

Living with *Peafowl*



Six peafowl were brought to *Rancho de Los Quiotes* shortly after Leo Carrillo bought the property in 1937. Since that time, the surrounding community has cohabitated with the free-roaming descendants of the original six peafowl. While many enjoy their presence, peafowl can be noisy, messy and cause damage to personal property such as landscaping and gardens.

To maintain a peaceful co-existence between the feral peafowl and their neighbors, here are some helpful suggestions residents may use to discourage peafowl from becoming a nuisance.

Discourage Peafowl from Returning to Your Property

Don't feed the birds

Peafowl will linger in areas where there is a stable source of food. Do not intentionally feed the peafowl and be sure to remove potential food sources from your property. They like to eat seeds, bugs and worms, so open manure sacks and compost piles should be covered. Bird feeders that drop seeds and pet food left outdoors will also attract peafowl, so it is recommended to remove and clean up any leftover food immediately or feed pets indoors.

Protect your plants

Peafowl enjoy eating young, tender seedlings. It's recommended to delay planting or cover seedlings in areas frequented by peafowl until the plants are larger and more established.

Use peafowl repellents

Spreading cat repellent, mothballs and even coyote urine around planting beds, porches and along walkways can be an effective way to keep peafowl away. Please use caution when using repellents and do not use them in areas where young children or pets may ingest them.

Peafowl are afraid of dogs

Walking your dog around your property and neighborhood may deter peafowl. Do not allow your dog to harass or attack the peafowl.

Peafowl don't like water

Like cats, peafowl don't enjoy getting wet. Sprinklers, hoses with a jet nozzle and even motion sensor-activated water sprayers are all harmless and effective negative reinforcement tools to use against invasive peafowl.

Block off potential roosting areas

Peafowl prefer to roost in overhanging trees, especially those with sturdy, horizontal limbs and ample cover. Trimming or thinning any overhanging trees on your property will deter peafowl from establishing your property as a home base.

Scare them off

Chase peafowl off your property consistently for a few days. Soon, they will learn that coming near is more trouble than it's worth and will move on. Remember, it is illegal to harm the peafowl.

Avoid Plants Peafowl Love to Eat

Peafowl will eat most young, tender seedlings, but are also attracted to specific vegetation commonly found in landscaping, flower beds and vegetable gardens. Here is a list of plants to avoid if you wish to discourage peafowl from visiting your property.

Amaryllis	Kohlrabi
Begonia	Lettuce
Broccoli	Nasturtium
Brussels sprouts	Pansy
Cabbage	Petunia
California poppy	Primrose
Cauliflower	Stock
Chive	Sweet alyssum
Holly berries	Tomatoes
Impatiens	Water stalk
Kale	Young spinach



Plants Peafowl are Unlikely to Eat

Here are some plants that peafowl are unlikely to eat that you can plant as alternatives.

Agapanthus	Hibiscus
Azalea	Hostas
Baby's breath	Ivy
Bee balm	Jade
Blazing star	Lavender
Butterfly plant	Liatris
Cactus	Bougainvillea
Camellia	Marigold
Cannas	Mint
Clivia	Mum
Columbine	Oleander
Coneflower	Painted daisy
Coreopsis	Peonies
Dusty Miller	Periwinkle
Ferns	Phlox
Fuchsia	Pink lady
Gaillardia	Plumbago
Gardenia	Poinsettia
Geranium	Pyracantha
Giant columbine	Roses
Gladiola	Shasta daisy
Gloriosa daisy	Snapdragon
Hardy lavender	Sunburst Coreopsis
Hens and chicks	Weigela



Leo Carrillo Ranch Historic Park

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