# URBAN CHICKEN KEEPING 101



Chicken Fest 2008
Livingscape Nursery &
Growing Gardens

### Outline

- 1. Why you should have chickens.
- 2. The Law, Ordinances.
- 3. Taking care of baby chicks.
- 4. Building a coop for your hens.
- 5. Managing the coop area, waste, and keeping your hens healthy and laying.

### Chickens are curious





They are tough, low maintenance birds.

# Chicken 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.

# Chickens get along with other animals



### The incredible edible egg



A hen starts laying eggs in about 22 weeks

First summer: June-October

Thereafter: February-Late October

### 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

# Scramble



#### The Law

Three is the magic number. Get a permit if you want more.

2. No Boys Allowed

 Keep the neighbors happy Give away eggs.



#### Variance

#### 13.05.015

The facility is located on the applicant's property so as to be at least 15 feet from any building used or capable of being used for human habitation, not including the applicant's own dwelling.

#### Common breeds of chickens



**Barred Rock** 



Rhode Island Red



Silkie Bantam

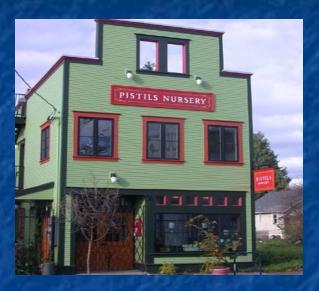


**Buff Orpington** 



Silver Laced Wyandotte

### Resources











Bringing your babies home for the first time

# Day 1



### Brooding chicks



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

### Cardboard Box Brooder



## Rubbermaid Tub



### Have a drink



### Starter feed



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.

### The right temperature



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

### Handle chicks a lot





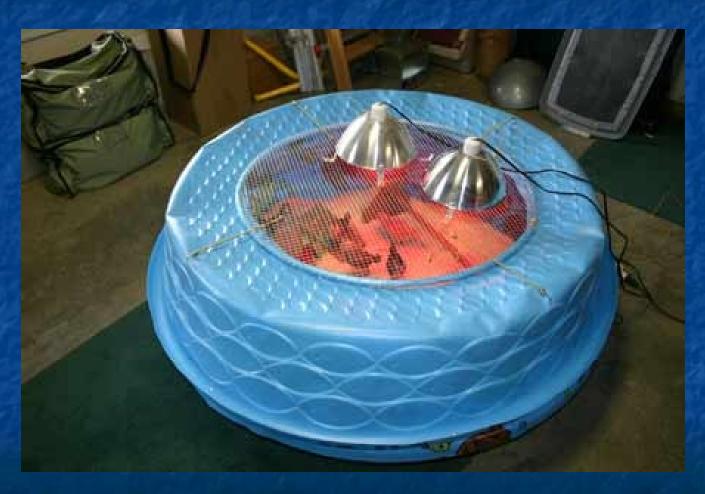
## Introduce your pets



# Chickens need room to spread their wings

- 0 to 1 month 1/4 square foot per bird
- 1 to 2 months 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

# kiddie pool brooder







#### 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.

Kitchen scraps.

Scratch grains are like dessert to me.

How to tell if you have a rooster





6-8 weeks. Time to start transitioning to the outside.



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

# Build a Chicken Coop



#### Predators love chicken







Think about us when building a coop.

# Predators are clever



# Chicken Wire



I eat "Layer Pellets", kitchen scraps, bugs, worms, "scratch", grit, and some oyster shell or calcium would be nice.



The Hen Years: Egg production and living outside.





Keep food safe from mice, rats, and raccoons.

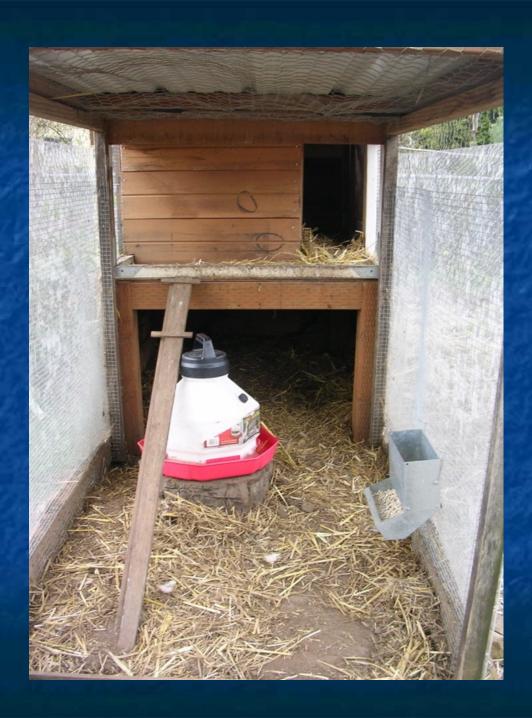
# Feed and Water











# The run

# Nest Boxes





# Egg hunt



# Home on the range



# Clover field



## Bribe with treats





Wrong

Right

#### A word about Avian Flu



## A lot of chickens



# Close Quarters



# Healthy, Happy Hens



