

Building a Quoll-proof poultry-pen

Don't let this happen to your chooks...



Photo: Kevin McDonald



Photo: Danielle King

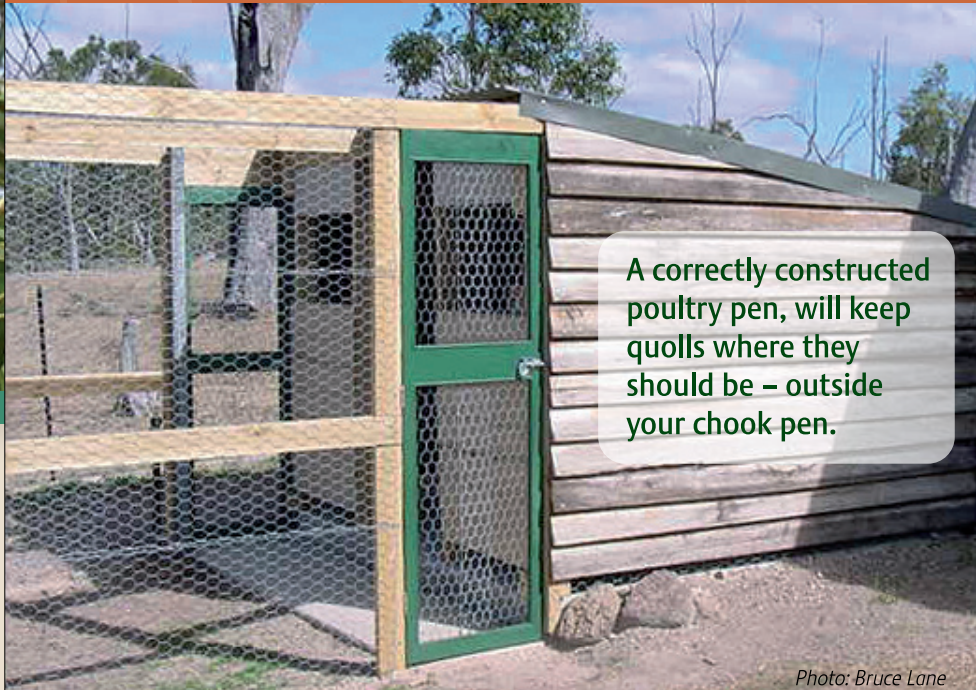


Photo: Bruce Lane

A correctly constructed poultry pen, will keep quolls where they should be – outside your chook pen.

Quolls are carnivorous marsupials and, since the earliest days of European settlement, have raided poultry yards in search of an easy meal.

The killing of quolls in retaliation for raids on domestic poultry may well be one of the major threats to their survival.

Help protect our threatened quolls by creating a Quoll-Proof Poultry Pen (QPPP).

By protecting your poultry from quolls you also protect them from other predators, such as foxes, snakes, dogs and birds (such as eagles and crows).

A quoll-proof poultry-pen includes the following design features:

Build your poultry pen with a netting roof. Make sure there are no gaps especially around the base, the door or the roof; quolls are excellent climbers.

Use 1" bird wire or 1cm budgie or mouse wire. Bury the wire netting at least 15cm below the ground; quolls aren't good diggers. Alternatively, incorporate large fist-sized rocks into the dirt floor of the pen to discourage digging. If building a movable enclosure, incorporate an outwards directed skirt of wire around the bottom of your pen.

Make sure that poultry are secured each night as this is when most attacks occur.

A double thickness of wire around the base of your poultry yard is strongly recommended.

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