

MEET OUR ANIMALS

Introducing: Our Three Turkeys



Here at Diamond Forest Farm Stay we have three turkeys: Graham- a bronze turkey and Max and Jenny- the white turkeys. Jenny and Max came here from Greenbushes in 2015. Graham has been here for a long time. He was one of about 20 turkeys that we originally had on the property. However the rumours that turkeys aren't very smart are true and sadly we lost many turkeys to foxes over the years. I once saw Jenny fly into a paddock to steal the ponies feed, but then she couldn't remember how to get out so she spent *all* day pacing along the fence trying to find a way to get out. Not once did she think to fly out of the paddock, even though she had flown into the paddock that very morning. In the end I had to go into the paddock, catch her and bring her back out again.

Graham, though, seems to be quite sensible and that is why he has managed to survive for quite a few years. Now, to keep our turkeys safe we keep them in the chicken pen with our Plymouth Rock chickens. We clip their wings so they can't fly out and they happily roost in amongst the chickens, bossing them around and getting the best bits of food.

Did you Know?

Bronze turkeys were named because of the iridescent bronze sheen that can be seen in their feathers when the sun hits them. Look closely at Graham. How many different colours can you see in his feathers when the sun makes them shine?

A female turkey is called a hen. We have one female turkey can you pick which one she is? Male turkeys are called Toms or Stags

Male turkeys, especially when there is a girl around, spend a considerable amount of their day showing off. This involves puffing up their feathers, fluffing up their tail, displaying their snood (the piece of skin that hangs over their nose), colouring up to a bright red their caruncles (the bobby bits hanging around their neck) and fluffing up their beard (the piece of black hair sticking out of their chest). They also make a deep sound called a sneeze and their feathers ruffle as they strut around and make a 'gobble gobble' sound. They think they look fabulous. What do you think?

Our Secret

Yes turkeys lay eggs just like chickens but they look a little different. Turkey eggs are quite pointy at one end and have lots of little speckles all over them. They are also much bigger than

a chicken egg. When it is egg laying season and we let our guests collect the eggs from the pen, you just might end up finding a turkey egg!