

**Meet the Real Deal Chicken: No Process, No Steroids or Cloning
"How to Raise Your Own Healthy Chickens Easy"...**



"Learn Why It's Better to Raise Your Own Chickens and Not Buy It from Your Local Super Market"... Forget Chicken Surprise!

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#1. A Short Over-View to Raising Chickens - Basic Coops & Daily Care

Raising chickens is a lot of fun, but if you lack the fundamental information about caring for them on a day-to-day basis, then it will turn into a lot of hassle for you.

Before you get your chickens, you need to prepare a coop for them to stay in. It is very important to choose the right location for this coop in your back or front yard. The first factor to consider is the wind direction or you might end up with chicken smell all over the house. If the wind is coming from the north, then the coop should be placed at the farthest point to the south.

Make sure that the coop provides an external access to the laying boxes in order to collect eggs easily. Some breeders forget about this and the daily collection of eggs is very hard for them because they need to get inside the coop. Also, make sure that you can access the feeders and the water dispensers easily, as you will need to fill them up regularly.

Constructing a chicken run would be a great idea because

you will be able to let your chickens free all day long. This means that the coop will require less cleaning and that there will be plenty of fertilizer for your garden.

Make sure that you collect the eggs daily or the chickens may crack them while getting in and out of the nest. Do not attempt to do all the work yourself, but try to involve all the family members in order to decrease the amount of work you have to do. Make everyone share the fun.

Make sure that the water source is always clean and warm, especially if you live in a place where the water freezes in winter. It is highly advisable to get a heated water dispenser or place a heater under the standard water dispenser.

When you are purchasing chicks, make sure that you are getting them sorted out in terms of sex. If you have neighbors nearby, they can be annoyed by roosters crowing in the early morning. Hence, getting hens is a much better idea. On the other hand, if you do not mind the sound in the early morning and you are more interested in the meat, then roosters might be your choice. You can mix males and females according to your circumstances and your needs. Also, decide whether you want to raise the chickens primarily for eggs or for meat.

#2. How to Raise Day Old Chickens

Whether you have hatched the chicks in the incubator or have

purchased them from a hatchery, this is only part of the battle. The true test will be when you can rear the little day year old chicks to full grown chickens. Just as a brooding hen would look after her little chicks, you will also look after, care; provide food, water and warmth to the little chicks as well.

Building a coop that has enough area for them and keeps them warm as well

Remember that chicks can't be kept at home and they require their own coop. Ideally this chicken coop should be round so that there are no corners that can hurt the chickens. Even a small tub would do initially and it should be secured on all sides with a wire mesh. This prevents the chicks from being attacked by outside predators while providing them with enough fresh air and preventing them from running all over the place. The area of the chicken coop would depend on the number of chickens that you have.

The chicks have to be kept really warm. For this the heat source should be adequate enough to keep them warm and not roast them alive. A 100-watt bulb with a heat lamp should do perfectly fine for about 25 odd small chicks. Usually the temperature should be set at a comfortable 90 degree F or 32-degree C. To ensure that the temperature is constantly maintained, you would also need to have a thermometer inside the chicken coop. This temperature would be gradually decreased over the coming months.

More often than not, the chickens will themselves tell you

whether the temperature is hot or cold for them. If they are really peeping loudly and are huddled in a group under the lamp, it means that they are feeling cold and the distance between lamp and chickens should be decreased. If they are trying to get away as far as possible from the lamp, then it means that they are feeling extremely hot. Move away the lamp and the chicks will feel really comfortable.

Lining the coop

Now that the coop and lamp is in place, the coop also needs to be lined up with sand and grit as well. Don't line the coop with newspapers as the chickens have a natural tendency to scratch and they will tear up all the newspapers. The grit in the coop will help them to digest the food easily. If you aren't sure about the amount of grit to be used for the coop, then ask the store from where you would buy the grit and the chicken starter feed.

Waterer and feeders are equally important

A waterer is also very important, as the chicks are extremely thirsty after they are born. Place the waterer in such a way that it can't be toppled over when the chicks are running around in their coop. The temperature of the water should also be maintained at 90-degree F. this would prevent the chicks from catching a cold when drinking the water.

The feed for the day old chickens would be chicken starter or chicken crumbles, and they will come in medicated as well as un-medicated variety. The option to buy either variety would be yours. If you have bought the chicks from a hatchery, then you could try a bag of medicated and then switch over to non-medicated. If you have hatched the chickens in your own incubator, the option is completely yours. When the chicks are just a day old, use small feeders, but ensure that they aren't made of Styrofoam. Chicks have a tendency to peck at everything and can easily digest the Styrofoam that isn't good for them.

Teaching the little chicks to drink water

When you first introduce the chicks to their coop or pen, just watch them for sometime and let them get familiar with their surroundings. The day old chicks need to be taught to drink water. Just dip their beaks into the waterer, but ensure that their body remains dry. When they get wet, they can get chilled and die very easily.

Keep a watch on them and ensure that house pets including dogs don't come near them. Teach the children the proper way of handling the chicks as well.

#3. Best Kind of Food for Tiny Chickens

The food for tiny chickens is vastly different from the food

that is given to the adult chickens. They should be fed the right amount and type if you want them to grow well and be healthy and prevent the spread of diseases as well. Many farm owners will give the chicken their specially formulated chicken feed, but many a times, these home made chicken feed can lack the nutritional content that the commercial available chicken feed can provide. If the home made recipe is been given to the chickens, ensure that the ingredients are fresh and haven't been treated with chemicals or pesticides as it can interfere with the breeding and the overall development of the tiny little chicks.

Use best quality chicken starter feed for the little chicks

Usually the best kind of food for the tiny chickens is known as chicken starter feed and is quite easily available in poultry shops. Remember that all vegetarian poultry mix isn't quite natural for the little ones as well. In nature they would also have consumed little bugs as well. They need the animal protein to grow. An all-vegetarian fare can render the little chickens quite malnourished as well. An ideal situation for the chickens would be to roam free and eat as many bugs and plants and weeds that they can lay their hands on. This will give them the maximum nutrition. Of course, since this isn't the case, it's better to stick to the feeds that are available in the market.

For beginners the pre made commercial chicken starter feed will also take out the headache and unnecessary tension of figuring out what to give the chickens. The feeds have a healthy balance of protein, vitamins, minerals and other

nutritional elements that are necessary for the chickens to become healthy and strong and lay eggs (or become meat birds meant for producing chicken meat) . Other mixes or food shouldn't be given to the little chickens, as this will interfere with the nutritional balance of the commercial food that is being given to them.

The feedbag label will tell you about the feed for the exact stage development and will also mention the amount of nutrients per serving and the quantity that should be fed. The well-prepared diets are substantial for the little tiny chickens and additional use of vitamins isn't required.

Table scraps may be fed occasionally

Table scraps that consist of grains such as barley, wheat or corn can be given as additional treats when training the chickens. However the use of such treats in daily food isn't advised. It can interfere with the daily food that is been given to the chickens. You may also feed them vegetables such as lettuce, tomatoes, and many other fruits and vegetables. However the commercial feed is still quite practical and beneficial.

The chickens will usually feed till the time that their little tummies are full. For this top up the feeder in the morning and then again in the late afternoon. This will also make the little ones. The chickens usually help themselves to the food when they are hungry and will leave the rest when they are quite full. Remember to clean out their feeders everyday and never feed them leftover feed.

Provide clean and fresh drinking water

Water is also an essential part of their food and water feeders should be ideally kept at an elevated level. This will prevent the bird dropping from falling in the water. Change the water containers at least twice a day in ideal situations. If you can't do that then change the containers at least once a day or when they seem really dirty and cloudy. . The clean drinking water should be provided at all times. Remember that the temperature of the water should be just right. Ideally for the first week, the temperature of the water should be kept at 90 degree F. this prevents the little chicks to be chilled out.

In case you can't get chicken starter feed, you can do with breakfast cereal for the first few days or even mashed hard-boiled eggs. But the sooner you get them on the started feed, the better it is.

#4. Building Up Chicken Nest Boxes As Part of Healthy Chicken Raising

If you are planning to raise chickens, then it's important to start off in the right way. First, start with their habitation. Chickens require:

1. Protection

2. Light
3. Heat
4. Fresh air
5. Plenty of water
6. Food supplied all the time
7. Cleanliness to keep off diseases.

The pen or coop that you will be building must meet all of these requirements. You cannot afford to miss on one. All of the above points are equally important. To ensure that your chickens get all of the above, you will either need a sturdy cardboard box or a wooden box. Always go for a wire netted enclosure. This will give you all the conveniences that you are looking for.

Water supply and good sanitary facilities are of utmost importance for healthy chicken breeding. You must have access to a good source of water. Buy a water jet with adequate piping to wash the brooder or box where the chickens are kept. Water is the best medium when it comes to cleanliness. It also helps in removing dirt and sticky droppings. A number of diseases can be prevented if you can devote some time to cleaning the chicken brooder. You do not need soap and detergents for this, plain water is sufficient.

Always use good surgical gloves when you are cleaning the area around the boxes or nests. In this way, you will not be contaminated with any infection. If you find any of the

chickens' bottoms pasty with the droppings, apply wet cloth and lightly wipe them clean. The cleaner your birds are, the more likely they are to stay away from diseases and infections.

Do not apply anything around the box. The more open the box is, the better the ventilation is. Chickens need lots of fresh air to breathe and live.

Keep the feeding tray clean and allow access to feed all the time.

Meat chicken breeds also give a robust flock of birds ready for consumption. Most of these birds are extremely fleshy and have small bones. They sell well too and are highly valued. Younger birds tend to have a larger price than older birds. If you are having a meat business in mind, then go for these rapidly growing breeds.

#4. Card Box vs. Chicken Brooder

The card box can be a relatively inexpensive proposition to build for the newly hatched little chicks, but is only suitable for small numbers such as about five chicks. Commercially there are several chicken brooders that are available. The essential purpose of the chick brooder is to keep the chickens warm and protected. It's essential to have the brooder till the time that the chickens can be left outside in the chicken coop.

Another point to consider is that the brooder has to be cleaned everyday and that food and water should be readily available to the chicks at all points of time as well. Even if you are using a commercial chicken brooder, it needs to be disinfected and cleaned before the chicks can be placed inside. Furthermore the brooder or the cardboard box should at least be 12 inches or more in height. If it's any shorter, the chicks can easily climb out of the brooder. Further you should really put a cover on top of the cardboard box to prevent them from getting out as well.

Size is another major factor, when you are choosing the brooder. Get a brooder that can accommodate the number of chickens you intend to get. Remember that chicks grow quickly, so get a brooder that can be used till they are ready to go out to the coop. The ideal space requirement per larger chick is 2 sq ft., this ensures that the chicks have room enough to grow and space out. However, day olds will not need so much room. If you cover the box, the chicks will need ventilation so make holes in the top and sides. Ensure that the box is not kept in a draft as this can harm the little chicks.

Chicks don't require precise temperature control, however some rare and exotic species of birds may require specific temperature controls. For this reason, commercial brooders are better than the cardboard box. For new born chicks and chicks that are less than a week old, the temperature must be maintained at 90 degree F. This can be decreased as the weeks go by.

Whether it is a commercial brooder or a card box, it would need to be completely dry before it can be lined properly. Remember that it also needs to be changed daily as the chicken poop and other droppings need to be cleared. This will prevent the spread of the diseases and also maintain hygiene in the brooder. The lining can be done with paper towels (if there are few chicks), hardware cloth, burlap, newspaper or newsprint (it's better to have shredded newspaper than whole newspapers as the newspaper is less absorbent), decomposed non toxic saw dust and wood shavings, peat moss, clean sand etc. the lining should be at least 2 inches thick. This helps the chicks to get a better foothold and also makes the surface non slippery.

A heat lamp is must for keeping the chicks warm. It is better to have a red light than the white light as the red light can't hurt the chicks. You can also opt for a 250-watt infrared light that can keep them warm. Ensure that a healthy distance between the chicks and the lamp is maintained. This ensures that the chicks are kept warm without been roasted or chilled.

If you find that the chicks are huddled together under the lamp, then you need to move the clamp closer. While the lamp needs to be moved away from the chicks, if you see that the chicks are moving towards the edge of the brooder. Pick up the lamps and reflectors at any of the hardware shops. The commercial chicken brooder come with a variety of temperature controls and thermostat and this removes the headache of checking the chickens often to ensure that they are warm enough.

The feeder and the water tray in the commercial brooder are clamped to the outside of the mesh so that the chicks cannot topple the containers or get wet. For the card box, you will have to set a heavy based feeder and waterer, so that the chicks don't fall over them and get all wet. If the chicks become wet, they can easily die.

Choose your option and just follow these simple rules to ensure that your chicks survive well.

#6. How to Care for Hens

People would think that raising chicken is very easy but, the truth is totally different from that because in order to breed some chicken in your backyard, there are some information that you need to know and there are some steps that you need to do in order to be able to breed them and get a good amount of meat and eggs from them.

Before you start, you should learn to care for your hens. The process starts with determining the needed amount of space inside the coop. this is possible when you know what the strains that you will breed are and how many chicken you will get. Always make sure that the chicken coop has an extra space for future expansions or you will need to dismantle it and reconstruct it once more in a new place or in a new direction.

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