



CITY OF CAPE CANAVERAL

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, Malaya 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 CITY OF CAPE CANAVERAL?

According to locals, a family by the name of the Eberweins lived between the Port and what is now the Villages of Seaport. A street is in fact named after them (Eberwein Drive) south of Coastal Fuels at the Northern edge of Cape Canaveral. They had the peafowl among many farm animals. In 1986 when they moved, they abandoned the peafowl. Over the years the peafowl have slowly populated our community with the greatest concentration being North of Central Ave. Now, the migration south of Central Ave. is beginning to expand rapidly. This situation is not unique to Cape Canaveral. There are many communities in the U.S. that face this situation and we can learn from them.

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.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO KEEP 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.

DETERRENTS ~

Peafowl do not like water. Using irrigation, or other sprinklers on 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. Battery powered, motion activated yard sprinklers are an inexpensive and ecologically-friendly water-conserving option. Additionally, battery-powered, motion activated ultrasonic alarms are available which are designed to repel peafowl, and are undetectable to humans.

INJURED PEAFOWL ~

To report an injured peafowl, call the Wildlife Care Center of Florida, Inc. at (321)639-8655. They ask that the bird be dropped off at 4960 Palm Avenue, Cocoa (Canaveral Groves), FL 32926.

NUISANCE PEAFOWL ~

At this time, there is no agency that deals with nuisance peafowl. Brevard County Animal Control does not deal with birds of any kind. City staff respects the different viewpoints citizens have about peacocks. We believe that management of a peafowl nuisance is best achieved by the responsible behavior of neighborhood residents and/or homeowner's associations. If a homeowner's organization wishes to discuss a neighborhood-wide "remove and relocate" program, City staff is available for consultation and potential cost-sharing, provided the removal satisfies a legitimate public safety concern.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ~

If you have questions or if you need more information, please call Todd Morley, City of Cape Canaveral Building Official, at (321)868-1222 or email at t.morley@cityofcapecanaveral.org