



CITY OF DUNEDIN

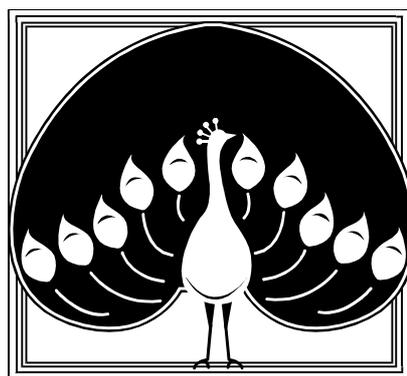
"Dedicated to Quality Service"

LIVING WITH PEAFOWL

FRIEND OR FOE?

Peafowl (peacocks)...they are a beautiful attraction to a neighborhood and are an excellent insect control. On the other hand, they can be noisy, leave a mess on your porch, eat your vegetables and flowers, damage car paint and at times be aggressive.

Peafowl are considered domesticated livestock and not wildlife by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Therefore, they are not protected by any wildlife laws. They are an invasive species that are difficult to trap, are rather prolific, and they survive very easily on their own. Whatever your view point is on peafowl, there are numerous things that we can do as residents to keep peafowl under control, out of our yards, and make life with peafowl more pleasant.



WHAT ARE PEAFOWL?

Peafowl are native to India, Burma, Java, Ceylon, Maylaya and Congo. The males are called peacocks, the females are called peahens, and the offspring under a year old are called peachicks. They can weigh up to 10 pounds and live up to 40 years in captivity. They usually live in small groups of one male and several females. A clutch of eggs ranging from 3-10 eggs are laid each year.

WHY ARE THEY IN THE DUNEDIN CEMETERY?

In the late 1920'S the peacock feathers were the rage in women's fashion. Feathers were worn mainly in hats but also were used as decoration on dresses and pocketbooks. A farmer living on the border of Clearwater and Dunedin decided to raise peafowl and cash in on the fashion fad. When the bottom dropped out of the peacock feather market in the early 1930's, the farmer turned the peacocks loose, and the peafowl settled around Jerry Lake and the cemetery. They obviously can thrive on their own foraging for food.

WHAT DO THEY EAT?

They eat both plants and animals and can live very well foraging for food on their own in the wild. Typical foods are seeds, insects, lizards and sprouts of young plants. They love broccoli, members of the cabbage family, cat and dog food, and numerous types of flowers. Peafowl are attracted to compost heaps because of the seeds and insects within.

KEEPING PEAFOWL OUT OF YOUR YARD

DO NOT FEED THEM! This is the most important thing to keep peafowl out of your yard.

KEEP ALL PET FOOD INSIDE. This is the second most important item. If you feed your pets outside, take the bowl inside immediately after the food is eaten.

BIRD SEED - If you feed birds outside, keep the ground clear of fallen seeds.

COMPOST - Keep compost heaps covered to prevent peafowl from scratching for food.

LANDSCAPE WITH PLANTS PEAFOWL DO NOT LIKE. A few of these are: azaleas, bougainvillea, ferns, hibiscus, lantana, marigolds, roses, plumbago, and oleander.

WATER SPRINKLERS - Peafowl do not like water. Using irrigation, or other sprinklers during your normal watering days, will deter them from entering your yard. Once they have entered your yard, spraying them with a garden hose could persuade them to leave.

INJURED PEAFOWL

To report an injured peafowl, call the Humane Society of Pinellas, Inc. at (727) 797-7722. They ask that the bird be contained for pick-up. They have daytime pick-up hours. The Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary also takes injured peafowl, but they do not deal with nuisance birds. They can be reached at (727) 391-6211.

NUISANCE PEAFOWL

At this time, there is no agency that deals with nuisance peafowl. The Pinellas County Animal Control Division does not deal with birds of any kind.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information on controlling peafowl, please call Art Finn, City of Dunedin Parks Superintendent at (727) 298-3278 or the Pinellas County Extension Agency at (727) 582-2110.