

Noise from Cockerels Crowing

Noise complaints from crowing cockerels are more frequent during the longer daylight hours in the spring/summer months and crowing being heard at unsocial hours such as in the early hours and late at night and could be considered a nuisance. Although there are no restrictions on keeping cockerels, you may need to consider if you live in an urban environment it is likely to lead to complaints of nuisance (noise, odour or both) due to the close proximity of neighbours.

If anyone is affected by noise from a cockerel at a neighbouring property it is best initially to try and resolve it informally by discussing it with the owners.

Practical measures to minimise crowing

Several measures can be used to minimise cockerel crowing:

1. Location of the cockerel- it is important to ensure that the cockerel is located as far away as practicable from neighbouring residential properties
2. Competition- Other cockerels in the area will cause them to compete with each other and may result in excess crowing
3. Housing- Keep the coop as dark as possible to minimise early morning crowing as a cockerel will crow when light enters the coop. The coop ceiling can also be lowered to prevent the cockerel throwing back its head and crowing.
4. Consider whether you need a cockerel as they are not required for hens to lay eggs.

Investigating complaints

If we receive a complaint about noise we are obliged by law to investigate it. This may include;

- Asking the complainant to note down all times that they are being disturbed.
- Officers from this department undertaking visits to witness the disturbance.
- The use of noise recording equipment

In considering whether a Statutory Nuisance exists, an officer from Environmental Services will consider the following factors:

- Source of noise
- Environment of noise
- Duration of crowing
- Time of day of crowing
- How often it occurs



If we are satisfied that the noise constitutes a Statutory Nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, an Abatement Notice will be served requiring you to stop the disturbance, and if this is not complied with, you could face a maximum fine of £5000 (domestic premises), or £20,000 (commercial/Industrial premises)

Other general issues relating to the keeping of poultry

Food and water left out for poultry may attract vermin such as rats and mice. Chicken houses may also provide shelter for rats and mice. To prevent this happening, make it a part of your regular routine to clean the shelters and remove uneaten food.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 there is a general duty to keep your property free from rats and mice. In the summer poorly kept poultry may result in unpleasant odours which can attract flies. These can become a nuisance to you and your neighbours

There are many other issues relating to the keeping of poultry, particularly in terms of animal welfare – DEFRA provide welfare codes for poultry www.defra.gov.uk

For more information, contact:

Environmental Protection
88-90 Pier Avenue,
Clacton on Sea
CO15 1TN
environmental.services@tendringdc.gov.uk
01255 686767