

GUIDELINES

Keeping of Poultry, Pigeons, and Birds

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide information in simple easy to read terms so that persons interested in keeping poultry or pigeons are made aware of the City of Kwinana requirements and to clarify how to apply for approval to keep poultry and pigeons.

Am I allowed to keep poultry?

- You can keep up to 10 poultry in a **residential and special residential zone** (excluding roosters geese, turkeys, and peafowl) without approval. However, you are still required to comply with the requirements for keeping poultry.
- You can keep up to 25 poultry in a **special rural and rural zone** without approval. However, you are still required to comply with the requirements for keeping poultry.
- You can apply to the City of Kwinana Environmental Health Services to keep more than 25 poultry in a rural or special rural zone. See application process below.

Am I allowed to keep poultry?

- Keep poultry in a properly constructed and securely fastened enclosure.
- Poultry must be prevented from approaching within 9 metres of a street, any dwelling on any other lot, land used for public building, commercial purposes or food business.
- The enclosure must be kept in a clean condition, in good repair at all times.
- Effective measures must be taken to control vermin and eradicate offensive odours.
- Poultry must not be kept which causes or is likely to cause a nuisance or emits an unreasonable noise defined under the Environmental Protection Act 1986.

Follow the [Department of Health Guidelines for Keeping Backyard Chickens Safely](#) to prevent food poisoning.

Definitions

pigeon includes homing pigeons and other domesticated breeds of the family *Columba*, but does not include native pigeons or doves whether or not the keeping of such birds is subject to the approval of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions.

poultry includes fowls, roosters, ducks, peafowls, turkeys, geese, guinea fowls, pheasants and other birds commonly kept for the production of eggs or meat for domestic consumption.

nuisance means an activity or condition which is harmful or annoying and which gives rise to legal liability in the tort of public or private nuisance at law; an unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of a person of his or her ownership or occupation of land; or interference which causes material damage to land or other property on the land affected by the interference.

vermin include rats, mice, flies, fleas, mites, lice, cockroaches and any other animal, whether vertebrate or invertebrate, which is known to be a vector of disease or is likely to cause damage to human food, habitation or possessions.

Am I allowed to keep pigeons?

- You can keep up 10 pigeons in a **residential and special residential zone** (excluding roosters geese, turkeys, and peafowl) without approval. However, you are still required to comply with the requirements for keeping pigeons.
- You can keep up to 50 pigeons in a **special rural and rural zone** without approval. However, you are still required to comply with the requirements for keeping pigeons.

- You can apply to the City of Kwinana Environmental Health Services to keep more than 50 pigeons in a rural and special rural zone. See application process below.

What are the requirements of keeping pigeons?

- All pigeons are required to be kept in a properly constructed enclosure and confined in that enclosure except where registered homing pigeons are freed for exercise. The enclosure needs to be always kept in a clean condition and in good repair, with effective measures taken to control vermin and eradicate offensive odours.
- An affiliated person (a member of a pigeon association, which is an incorporated body under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015*) shall ensure that all pigeons are kept in accordance with the **Code of Practice for Pigeon Keeping and Racing in Australia (Code of Practice)**.
- Cage, Enclosure or Loft Design and Construction Requirements within the Code of Practice:
 - Minimum floor to ceiling height: 165cm
 - Box perches minimum dimensions 24cm (height) x 24cm (width) x 8cm (depth)
 - For racing loft, the minimum space per pigeon is 0.092m³ excluding feeding. Therefore, a 1.8m deep x 2.1m long x 1.8m high race loft would be capable of holding 74 pigeons.
 - For stock loft used to house breeding pigeons of the fancier, the minimum space per pigeon is 0.23m³ (excluding nesting areas). Therefore, a stock loft 1.8m deep x 2.1m long x 1.8m high would be capable of holding 30 stock birds.
 - Situated a minimum of 9 metres from any street, dwelling, public building, building used for commercial purposes or food business
- The Code of Practice provides other specific requirements for racing:
 - Duty of care and treatment to pigeons
 - Feed and water provisions
 - Housing, feeding and exercise requirements
 - Race and training programs conditions
 - Cleaning requirements

Application Process for Keeping More than 25 Poultry or 50 Pigeons in Rural and Special Rural Zone

Planning

An application for Approval may be required for keeping animals for commercial purposes.

We encourage you to contact the City's Planning Department to check your zoning and whether your proposal would require planning approval on 9439 0200 or email planning@kwinana.wa.gov.au.

Building

A building permit may be required for the construction of the pigeon lofts or chicken coop that exceed 2.4m in wall height or 10m² in floor area.

For more information, please contact our Building Services Department on 9439 0200 or email building@kwinana.wa.gov.au.

Environmental Health

1. Complete an application for keeping of pigeons with associated information and submit to the City's Environmental Health Services Department via **Kwinana Connect**

The application shall include —

- a statement outlining the reasons why approval is sought
 - the number of poultry or pigeons proposed to be kept
 - a site plan showing land size, location of enclosure, the distance of the enclosure from any boundaries and buildings on adjoining land and any nearby water resources
 - proof of affiliation to a poultry or pigeon keeping association (where applicable)
 - proof of registration as a livestock owner where required by the *Agriculture Management (Identification and Movement of Stock and Apiaries) Regulations 2013*
2. Payment of fees and charges:
 - An invoice will be issued for payment of the relevant fees and charges associated with the application.
 - The assessment will only begin after all applicable fees have been received.
 3. Application assessment:
 - The application may be refused if any requested outstanding information is not provided within the specified timeframe.
 - An appointment will be made to conduct an inspection of the property for keeping pigeons to check on the requirements.
 - Prior to determining an application for approval, the local government may seek and consider the views and concerns of any owner or occupier of an adjoining property.
 4. Approval or refusal of the application
 - All outstanding requirements will need to be addressed before an approval with conditions will be issued. Otherwise, a refusal with reasons will be provided.

Are there any other approvals or requirements for keeping of poultry and pigeons?

- Keeping 50 or more poultry or pigeons require registration with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) as a livestock owner. For further information, please visit DPIRD's website.
- If you plan to sell your eggs, the WA Food Act 2008 requires to you to register as a food business. Please contact the Environmental Health Services on 9439 0200 for further information.

Am I allowed to keep aviary birds?

There are no restrictions on the number aviary birds. However, you are still required to comply with the requirements for keeping aviary birds.

Requirements for keeping of aviary birds.

Any enclosure used for the keeping of aviary birds should be sound and weatherproof construction as follows –

- the framework and roost are to be smooth sealed timber or metal.

- the walls and roof are to be constructed of galvanised iron or other approved material.
- the floor is to be constructed in a manner that facilitates the hygienic removal of waste matter, husks, seeds, feathers, dead birds and faecal matter.
- always kept in clean condition and good repair
- at least 5 metres from any premises on any other land.

Birds must not be kept which causes or is likely to cause a nuisance or emits an unreasonable noise defined under the *Environmental Protection Act 1986*

