

## Going on Vacation – YOUR CHECKLIST



- Plan ahead for WHO will be watching your chickens. Give enough notice, and make sure they are dependable. Is this an egg-a-day payment or is this a cash deal? Depending on the length of your absence you may want to ask your sitter to take eggs home or to donate to their friends, co-workers or neighbors.
- Inspect your coop and run for any areas that may need repair and fix, especially where a predator could gain access.
- First Aid Kit. Make you have a chicken first aid kit there for your sitter. If you have an avian vet, please be sure to leave their name & number just in case.
- Have your sitter come over a couple of times before you leave to meet your birds and see how to do the daily routine, where all.things.chicken are located as well as the egg collecting routine.
- Clean the coop and run. If you haven't done a deep clean in a while, and you have time before you head out, go ahead and do a full clean, otherwise a quickie will be fine.
- Make sure you have plenty of food on hand as well as their favorite treats. Keep everything in one easily accessible spot. Egg cartons too.
- If your hens are laying, make sure to freshen up their nesting boxes with some Nesting Box Blend.
- Leave contact information for how to reach you and also the name of your avian vet (if you have one) just in case the unthinkable happens while you're gone. The checklist for the sitter has a spot where you can fill all this in.

NOTES + TO-DO'S – OTHER THINGS TO GET TOGETHER TO GET OUTTA TOWN:

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## Going on Vacation – SITTER CHECKLIST



### MORNING ROUTINE

- As early as possible after sunrise, let the chickens out of their coop and into their run or protected area.
- After letting them out, clean up their droppings from the day/night before in the coop/run.
- Refresh water and refill food if needed. Scatter some treats on the ground or hand feed.
- Give the flock a look over. Anyone still hanging out on the roost, walking funny, sitting on the ground too long – take a few moments to observe and make sure they are behaving normally and haven't developed any physical issues. Especially in the heat of the summer.
- Collect eggs if there are any. Take home or share with friends, neighbors or donate.
- After finishing morning chores, make sure door to the run and/or protected area is secured before you leave.
- If it is very warm (in the 80s or above) come back in the afternoon to make sure they still have plenty of water. It's critical that they have plenty of cool water to drink in the summer heat.

### EVENING ROUTINE

- As close to night fall as possible, make sure all chickens have "put themselves to bed" by going in the coop and sitting on their roost. If there are any stragglers, just encourage them (aka herd them) into the coop with the others. No chasing them, please. There should be \_\_\_\_\_ chickens.
- Gather any additional eggs that were laid during the day. You know the drill: enjoy them please.
- Close their coop door(s) and be sure to lock (if applicable). Make sure the exterior door to the run is locked as well before you leave (if applicable)

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Where we are staying: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Other Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Avian Vet in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Vet Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES: \_\_\_\_\_

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