

Crime prevention advice for poultry theft



Nationally there has been a problem with poultry being stolen; this increases at particular times of the year. Thieves steal for a number of reasons and unless caught in the act rely on people not being able to identify their property and prove ownership.

Tips to consider

- If possible keep your poultry where they are not visible from the road or public rights of way.
- Display signs that your property is security marked and you have security systems in place on your property.
- Join your local Neighbourhood Watch or Rural Watch scheme and keep informed of any incidents in the area – display signs that you are in a watch scheme.
- Have a good quality padlock and/or alarm on your coupe and shed where you keep feed and bedding. Remember as well as your actual birds, feed, bedding and metal containers are all prime targets for thieves. A variety of shed alarms and padlock alarms are available on the Warwickshire Rural Watch website – www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk
- Security lighting with PIR sensors are a good deterrent and a way to let you know if someone is on your property. PIR security lighting is also available with a built in camera which will record any movement.
- Electric fencing, as well as a deterrent for foxes and other pests can also deter potential offenders – remember to put a visible sign warning that an electric fence is in operation and take precautions to protect the energizer (see Electric Fence Crime Prevention Sheet).
- Geese and guinea fowl can act as natural alarm systems, being very vocal if someone enters the premises, alerting you to intruders.
- Take photos of your birds, including any distinguishing marks and any expensive equipment you may have.
- There are a number of ways to mark your poultry which will act as a deterrent, identify stolen birds and prove ownership:
 - Wing tagging (similar to ear tagging in sheep)
 - Permanent tattooing
 - Spray or mark plumage with vegetable dye
 - Closed rings on the birds legs
 - Wing stamping
- Report to the police any suspicious activity, vehicle or person near your property providing as much information as possible (see Report an Incident Advice Sheet on the website www.warwickshireruralwatch.co.uk)
- ALWAYS report a theft, no matter how small, it may be linked to a pattern of crime or similar incidents in your area, the police cannot help if they do not know about it.

