or breeders need to be honest about what happens to the ones no one wants- day old male chicks are ground up alive or sold to unsuspecting customers who don't know the sex till the bird reaches 4-5 months old. If your rooster is taken to a feed store he will be warehoused in hell with many others till he's shipped to slaughter.

Roosters are wonderful companions. Learn how to enjoy living with them. They can be socialized much like dogs and horses. If too many roosters is the issue, you might consider providing a separate (but spacious) area for them as a bachelor flock. They can cohabitate quite happily if the competition for the females is taken out of the dynamics. You can alternate access to free range between the hens and the roosters so everybody gets a turn. Some helpful information on rooster behavior can be found in the following articles:

<http://www.upc-online.org/chickens/newmembers.html>

<http://www.satyamag.com/nov04/jones.html>

<http://www.upc-online.org/cockfighting/62704rehab.htm>  
<http://www.upc-online.org/thinking/index.html>

You can also contact Chicken Run Rescue at [chickenrunrescue@comcast.net](mailto:chickenrunrescue@comcast.net) for behavior and socialization advice.

There is an easy way to prevent unwanted offspring if there is a rooster present- simply collect the eggs daily. Millions of unwanted dogs and cats are euthanized every year- if only preventing breeding was as easy as with chickens!

## **RESPONSIBLE PLACEMENT**

If you decide to place the bird yourself, take responsible measures to find a truly “good home” by taking the time and effort to prescreen the potential home thoroughly.

To insure the well being of the bird

- a. have a list of the qualities the best home would provide for the bird’s individual needs
- b. interview the person with whom you would be placing the bird and plan to deliver her/him yourself. (see interview checklist below )
- c. write up a list of adoption terms on the kind of care you want the adopter to agree to
- d. request photos of the shelter and yard.
- e. charge a nominal fee for the bird
- f. plan to follow up with the adopter after adoption

## **RECOMMENDED TERMS FOR ADOPTION**

- The bird will not to be used for slaughter, breeding, fighting or exhibit.
- The bird will be adopted as a companion bird not a production bird (ie. eggs-for-profit or breeding)
- The bird is to be provided proper care including food, water, shelter, protection from predators, fresh air and exercise, companionship and veterinary care for injury or illness as for any other companion animal.
- Adopter will allow you to examine or make inquiries at any time.

If health and well-being is being jeopardized the bird will be returned to you immediately.

- If the adopter is no longer able to keep the bird for any reason, the bird is to be returned to you.
- Adopter will agree to comply with the laws and ordinances enforced in the state and municipality in which the Adopter resides.
- No one in the household/property where this Animal will reside has been charged with or convicted of animal abuse.

In addition to placing local ads, there is a site where you can list farm animals available for adoption, including chickens, from all over the country. To prevent people from habitually dumping unwanted animals, they do limit users to one time. That site is:

<http://www.farmanimalshelters.org/placementbb.htm>

You can also contact the following sanctuary association for advice:  
<http://www.asaanimalsanctuaries.org/AboutASA/aboutASA.htm>

**Interview check list:**

Name of Adopter

Street address

Mailing address

City State Zip Code

Home Phone Work Phone Cell

Email

Children Ages

Which birds are you interested in adopting (name of individual bird or general description)

Why are you interested in adopting?

How many chickens do you have now? How many hens? How many roosters?

How many small (up to 2 lbs.)? How many medium (2-6 lbs.)? How many large (over 6 lbs.)?

How many chicks? How many juveniles? How many adults? How many seniors?

Have you had domestic fowl in the past?-- Yes -- No

If so, where are they now?

Years of experience with chicken care:

Have you taken a class about chicken care? Yes -- No

Who taught the class?

Which best describes the property where the birds will live:

Backyard

Hobby Farm

Working Farm

other

Describe other:

Do you raise any animals for slaughter?-- Yes -- No

Do you breed any animals? -- Yes -- No

Does your municipality require a special permit for chickens or other domestic fowl? -- Yes -- No

If yes, what is the status of your special permit:

Established

New

Pending

Not yet applied for permit

Which best describes the building(s) where the chickens will live:

- Coop
- Barn
- Shed
- House
- Garage

Describe other:

What are the interior dimensions of the structure? Height Width Length

Can you maintain a minimum of 32 degrees F in the building in the coldest period in winter? - Yes - No

Is there a heat source in the building? -- Yes -- No If yes, describe

Is the building insulated? -- Yes -- No

Which best describes the outdoor area(s) where the chickens will exercise when unsupervised:

- Fenced Pen
- Fenced Yard
- Free Range
- Other

Describe other outdoor area:

If fenced pen or yard, describe fence material & height

Dimensions of outdoor area:

Which best describes the outdoor area(s) where the chickens will exercise when supervised:

- Fenced Yard
- Open Yard
- Pasture
- Woods

Hours per day of adult supervision

Where do you care for sick or injured birds?

- House
- Garage
- Shed
- Other

Describe other:

Do you have additional areas available suitable for introduction or isolation? -- Yes -- No

Describe area:

What do you feed your chickens?

Have you ever lost animals to predators? -- Yes -- No

Please indicate which predators are present in your vicinity:

Raccoon -- Dog -- Coyote -- Fox -- Mink -- Opossum -- Rat -- Owl -- Bobcat Hawk -- Snake --  
Weasel -- Ferret -- Fisher -- Marten

Other

What predator precaution measures do you have in place?

Fencing Electric Fencing Infrared Lights Sound Monitor Guard Animals (i.e. dogs or  
other species who deter predators)

Other

Are you able to lock up the coop completely at night? -- Yes -- No

Please list other companion animals you care for:

What veterinary clinic or vet do you use for your animals? (name, address and phone)