

Living with Peafowl

Many of our Los Angeles County communities are home to various species of wildlife including native and non-native creatures. Peafowl are part of the non-native animals which have become an integrated part of certain areas and cities within LA County. Our own Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden is home to a flourishing number of peafowl. Although beautiful, peafowl can be difficult to live with. If you are experiencing an overwhelming negative experience with peafowl around your home there are several private wildlife rescue and relocation organizations that can trap and relocate peafowl. We encourage homeowners to reach out to these organizations if peafowl deterrent efforts have failed.

The Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control recommends these helpful tips to Discourage Peafowl from Returning to Your Property.

Do not feed peafowl around your home. Avoid planting young tender seedlings in areas you do not want peafowl to visit or cover the plants until they are well established. Peafowl like to eat young, tender seedlings.

Peafowl will avoid certain repellents. Cat repellent and mothballs around planting beds, porches, and along walkways may be an effective means of repelling peafowl. Caution should be used so as not to allow young children or animals to ingest the repellents.

Peafowl are afraid of dogs; walk your dog around the property and neighborhood.

Peafowl do not like water. Water is one of the best-known deterrents for peafowl. The intermittent use of sprinklers or a hose with a jet nozzle will act as a negative reinforcement for the birds. Also, consider a motion sensor activated water spray, such as the Scarecrow, which is battery operated and covers an area of about 35 feet and can be connected to your garden hose. It's available online or at garden stores, such as OSH.

Peafowl like to eat seeds, bugs, and worms. Avoid open compost and manure sacks. If you wish to compost, use a covered compost bin and keep the composting area clean.

Peafowl like to eat wild birdseed, bread, and pet food. These are delectable treats to peafowl. Once they're hooked, it's difficult to wean them. It's a good idea to remove any leftover pet food immediately or feed pets indoors.

Peafowl prefer to roost in safe areas, such as overhanging trees. Trim or thin overhanging trees to deter peafowl. The Canary Island Pine is a favorite resting spot because of its sturdy horizontal limbs and ample cover.

