



A Basic Introduction to Keeping Chickens

Why keep chickens?

We love our chickens, at Happy Garden Hens, and encourage everyone with a garden, or allotment, to keep their own small flock for fun and, of course, for the eggs! Chickens are very easy to care for and, if properly looked after, have few health issues or demands on your time.

Can I keep chickens?

Before you shell out on a fancy coop, there are some laws to consider. You will need to:

- Check your tenancy agreement or house deeds, to establish whether you are forbidden from keeping poultry on your property
- Consult your local council, to establish whether there are any laws which may prevent you from keeping poultry on your property

What do Chickens need?

Whether you intend to keep chickens as pets, for their eggs or for the table as a flock owner you'll want, and need, to ensure that your birds are healthy and happy. To do this you will need to provide them with:

- Quality feed and mixed grit
- Plenty of clean water
- Clean, spacious and secure housing
- Perches and nest boxes
- A dust bath
- A basic chicken first aid kit; including mite and lice treatments, a wormer and blue anti-septic spray

Which Chickens are right for me?

There are many different breeds of chicken and each have different purposes. To make the most of your flock, you'll need to decide what you

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wish to get from your chickens before you seek a poultry breeder. If you are looking for a regular supply of eggs you may prefer a hybrid; these, generally, cost less than purebreds and lay a lot more eggs. Pure breeds, on the other hand, are particularly pretty and can even be shown.

The Chicken Checklist

This is a basic list of what you will need to produce, or purchase, before buying your chickens.

- A spacious, secure Chicken Coop with perches and nest boxes
- A spacious, secure run/run space
- A poultry feeder and Drinker
- Quality feed
- Quality grit
- Coop cleaner
- First aid kit; including lice and mite treatments, wormer, blue anti-septic spray and cider vinegar

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