

SAFE HANDLING OF POULTRY

Live animals and pets can be a source of potentially harmful microorganisms, germs (including salmonella), and bacteria. Therefore, precautions must be taken when handling and caring for them. Children should be supervised to make sure they don't put their hands or fingers in their mouth, nose, or eyes after handling the animals. Always wash your hands with soap and water after handling any animal or pet.

DO

- ✓ Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching live poultry or anything in the area where they live and roam.
- ✓ Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- ✓ If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer until you are able to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- ✓ Clean any equipment or materials associated with raising or caring for live poultry, such as cages or feed and water containers.

DON'T

- ✗ Don't let children younger than 5 years of age, elderly persons, or people with weak immune systems handle or touch livestock including poultry.
- ✗ Don't let grown livestock inside the house, in the bathrooms, or especially in areas where food or drink is prepared, served, or stored, such as kitchens or outdoor patios.
- ✗ Don't snuggle or kiss livestock, touch your mouth, or eat or drink around livestock.

<https://healthybirds.aphis.usda.gov>

GOT CHICKS®

AFTER THE FIRST FOUR WEEKS

- ☼ Increase floor area to 3/4 square feet per bird.
- ☼ Increase feeders to provide 2 1/2 to 3 inches of space per bird.
- ☼ Increase waterers to one 5 gallon fount per 100 chicks or install a nipple system.
- ☼ Install roosts at back of brooder area. Start roost poles low and gradually raise from floor.
- ☼ Open windows during the day. Leave only partly open at night.
- ☼ Prevent water puddles around founts. Place founts on low wire platform. Move founts periodically to new locations to keep area dry, so you can prevent bacteria from forming.
- ☼ Birds can range outside on warm, sunny days, but only if a clean range is available. BEWARE OF PREDATORS!!!
- ☼ Sometimes they pick because they are bored, too hot, not enough room or lack nutrition in the feed. Consider going to a heat plate rather than the 24/7 light stress. Try putting in fresh green grass clippings several times a day and darken the room. Chunks of grass sod can also be set around for the chicks to pick at.

To view many helpful care videos, visit us at <https://www.cacklehatchery.com/chick-care-instructions>



**Hatching & Shipping
Since 1936**

Cackle Hatchery®
www.cacklehatchery.com | 417-532-4581
PO BOX 529 | Lebanon, MO 65536

CHICK SEASON®



Read Immediately Upon Arrival

CHICK CARE INSTRUCTIONS

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- ☼ Brooder container (absolutely no totes or tubs, too small for a cool down area)
- ☼ Pine shavings
- ☼ Thermometer
- ☼ Chick waterer
- ☼ Chick feeder
- ☼ Heat Lamp with non-Teflon bulb. 1 lamp per 25 chicks. Switch to heat plate at 7-14 days of age.
- ☼ Chick starter feed
- ☼ Raw unfiltered apple cider vinegar (with the mother)

CAKLE GUARANTEE

We guarantee live arrival. If any chicks appear weak or did not make the trip, please contact us immediately so that we can note your account and give you some additional tips. Avoid handling the chicks too much or playing with them the first 2 days to give them the best start possible. Keep in mind shipping losses must be reported immediately or within 24 hours by phone. For pickup orders; no guarantees once they have left the store.

SPACE

On average you should provide 1/2 square foot per bird. Your brooder room should be 60-80 degrees range and not fall below or above this in order for your brooder pen to maintain the correct temperature for the warm area and cool down area. Please keep in mind the space that will be used for the lamp, waterer, and feeder. There should be space for the chicks to move freely away from the heat if they get too warm. The chicks will need both a cool zone and a warm zone to develop. As the chicks grow, you will need more room for them. For grown birds, you need 3-4 square feet per bird.

BEDDING

Use large pine shavings only. Do not use sawdust, sand, cypress, or cedar shavings (cypress and cedar are toxic to chicks). Do not use newspaper alone because it is too slick and will cause spraddle leg. However, it can be placed under the pine shavings daily for easy clean up.

CHICK CARE INSTRUCTIONS CONTINUED

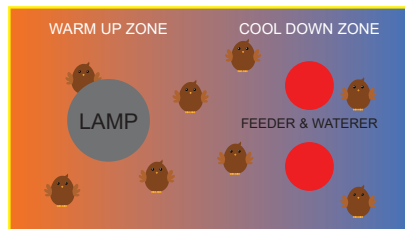
INSTRUCTIONS AFTER THE CHICKS ARRIVE

It is important to give the chicks very warm pure water for the first four hours. Make sure the water is 90°-105°F for the first 24 hours. Take each chick out, one at a time, and do a quick dip of the chickens beak into the water. If you notice any lethargic behavior, after the four hours, try using 4 tablespoons of Raw Apple Cider Vinegar (with the mother) to every quart of water for 3-5 days. Also, boil eggs, give your chicks the yolk to help boost the immune system. Use this treatment at any sign of Coccidiosis or rear end pasting up. It is also important to remove this pasted manure daily by gently using a warm wash cloth. It should disappear as the formula starts to enter the system.

HEAT

Place the chicks under the light in the brooder as quickly as possible. It can take some time for your chicks' internal temperature to regulate. Once your birds start to warm up, they will become more active. Warm chicks will spread out evenly, and most likely begin exploring their new home. Cold chicks will huddle together under the light and be lethargic. Making a brooder area that will mimic a mother hen is ideal. The babies need an area to warm up, and an area to cool off and play. You will want a heat source on one side of the brooder. The temperature at floor level under the light should be 100-105 degrees F. Equally important is enough space for a cool zone on the other side of the brooder. The brooder should be free of draft to ensure the temperature stays steady enough to maintain this temperature the first week. Most totes and tubs are too small to allow for a cool side and must NOT be used.

HEAT ONE SIDE - FEED & WATER ON THE OTHER



PREVENTS OVERHEATED OR CHILLED CHICKS

PICKING

It is common for birds to use their beak to groom or pick themselves. Baby chicks will often pick each other if they are too hot, too crowded, without fresh air, or nutritional lacking. Sometimes bright light will cause the picking and changing to a red bulb may help or change to a heat plate eliminating the 24/7 light. To treat chicks that have been picked, apply Vicks Vapor Rub on the injured area and keep up the treatment until healed. Also consider roost or climbing structures or hay to pick at to help reduce feather picking.

ADDITIONAL FOWL CARE INSTRUCTIONS

BANTAMS

Bantams will follow the same instructions as standards, however, the bantams ideal brooder temperature will run 5°F higher than standards. They should be kept in a separate brooder to prevent being trampled.

CORNISH

Cornish grow faster than others and overheat more quickly. Watch temps closely. Make sure to have adequate feeders and waterers, as well as space as they grow. Cornish should also be raised in a separate brooder.

TURKEYS AND PEA FOWL

Baby turkeys and peafowl tend to chill quicker than chicks, and tend to be more delicate in shipping. This is why it is important to watch them more carefully. They are also known to be somewhat simple minded. Therefore, you have to make sure they know where the feed is. It is helpful to put colored marbles in the water founts, and sprinkle feed on paper towels for the first few days. DO NOT use any slick paper for bedding for turkeys or peafowl. They lack the muscle in the leg area that keep their legs from spreading apart which can result in spraddle leg. We also recommend a few standard size baby chicks to be raised with the turkeys and peafowl in the beginning. The chicks will teach the turkeys and peafowl how to eat and drink. Peafowl are very difficult to raise and we do not offer any guarantee or refunds; however, we will be happy to help with any peafowl questions you have if you give us a call.

WATERFOWL

On arrival give very warm water, 1-3 drinks every 10 minutes for the first hour with no feed so it does not cool their body too quickly and put them in shock. This will help prevent them from choking or becoming waterlogged. After the hour, keep waterer and feeder full at all times. Never offer food without water. Ducks and geese will require more care in that they are messier with water founts. DO NOT MEDICATE WATER FOR DUCKS OR GEESE!!! Make sure the water fount and base are sturdy as you do not want it knocked over into the litter. Waterfowl can be turned outside at an earlier age depending on the weather. DO NOT let baby ducks or geese near a pond as they will drown without a mother to help them. Their down absorbs water. Once they have feathered out, (usually 2 to 3 months depending on breed), they will have the oils needed to swim freely.

WATERFOWL SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM ALL OTHER POULTRY

Due to the fact that waterfowl will leave chicks cold, damp, and oftentimes sick, it is best to keep them in their own brooder.

GAME BIRDS

Use basic instructions for chicks; however, watch them closely for piling up. The temperature needs to be slightly higher for their smaller bodies. The temperature will need to be closely monitored. A thermometer is highly recommended. Special game bird water founts can be used to prevent drowning. If you are using regular water founts, add clean gravel or marbles to take up space. You should use a colored bulb to prevent cannibalism. We do not recommend wire flooring at a young age, because there is a good possibility that their legs will get caught in the wiring.

Cackle Hatchery Premium Brooder Starter Package

Complete kit for chick care available at
www.cacklehatchery.com



Version March/2022