



All about the

Turkey

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Turkeys

Introduction

Turkeys have been around the world for millions of years. They first came to North America with the Pilgrims. Since then, they have been bred and raised primarily for the meat they produce. Regardless of what your needs are, if you keep searching, you will find the perfect turkey for you.

General Description

There are several varieties of turkeys to choose from. The main difference between these varieties is the amount of meat each can produce. The broad breasted white variety is one of the most well-known due to its availability and the amount of meat it produces.

Selecting Your Turkey

When you begin shopping for a turkey, you need to make sure that breed, size and quality are all taken into consideration. You also want to make sure that the price you pay is not too high for the animal. If you intend to use the turkey in show competitions, you need to make sure that the turkey meets all the standards that are required for the breed.

A Few Words about Breeders

When obtaining a turkey, you want to make sure that the animal is free of disease and has been well taken cared of, especially if the animal is to be exhibited. Also, if you will be keeping the turkey in with others, you should make sure it does not carry any disease. Buying a turkey from a registered breeder is the safest way to get an animal that is healthy and fairly well taken cared of. Breeders usually take the time to have the animals tested. And they make sure that the rest of the flock is not contaminated.

A Few Words about Auctions

Buying a turkey from an auction or auction house is a practice that is looked down upon by many people. Auction houses do not require animals to be tested; therefore, there may be chances that you could be taking home turkeys that have are diseased. By the time the signs show up, the rest of your flock could have been infected already. Auction houses are not recommended places to buy an animal, even though it is usually the cheapest.



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Preparing for your Turkey

When bringing the turkey home, you should make sure that everything is already set up. Turkeys are very particular to their environment and do not adapt well to abrupt changes. The first thing you should make sure you have is an adequate area to house your turkey. The housing area needs to be dry and free of drafts. The turkey will also need an area where he can exercise. You also need to fence the area where your turkey will be housed, not only to keep him in but to keep other animals out. Other items you will need when bringing the turkey home are food and water.

Care and Feeding

Turkey Feeding

Turkeys require certain nutrients daily to remain healthy and maintain proper growth. These nutrients can usually be found in commercial feeds made for turkeys. A young turkey needs special starter feeds. After it gets older, then it has to be switched to grower feeds. During adulthood, a turkey would need finisher feeds. The finisher feed can also be substituted by grains such as corn, oats, wheat, among others.

Turkey Health Care

To keep your turkey healthy, you need to regularly keep an eye on its behavior and physical characteristics, taking note of possible signs of diseases. If you have a flock that starts to show signs of sickness, you need to get in touch with your veterinarian as soon as possible and isolate the ones that seem sick.

Turkey Containment

A turkey needs to have a shelter, especially when the weather turns bad or is very hot. The most common set-up for turkeys is to have a pen that is dry and draft free. It needs to be cool in the summer, but still allow fresh air and sunlight to come in. There also needs for an area for a food hanger and water. Areas for small flocks to sleep in should be at least 100 square feet. The area needs to be fenced with strong materials to hold the turkeys in but to keep predators out.



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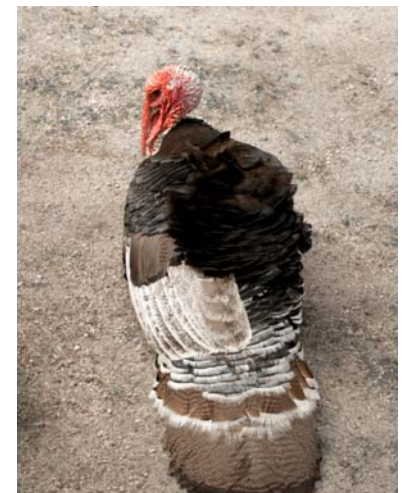


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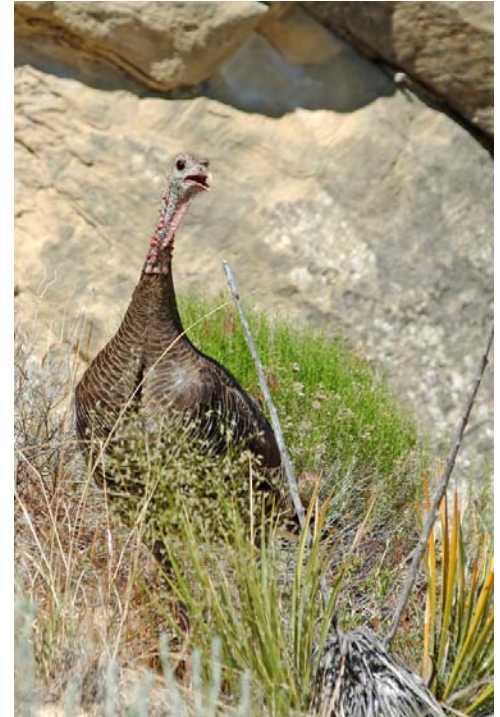


Medical Considerations

Turkeys are a species that can easily carry disease or infection to the rest of the flock. Some of the common problems that turkeys experience include blackhead disease, coccidiosis, and airsacculitis. These diseases are very serious and can sometimes prove fatal to turkeys.

Necessary Items

Turkeys are animals that do not require a lot of equipment. The most needed requirements of turkeys are food and water. They also must have a fenced area and shelter to accommodate them. You will also need to have a means to transport your animal if you need to travel with it, usually a well-sized carrier or a movable pen will do.



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