

UPDATE FROM A POULTRY PLACE

6 MARCH 2016

Of course it was never going to last. While most requests for surrenders at the start of the year were for hens the past few weeks has seen nothing but requests to take in roosters. Thankfully, a shed was empty which allowed me to say yes to a few of the requests but sadly not all — no one sanctuary can say yes to everyone.

Six boys (below left) arrived after a western Sydney council told their people they had to go because they were “illegal”. Having resided in Sydney for two-thirds of my life during which I lived in places where I was subjected to road noise, railway line noise and overhead aircraft noise it always amazes me how a crowing rooster seems to upset so many city-dwellers and those who rule over them.



Two other roosters (above right) arrived from the central coast having been rescued six months ago by a young woman who lived with her mum. They were happy with the boys living in their backyard until they received a letter from the council saying there had been complaints about the crowing and they had a week to “get rid of them”. One potential home fell through when it was discovered the boys would not be locked in at night and could be preyed upon by foxes in the area and they were uncomfortable with other home offers for fear the roosters would end up on someone’s plate. So Maurice and Oscar came here.

Four silkie bantam roosters (below right) arrived from a woman who could no longer care for them as she had to nurse her sick husband who has cancer.



Two young chickens — Vivian and Penelope (pictured above left) moved in after their young owner realised she could no longer look after them, especially as Vivian had turned out to be a little boy — so she sought out a safe forever home for them.

At the end of January I took in three hens from a Sydney woman who just didn't want them any more. She was decluttering her house apparently and the hens were seen as part of that clutter. The woman was less than helpful to the rescuer who had offered to drive them down here, after the woman couldn't be bothered; she wouldn't even delivery them to the rescuer, who lives in another part of Sydney. To make matters the woman who was giving up the hens told the rescuer a few hours before she went to pick them up that wouldn't be home so she'd have to go in her yard and catch them herself.



But there are also two nicer stories to share.

A woman contacted me a few weeks ago and her message began: "Hello, our 3 Canberra backyard Isa's stopped laying about 6 months ago ..." but she wasn't asking me to take them in so she could replace them, her message went on to say "...they are still enjoying hanging out in our yard. I was hoping to get some new chooks so we can stop buying eggs again and were wondering is this a wise thing to do" I congratulated her because she was in a minority as most people who have hens who no longer lay want to "get rid of them". She was going to get another younger trio and do a slow introduction to get them all used to each other.

Another great story was a guycalled Brendan who was put onto me by NSW Hen Rescue. Brendan had inherited three roosters after his tenants moved out leaving their roosters behind. He wasn't asking whether I could take them, rather he wanted advice as he was going to keep them.

The weather hasn't been too kind lately. Summer left us with the last week of February being full of days of 35-plus heat and the arrival of autumn made little difference as the first weeks of March saw daily temperatures of 35-plus each day, when it is usually 24 at this time of the year. This week is predicted to break the cycle but as there has been no real rain, except for a hailstorm three weeks ago the paddocks are looking sad. The sheep have eaten down their paddock and their two other paddocks which are being rested are yet to fully recover from spring and summer grazing. There's a few areas left for them to nibble at grass and I have had to begin feeding them hay during the past weeks, which I have had to do for some years. Hopefully some rain will come soon, which will allow the two paddocks being rested to have a spurt of growth before it gets too cold for grass to grow.

TO VISIT A POULTRY PLACE EMAIL

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