

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

1. 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



Buff Orpington



Silkie Bantam



Rhode Island Red



Silver Laced Wyandotte

Resources





Bringing your babies home for the first time

Day 1



I eat starter feed
and clean water.

That's it.

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.

20 weeks and beyond



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





The End