



Introducing New Chickens into an Existing Flock

Whenever a new chicken is added to an existing flock the risk of introducing or spreading disease and parasites increases. There is also an increased chance of injury or even death caused by squabbling as the new pecking order is sorted.

Quarantining New Chickens

One of the best ways to protect your chickens is to quarantine any and all new birds for a period of three weeks before introducing them to your existing flock. During this period, you can watch your new chickens closely for signs of illness or parasitic infestation and, if necessary, treat them accordingly.

It is important to attend to your existing flock each day prior to dealing with your new chickens; to avoid transmitting anything nasty from the new, higher risk birds, to your existing flock. It is also important to disinfect your footwear before visiting each group of chickens.

Establishing the New Pecking Order

Every time a bird is added to or removed from a flock the pecking order changes. Within the first few days of owning your new chickens you can expect some fighting: as they sort out the new pecking order. Do not interfere with this unless a bird is bleeding or injured. Once all of your chickens have found their new place, within the pecking order, this squabbling will cease.

If you can move all of the chickens, new and old, into a new coop and run there is likely to be less fighting. You can also lessen the chance of serious injury by placing the new birds near to your existing flock in a separate coop/run area for a few days. After this short period you can introduce the new birds into your existing coop once your 'old' birds have gone to roost.

This leaflet is a basic guide. For further information, please do not hesitate to call us or to book onto our informative chicken keeping courses. Tel: 07798652178 Email: HappyGardenHens@outlook.com