CHICKS & HENS

The most productive pet!

Getting started-Keeping backyard poultry is very rewarding, chickens are low maintenance, they eat table scraps & you can enjoy their produce! Our chicks are already sexed, so you can be confident in knowing that they will grow into hens!

Our chicks are vaccinated for Mareks disease, Fowl Pox & Infectious Bronchitis. They are also free of intestinal worms, lice, mites & coccidiosis.

Care and wellbeing-Your day old chick can not maintain their body temperature, much like a newborn baby. Chicks need warmth from a heat source such as a 60 watt light bulb. This can be suspended over their brooder box. The ideal temperature to begin with should be 35 °C. The temperature can then be reduced to 30°C for the next 7 days. By the age of 4 week your chick should be able to cope with temperatures around 18 -20°C.

Investing in a thermometer will assist you to keep a check on temperatures.
You will find that they will move closer to or away from the heat source as they require.

By the time your chicks reach 22 weeks, they should

start laying eggs!

Diet- Chickens are omnivores which means they love meat just as much as grains & seed.

Your chicks will need fresh drinking water every day. A covered drinker will ensure that they cannot drown or mess in their drinking water.

Chick starter is a high protein diet that you should feed your chicks on until they are 8 weeks old.

After 8 weeks of age, they should be fed a growing formula food & then at 16 weeks they require a calcium enriched laying food such as layer pellets or scratch mix. This food provides hens with specially formulated protein levels that they need to produce eggs.

You should also provide them with shell grit. Shell grit provides chickens with extra calcium to help them lay good strong shelled eggs.

Grit is essential for your hen's diet & should be added to their feed at least once a week. Shell grit is beneficial for digestion (it can help prevent them becoming crop bound) & will also act as teeth for your hen!

Two eggs on toast has 48% more protien than a bowl of porridge!

Their diet can be supplemented with household scraps & veggies that are high in vitamin A, such as cooked potato peelings, lettuce, silverbeet, apple, rice, pasta and bread. Scraps should not be fed until hens are 16 weeks of age.

Feeding your hen lots of green veggies will help her produce a rich coloured yolk in her eggs.

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Producing organic eggs - Eggs are a highly nutritious food that can make an important contribution to a healthy, well balanced diet.

They are a natural source of at least 11 different vitamins & minerals as well as high quality protein, omega-3 fats & antioxidants. Due to the variety of nutrients found in eggs, they can make a significant contribution to increasing daily nutrient intakes. In fact, research indicates egg consumers have higher intakes of vitamins A, E, B12 and folate compared to non-egg consumers.

The Heart Foundation says you can eat an egg every day of the week!

We stock a certified organic range of chook food that is free from genetic modification, medication & grown free from chemicals & synthetic fertilisers. When feeding your hens with this food they will produce omega 3 enriched organic eggs!

There is an organic food for each life stage of your hens from chick starter through to layer pellets.

Worming, lice & mites - Poultry need to be wormed every three months to prevent & control intestinal worms. We recommend that you use a liquid wormer that can be added to the bird's drinking water. Always read & follow the instructions carefully.

You will need to spray your hens for lice & mites every 6 weeks. We recommend Avian Insect Liquidator. This product is an extremely safe & effective insecticide with an insect growth regulator. The housing should be sprayed at the same time.

Housing - A purpose built chook house (pictured below) with a roosting section & laying box is ideal for chickens.

Ensure that the chickens have plenty of space for when they can't free range & that the wire enclosure is fox proof!

Change their straw bedding at least once a week & make sure that their perches are scrubbed once a week too. Any manure can be cleaned out of the house & enclosure weekly, your garden will love it!



Breeds - We have the following breeds available. These have been crossed to produce the best laying birds.

Pure White Leg Horn Black Australorp/white Leg Horn Rhode Island/white Leg horn

