

Protecting Poultry and Quolls

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Quolls are carnivorous marsupials which, since the earliest days of European settlement, have raided poultry yards in search of easy prey. Being killed by people at poultry yards is one of the major threats to Quolls on the Atherton Tablelands.

You can help to protect our Endangered Quolls by Quoll-proofing your chook yard. The designs for building a quoll-proof chook yard are endless (see the back of this pamphlet for some ideas), however there are a couple of basic features which need to be included to make your chook pen quoll-proof.



Spot-tailed Quoll by Louis Genis

Features of a Quoll-Proof Chook Pen



Make sure that there are no gaps in the netting including the roof and the door (Quolls are very good climbers).



Bury the netting at least 15cm into the ground (Quolls aren't good diggers), or if building a moveable chook pen, incorporate an outwardly directed skirt or wire around the bottom of your pen.



Normal Chook wire should be small enough to keep most Spot-tailed Quolls out, but if you want to be absolutely sure, or live in areas inhabited by the smaller Northern Quoll, use a smaller meshed (eg 1cm) netting such as budgie or mouse wire.



Make sure your chook pen is secured at night.

Free Fencing for your Chook Yard

Free fencing materials* are available to landholders in the Ravenshoe to Millaa Millaa, and Millaa Millaa to Butchers Creek areas of the Atherton Tablelands, who want to Quoll-proof their chook yards. Just contact the Quoll Project c/o QPWS-Atherton 4091 4262, or visit our web site - www.infocus.to/quolls

*Conditions apply



This quoll-proof chook pen was made by first building the walls, then sewing the roof on, and finally tensioning the roof with uprights. The walls are buried 10cm in the ground. These people get visited by Quolls most nights but have never lost a chook.



In this chook pen, the pen itself is not quoll-proof, but the chooks' night-time roost is. This roost is made out of half of an old rainwater tank and is sealed in with budgie wire on a wooden frame.



Shade Cloth funnel tied shut

This quoll-proof chook pen is made from PVC pipe and is enclosed by budgie wire. Because it is designed to be moved around, the walls aren't buried into the ground but are flared outwards, creating a flap around the base which is effective against predators trying to get in. The door is made by sewing on a funnel of shade cloth which is kept tied shut. Shelter is provided by a tarp slung over the top of the enclosure. Full details of the construction of this style of chook pen are available in: Woodrow, L. 1996, The permaculture Home Garden. Viking Press.

By Quoll-proofing your chook pen you'll also be keeping other unwanted visitors, like Goannas and Hawks at bay.

Quolls need our tolerance, not our hostility, so please ensure that your chook pen is quoll safe.

**Call: The Tree Kangaroo and Mammal Group,
c/o QPWS Atherton ph:4091 4262
or visit our web site at
www.infocus.to/quolls
if you have any questions.**

*Check out our Quoll web site
www.infocus.to/quolls*



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