



All about **Chickens**

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Chickens

Introduction

Chickens have been around for a number of years. Throughout the years until today, they have been used as food for humans, whether it is from their meat or from the eggs they produce.

General Description

There are no specific physical characteristics to look for in chickens, especially if they are very young. The only thing to make sure of is that they look like they are growing at about the same rate as the rest of the flock. Otherwise, you may pick one that has some disease or sickness and it not be known yet.

Selecting your Chicken

When you begin shopping for a chicken, you need to make sure that breed, size and quality are all taken into consideration. You also have to make sure that the price you pay is not too high for the animal.

A Few Words about Breeders

When purchasing or obtaining a chicken, you want to make sure that the animal is free of disease and has been well taken cared of. Also if you are putting the chicken in with others, you should make sure that your new addition does not carry any disease that may spread to the flock. Buying a chicken from a registered breeder is the safest way to get an animal that is healthy and fairly well taken cared of. Breeders take the time to have the animals tested. They have them treated if signs of infection do show up. And they make sure that the rest of the flock is not contaminated.



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A Few Words about Auctions

Buying a chicken from an auction or auction house is a practice that is looked down upon by many people. Auction houses do not require that animals be tested; therefore, you run the risk of home chickens that may have any disease possible. By the time the signs show up, the rest of your flock could have been infected already. Auction houses are not recommended places to buy an animal even if it is usually the cheapest.

Preparing for your Chicken

When bringing the chicken home, you have to make sure that everything is set up before it arrives. The first thing you should make sure you have is an adequate area to house it. The housing area needs to be dry and free of drafts. In the housing area, the chicken needs an area so he can roost. The chicken will also need an area for exercise. This area can be included partially in the coop house. You also need to fence the area where the chicken will be housed, not only to keep it in but to keep other animals out.

Other items you will need when bringing the chicken home are feeds and water.

Care and Feeding

Chicken Feeding

Chickens must have certain nutrients daily routine to remain healthy and ensure proper growth. These nutrients are usually included in commercial feeds made for chickens. Water is also of utmost importance. The only item that chickens may require extra is grit. This material is essential for them to grind up things in their gizzards.



You'll need these basics before your Chicken comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

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Chicken Health Care

To keep your chickens healthy, you need to make regular observations of the animal and keep an eye out for diseases that can possibly affect them. If your flock starts to show signs of sickness, you need to get in touch with your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Chicken Containment

Chickens need to have a shelter to go to, especially when the weather turns bad or is very hot. The most common containment for chickens is a pen that is dry and draft free. It needs to be cool in the summer but still allows fresh air and sunlight to come in. Inside the containment, there needs to be an area for a food trough and water. The containment that the chickens are to sleep in should be 3 square feet for each chicken that is housed there. The area needs to be fenced with strong materials to hold the chickens in.

Medical Considerations

Chickens are a species that can easily carry disease or infection back to the rest of the group. Some of the common problems that chickens experience include avian flu, botulism, fowl typhoid, mites, scaly leg, and toxoplasmosis. There are a number of vaccinations that can be given to chickens to help prevent some of these conditions.

Necessary Items

Chickens are animals that do not require a lot of equipment. The most needed requirements of chickens are food and water. They also must have a fenced area and shelter to accommodate them. In addition, feeds and medication should be kept at hand. You will also need to have a means to transport your animal if you need to travel with it, usually a well-sized carrier or movable pen will do.



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