

# INITIAL CARE GUIDE FOR CHICKS

## Preparing the Brooder

- Use a cardboard or plastic enclosure to protect chicks from drafts.
- Heat source placed 16" above floor.
- Use clean pine shavings.
- Fresh water in chick designed-waterer.
- Chick starter crumble food from 0-16 weeks old.



## First Day Care

- Chicks will be thirsty. Dipping chicks beaks into waterer is helpful to show them the water source.
- Brooding surface area should be heated to about 95° for the first week, lowering the temperature 5° increments remaining at 75° until chicks are 12 weeks old.
- To increase or decrease the temperature, raise or lower the lamp. A thermometer placed in the brooder is helpful to maintain proper temperature. If chicks are huddled under light, this indicates they are cold. If chicks are moving away from brooder light, temperature is too high.
- Feed chicks starter crumble for the first 16 weeks. To encourage chicks to eat, sprinkle food on cardboard and/or flat surface in addition to chick feeder.
- Pine shavings should be clean and changed often to ensure a healthy growing environment.



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## Healthy Tips for Chicks

- Chickens will use their beaks to groom and peck themselves. If the chickens begin to peck amongst themselves, this may indicate brooding area is too crowded or too hot. A red tinted bulb may also prevent excessive peaking.
- A condition known as “pasting up” or “poopy butt,” wherein manure will become compact in the rear-end of the chickens, may occur. If so, cleanse the effected area with a washcloth and warm water. This should only last a few days.
- If the chickens continue to paste-up or lack energy, adding a sulfa type drug or Amprol to the drinking water may help. This is available online or at local farm supply stores. Read and follow all instructions completely.



## Chicken Care DO's

- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling chickens and/or their equipment.
- Use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Supervise children when handling chickens and supervise the hand-washing of children.
- Clean any equipment used with poultry outside the house.
- Do not keep chickens in family living space.

## Chicken Care DO NOT's

- Children under five, elderly and individuals with weak immune systems are advised not to handle chickens.
- Chickens should be kept out of kitchens, bathrooms, patios and/or areas where food and drinks are prepared, served or stored.
- Chickens should not be snuggled or kissed, touch with your mouth or eat or drink around chickens.

Estimated Growth & Feed Consumption for Egg Strain Pullets			
Age Weeks	Average Weight, Lb	Feed per Week, Lb.	Consumption to date, Lb.
1	.16	.20	.20
2	.26	.24	.44
3	.41	.30	.74
4	.58	.43	1.17
5	.77	.58	1.75
6	.96	.59	2.34
7	1.13	.68	3.02
8	1.29	.70	3.72
9	1.59	.77	4.68
10	1.76	.82	5.50
11	1.93	.86	6.36
12	2.12	.91	7.27
13	2.29	.95	8.22
14	2.48	1.00	9.22
15	2.67	1.05	10.27
16	2.88	1.09	11.36

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