

Laws Relating to Chickens

Revised Ordinances of Honolulu

The Hawaiian Humane Society works with owners on how to remedy the situation. Quiet neighborhoods are important to all. Unresolved and persistent noise can lead to citations, court appearances and fines.



Animal Nuisance

Oahu has an animal nuisance law that the Hawaiian Humane Society is contracted to enforce by the City and County of Honolulu. Chapter 7-2.2 of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu defines an animal nuisance as:

- Any animal making noise continuously for 10 minutes or intermittently for 30 minutes or more to the disturbance of a person.
- If an animal barks, whines, howls, crows, cries or makes any other unreasonable noise. Noise is unreasonable if the nature and circumstances surrounding the animal nuisance interferes with reasonable communication, work, rest, recreation or sleep.

Number of Chickens and Peafowl

Section 7-2.5 of the Revised Ordinances restricts the number of chickens and peafowl to not exceed two (2) per household, except in areas where more animals are allowed. Violations may lead to fines. Animal nuisance complaints cannot be anonymous.

For questions or concerns regarding crowing, call 356-2250.



About Us

The Hawaiian Humane Society is an education and advocacy organization that shelters, protects, rescues, reunites and rehomes animals. It is Oahu's only open-admission shelter that welcomes all animals. Established in 1883, this non-profit organization is not a chapter of any group as there is no national humane society.

Make a gift at HawaiianHumane.org or call 356-2213 to donate.



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All About Crowing



What Makes a Rooster Decide to Crow?

A rooster crows because he has an internal clock that helps him anticipate sunrise. Almost all animals have daily cycles of activity known as circadian rhythms that roughly follow the cycle of day and night.

If one rooster in the neighborhood has an internal clock that's set a little early, he can stimulate other roosters to crow early, too. The rooster's sunrise song is a way of establishing his territory. When a rooster crows, he's sending a signal to other roosters not to trespass.

Roosters, as you may have discovered, do not just crow at sunrise. On average, a rooster may crow between 12 to 15 times a day. It is not possible to silence your rooster's crow, but you can decrease the volume of their signature sound by adjusting your rooster's lifestyle.

Learn your rooster's crowing habits. Roosters crow to inform the flock of environmental changes and potential hazards. Observe your rooster's crowing habits and note specific stimuli that cause him to crow.

Don't overlook the hens.

Even though roosters are the most famous crooners of the chicken world, hens aren't exactly silent, either. When a hen senses danger, she'll let out a harsh scream to send her chicks into hiding. But if she sees a less-threatening human, she may just cackle.



Solutions to Excessive Rooster Crowing

Meet your rooster's needs. In addition to alerting his flock to potential dangers, a rooster may crow to inform you that he is out of feed and or water. Meeting his most basic needs on a regular basis will decrease his need to crow. To decrease his nighttime crowing, make sure to stock his coop with water and food before you head to bed. You may also need to alter your rooster's feeding schedule.

Limit your rooster's exposure to nighttime stimuli. When a rooster is allowed to roam at night or he lives in a coop with an outdoor run, he is likely exposed to stimuli that will cause him to crow. Keeping your rooster inside a closed, darkened coop throughout the night will limit his exposure to predators and light that may cause him to crow. The pen or coop may be covered and sound-proofed.

Move chickens away from anything that will disturb them like barking dogs or heavy traffic areas. Ensure they are located away from your neighbor's property or even indoors.



Build a blackout box. A blackout box provides your rooster with a dark, non-stimulating sleeping environment. You can often locate the materials required to build a blackout box around your home or purchase them from a local pet supply store. If you intend to keep the blackout box outside, find a shady location.

Gather the required materials and find a suitable location. A raised crate serves as an ideal blackout box because its raised bed provides ventilation and can be easily covered. Assemble the crate in the location you selected—follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Remove any bedding and cover the floor of the crate with a layer of hay. The walls of your crate may be solid, slotted or wire. To effectively block out light, drape the top, back, and side walls with blackout drapes. Purchase or cut a piece of plywood that is the same dimensions as the front wall. Lay the plywood against the front of the crate.