



INSTRUCTIONS for use

Before using this product you should carefully inspect your rooster's environment for anything that could hook his collar. It is recommended that this collar be used under close supervision for the first 30 minutes, and not left on overnight that first night, then monitored at least once daily thereafter. Any food should be crumble-sized.



1. With your rooster on your lap (facing away from you), use your thumb and index finger to make a ring under the feathers and, sliding your hand toward his face, hold the feathers out of the way. TIP: Use one hand to gently hold your rooster on your lap, and the other to secure the collar



2. Using the opposite hand, lay one end of the collar on the back of the rooster's neck and hold it in place with your thumb. It should be positioned low on the neck. TIP: Position your thumb slightly away from the end of the collar so there is enough space for the hook and loop to make initial contact.



3. Without removing your thumb, wrap the collar around and press firmly into place. TIP: Secure the area where the hook and loop initially overlaps as tight as necessary. Then align the rest of the collar and press into place.



4. Check the tightness of the collar. Only the tip of your smallest finger should fit under the edges of the collar. Before putting your rooster down, examine his breathing and give him a moment to become comfortable. Adjust tightness as needed. TIP: Giving your rooster a day to wear the collar more loosely will help him adjust to the sensation of having something on his neck. The first time you tighten it he will likely jump backward and try to get it off. Using treats as a part of your routine will make this a more enjoyable experience for him.



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A couple of tips - take your rooster out of sight (and hearing) from the flock (I go to our small bathroom) to put his collar on. I use an open storage bin with shavings or paper towel in the bottom and sit down with him under my arm, with him facing forward. You can use that arm to hold him and use that same hand to help hold his neck feathers out of the way. Use your other hand to put the collar on. We recommend letting him wear it just a little bit loose for a day before tightening it. We also recommend not letting him wear it that first night so you can monitor him more closely at first. Take safety precautions. Do check his environment carefully to remove anything that the collar could possibly catch on, including his sleeping area. Don't forget this step. Also we recommend food that is crumble-sized.

Here are a few things that make a big difference in how the collar works:

Put the collar very low on the neck. Put the collar UNDER the feathers as much as you can. The feathers that grow out of his neck anywhere above the collar should be laying over the collar (not trapper underneath.) Does that make sense? The only feathers that should be underneath the collar are the feathers that are growing out of his neck in the area that the collar is covering. Okay?

The feathers actually help to hold it in place. If you can smooth them out as much as possible he will not notice the collar as much and ignore it much sooner.

Make sure that you can just get the little tip of your smallest finger under all of the edges. The top edge and the bottom edge should be just as snug.

Watch very closely for his reaction and pay close attention to any obvious signs of difficulty breathing. It is easy when you are desperate to stop him crowing to rush things and put it on too tight. Be careful and patient! He should not be gasping or drooping, hanging his head.

You have probably noticed that when chickens are nervous they will often open their mouths a little bit and sometimes pant very softly. That is a normal reaction. Wide open mouth or gasping is definitely NOT a normal reaction, and you must immediately loosen the collar. So, tip of the little finger under the edges, put your hand around the collar to press the velcro firmly together. Smooth his feathers.

Hold him toward you so you can see his face and see how he is breathing. You can continue holding him and help him to be calm.

Use the box (bin with shavings or paper towel) to help him get comfortable with the collar. Set him in the center of the bin and hold him gently for a few moments to help him relax. Then slowly move your hands away and let him back into the corner of the box. It is instinctual for them to try to back out of the collar - it is like something they can't see is holding them. Gently move him back to the center and hold your hands on him for another couple of moments. He should be standing calmly when you are holding him in the box (flailing his head or neck or sinking to the ground are indicators that the collar is dangerously tight!). When he is calm you can release him again. You should do this a few times and then let him rest in the corner of the box while he get used to it. When you have your hands on him he know that it is you holding him and he feels safe. When you let go he feels the collar still "holding onto him" and doesn't know that he is still safe. Each time you put your hands back on him during this process, it helps him to feel safe and to trust that the feel of the collar on him is okay.

When you take him outside and put him down, stay right there and watch very closely. If he needs more time to adjust he should be put in a safe enclosed coop where he can back into a corner and rest there until he feels safe. We recommend you not leave the collar on that first night so you can supervise him more closely at first, making sure it fits correctly.

Quieting his crow is partly anatomical (the way the collar fits) and partly behavioral. His first few crows with the collar on will often not be that quiet. He will be trying to crow as loud as usual despite the effect of the collar, but it won't take him long to work it out, and crow in a way that works for him and is quieter. Temperament has a lot to do with this aspect. If his crow is not quieter at all by the next day, then the fit needs to be slowly adjusted.

If the collar gets pulled off or loosens up there may be a few reasons - too many feathers were underneath the collar and when he adjusted his feathers the collar didn't fit as snug. Also, if there aren't enough feathers over the collar it will be more noticeable to other chickens that may want to investigate or pull at it. One more tip can help keep his collar on. If it is possible to put the tag in the back, it will stay on better. Since the collar is made to hinge and bend with his neck, it can loosen if the overlap is in the front where he bends the most.

I hope you find this helpful. This might video may help you as well:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=iJkFJrVq87Y

Please email us if we can be of more assistance -
info@NoCrowRoosterCollars.com

Thank you!