

# Meet The Animals

## Peacocks and Peahens



At Diamond Forest Farm Stay we have a big flight aviary for our peacocks. We have many peacocks and peahens. Most of our peacocks are blue, like the one in the picture, but we do have one white one and are hoping to breed more. Peafowl originally came from India. Peafowl are large pheasants with the male—the peacock—having a beautiful tail of iridescent feathers. These tail feathers fall out every year in about January/February and peacocks spend most of the year growing them back. The large, beautiful tail is used by the peacock to impress the peahen so they can have baby pea chicks. The peacock will fan his tail out and rustle his feathers in the direction of the peahen.

Young Peacocks will often practice their tail display on other birds like our chickens and our turkeys. You can tell they are young because their tails don't get very long for the first 2 years. Female peahens often use their shorter, grey tails in a similar way, but it is more about being bossy to other birds. Peahens can be quite bossy when they want to be. They are also mostly grey, unlike the peacocks, with some green along their necks.

### Did you know?

- Peafowl are quite good flyers and will roost at night in the highest branches of the tallest trees.

- Peacocks have a distinctive and loud cry that sounds like they are calling out 'help'. Generally, it is the peacock that will call out.
- All peafowl will 'honk' when they are alarmed or spot a predator. First, they will honk and then they make a trilling sound. When most people first hear a peacock or peahen honk, they ask us if we have geese because that is exactly what they sound like.

### **Our Secret**

Each year, after breeding season, while the peahens are raising their chicks in the safety of the aviary, we let our peacocks out to roam the property.