

URBAN CHICKEN KEEPING 101



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Outline

- ❖ Why Keep Chickens?
- ❖ The Law, Ordinances
- ❖ Chicks, Pullets, & Hens
- ❖ Anatomy of a Chicken Coop
- ❖ Chicken Behavior
- ❖ Questions & Answers

Chickens are curious



Arctic Blast 2008!



Chickens are tough, low maintenance birds.

Chickens require little room



Chickens
cultivate and
fertilize your
garden



Chickens make good pets



Chickens require less maintenance than a dog and a little more than a cat.

Mother Earth News Egg Facts

"Meet the Real Free-range Eggs" Oct./Nov. 2007

- 1/3 less cholesterol
- 1/4 less saturated fat
- 2/3 more vitamin A
- 2 times more omega-3
- 3 times more vitamin E
- 7 times more beta carotene
- **100 times more taste!!!**



Yolks



Store bought eggs

Backyard eggs

The Law

- No Boys Allowed !!!
2. Three is the magic number. Get a permit if you want more.
 1. Place coop at least 15' from neighbors home
 1. Keep the neighbors happy. Give away eggs.



Common breeds of chickens



Barred Rock



Buff Orpington



Silkie Bantam



Rhode Island Red



Silver Laced Wyandotte



Bringing your babies home for the first time

Brooding chicks



You are replacing the warmth and protection of the mother hen.

Cardboard Box Brooder



Heat lamp \$20, Bedding \$10, Cardboard box Free

The right temperature

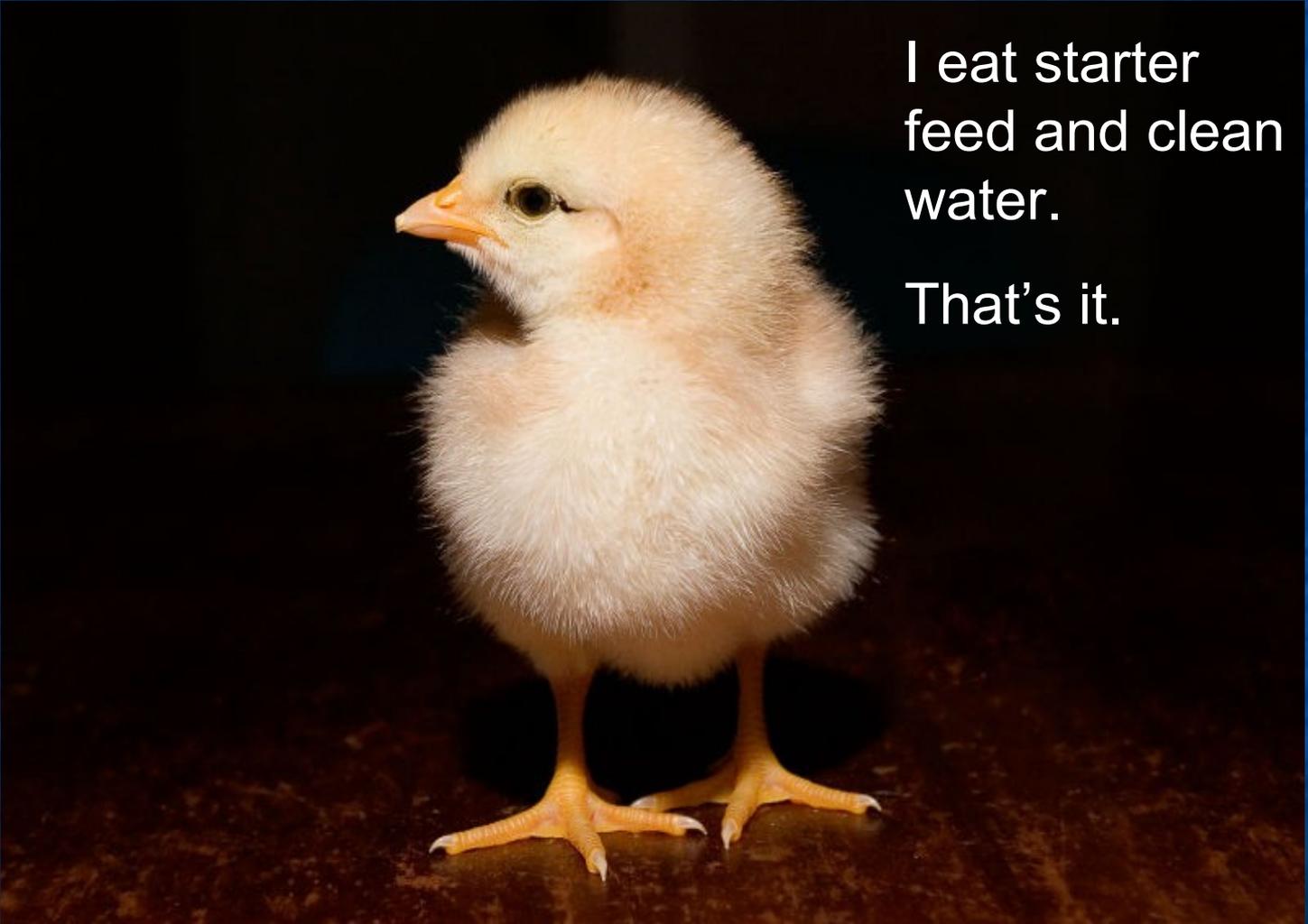


Clustering chicks is a bad sign. Spread out like this is good. Trust your instincts.

Rubbermaid Tub



Chicks



I eat starter
feed and clean
water.

That's it.

Have a drink



Chick Starter Feed



- ❖ 25 lb bag of medicated chick starter feed \$15

- ❖ High protein for fast growing chicks

- ❖ Should last 6-8 weeks until chicks are feathered

Watch for pasty vents.

Coccidiosis

- Coccidiosis is a parasite which is carried in chick droppings. Good hygiene can help prevent it. You suspect you have it when you see blood in the droppings of the chicks.
- Coccidiosis can be arrested fairly quickly by putting 1 tablespoon of vinegar to a quart of water for 3 days.

Introduce your pets



Getting thru the teen years: 6-20 Weeks



Don't let me roam free.
I don't have good judgment.

I eat “Grower or Developer” feed



- ❖ 50 lb bag grower / developer feed \$22.60
- ❖ Lower protein for slower growth
- ❖ Introduce kitchen scraps
- ❖ Supplement with free choice grit
- ❖ Add oyster shell if chickens start laying
- ❖ Scratch grains are like dessert to me.

How to tell if
you have a
rooster



The Great Outdoors



It's warm enough to let the pullets spend the day in the chicken tractor.

Layer Feed



- ❖ 50lb Layer Feed
\$22.40
- ❖ 3 hens will eat 1 pound feed each day
- ❖ Includes calcium for strong shells
- ❖ Chickens will forage if free to roam
- ❖ Provide free choice grit if contained
- ❖ Balanced diet important for egg production

Eastside Egg Chicken Coop



Chickens need room to spread their wings

- 0 to 1 month - $\frac{1}{4}$ square foot per bird
- 1 to 2 months - $\frac{1}{2}$ square foot per bird
- 2 to 3 months - 1 square foot per bird
- 3 to 4 months - 2 square feet per bird
- 4 months to adult - 3 square feet per bird

Anatomy of a Chicken Coop

- ❖ Hen House
 - Roost
 - Nest Box
- ❖ Chicken Run
- ❖ Feed & Water
- ❖ Security
- ❖ Location



The Hen House



The Roost

- ❖ Chickens feel safe up high
- ❖ Chickens will roost in trees
- ❖ 12 - 18 inches per bird is cozy



Nest Boxes



Egg hunt





The Run

- ❖ 3 sq/ft per chicken
- ❖ Shelter from elements and predators
- ❖ The place for food and water

Predators love chicken



Think about us when building a coop.

Predators are clever





Keep food safe from mice, rats, and raccoons.

** A 50lb bag of feed will fit nicely in a 20 gallon can*

Chicken Behavior



Broody Hens



Dust Bath



Molting



Bribe with treats



Wrong



Right

Home on the range



Clover field



Healthy Happy Hens



Resources





The End