

Black Pine Animal Sanctuary

Animal Facts

Breed: EMU

Names / Sex / Age:

Pecky M Age unknown, but at least 8 years

Previous Home: Raised in captivity by private owners.

Native to: Australia, open plains and forests.

Size: 6' tall, up to 130 pounds.

Life Expectancy: 25-35 years or more.

Diet: Roots, fruits, flowers, seeds, insects, caterpillars and misc. foliage.

Facts:

- A peaceful and timid bird, it is the largest of all birds except for the African ostrich
- Emus are flightless birds, but are capable of running up to 40 miles per hour and are expert swimmers
- Emus have bright blue skin around the neck and head
- They are monogamous (taking only one mate) and mate for life
- Eggs are dark green and measure about 4 by 3 ½ inches
- Emus are highly valued for their edible eggs, beef-like flesh, and the oil obtained from abundant fatty tissue
- Emu oil is a popular ingredient in lotions and healing ointments
- Emus are considered extremely dumb, and actually have a brain the size of a pea
- Farmers in Australia get very tired of rebuilding fences to keep these gangly birds out, which they continually run into and over
- Emus can't walk backwards
- They can withstand extremes in temperature, from below 0 to 100 degrees F.
- Emus have been traced back nearly 80 million years

Personal History:

The emu joined Black Pine's family in the fall of 1997 and came from private owners.