

Peacocks, Pheasants, and Waterfowl

Exotic pheasants are usually kept in varmint-secure aviaries large enough to allow exercise. Pheasants should be sited away from high stress environments.

Seed-based diets are quite inadequate for growth, maintenance, or reproduction. We recommend the Mazuri (www.mazuri.com) product line made for gamebirds (starter, breeder, maintenance). Ask your feed retailer to carry these products.

Common problems, pheasants:

- Capillariasis (threadworm), other parasites
- Bacterial respiratory disease
- Marble spleen disease (adenovirus)
- Limb trauma

New stock should be quarantined and examined for parasites and disease. Do not allow contact with wildlife.

Peacocks seem to be best suited to run around over several acres, but are best protected and maintained in facilities similar to pheasants. We recommend the Mazuri (www.mazuri.com) product line made for gamebirds (starter, breeder, maintenance). Ask your feed retailer to carry these products.

Common problems, peacocks:

- Blackhead (hepatic histomoniasis)
- Bacterial disease
- Carnivore attacks

We do get requests for devoicing peacocks. The avian voice box is in the middle of the chest, near the heart. De-voicing is technically difficult, subject to complications and can fail to control noise over time. Few veterinarians will do such a surgery. We recommend instead to plan to have noisy birds. They can be quite charming, if your neighbors don't mind.

Waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans) are popular both as backyard pets and moreso with folks who have acreage and ponds. We recommend Mazuri We recommend the Mazuri (www.mazuri.com) product line made for waterfowl (starter, breeder, maintenance). Ask your feed retailer to carry these products.

Common problems, waterfowl:

- Obesity and Joint Disease
- Pododermatitis (foot infections)
- Carnivore trauma
- Hardware disease
- Respiratory parasites (swan, goose)

Wild waterfowl can carry viruses and parasites. If possible avoid interaction.