

VINE Sanctuary Rooster Project

Why?

As many as 60 roosters each month unsuccessfully seek refuge at sanctuaries where there is no more room for roosters. Unwanted or homeless roosters who do not find refuge at sanctuaries are euthanized, slaughtered, or abandoned to fend for themselves.

How?

We will both increase the collective capacity of sanctuaries to offer refuge to roosters AND intervene in the causes of rooster homelessness, as follows:

I. Increase collective capacity of sanctuaries

- A. Open a new satellite sanctuary just for roosters — *done!*
- B. Set up an online rooster resource center for sanctuaries — *ongoing*
- C. Provide a rooster rehabilitation and care manual to sanctuaries — *in process*
- D. Provide on-site technical assistance to sanctuaries — *ongoing*
- E. Provide material assistance to sanctuaries

II. Reduce rooster homelessness

- A. Educate the public about roosters in order to counter the stereotypes about roosters that both engender cockfighting and lead people to reject roosters as companion animals — *coming in 2023*
- B. Discourage the purchase of chicks from hatcheries — *coming in 2023*
- C. Promote alternatives to backyard hen keeping for eggs (adoption of “spent” hens as companion animals, veganic home gardening, backyard refuges for wild birds, etc.) — *coming in 2023*
- D. Increase the knowledge of humane authorities and local humane societies

Why VINE?

In 2002, VINE (then called Eastern Shore Sanctuary) was **the first sanctuary to develop a protocol for rehabilitating roosters used in cockfighting**. VINE cofounder patrice jones has published peer-reviewed journal articles on the process, which has been adopted by many other sanctuaries around the country and around the world.

“VINE Sanctuary is **a premier haven for roosters** who need lifelong responsible care and a strong, articulate voice on their behalf. VINE has taught countless rescuers that even roosters rescued from cockfighting can be rehabilitated to live peaceably once their traumas have been eased by these experts.”
—Karen Davis, President, United Poultry Concerns

“We wholeheartedly support this initiative by VINE. patrice and her team have long been regarded as experts in the challenges of providing sanctuary to one of the most abused creatures— roosters. This project **will make a world of difference** in all sanctuaries’ ability to provide the best opportunities for roosters to thrive.” —Indra Lahiri, Founder, Indralocka Animal Sanctuary

Highlights

The Rooster Project began in 2018 with the launch of an online **discussion forum for rooster rescuers** and preparations for a **new refuge for roosters**, which opened in 2019. In 2020, we provided a two-part online workshop for sanctuaries and began providing **online individual consultations** to sanctuaries via Zoom. During the “**Rooster Road Trip**” of 2021, we visited several sanctuaries to provide on-site consultations. Dozens of sanctuaries await the continuation of the road trip in 2023.

Accolades

“Patrice gave us such great insight and tactics for helping our various roosters. We instantly made improvements to their living situation(s) and are seeing daily progress. **The fact that VINE is providing this invaluable resource, at NO cost to the benefiting sanctuaries, is truly remarkable.** Barn Sanctuary is very grateful for this opportunity, and we hope many others benefit from Patrice's years of rooster experience.” —Alicia DiMac, Shelter Director, Barn Sanctuary

“Your knowledge and deeply thoughtful approach were appreciated by all, and I am already seeing our spaces through new eyes.... Thank you for spending time with us, for being so supportive and helpful, and for doing all that you do for the birds and other individuals.”

—Ashley Pankratz, National Rescue and Placement Manager, Farm Sanctuary