

Chickens

FACTSHEET

All animals need the following five things to be happy and healthy: a comfortable home, suitable diet, companionship, normal behaviour and vet care.

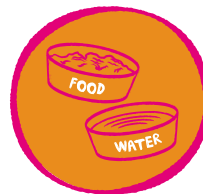
Find out how you can care for chickens by using the information below.



HOME

Animals need a comfortable home with enough space to exercise.

Chickens would rather be free range but sometimes, to keep them safe, their owners need to keep them in a large and secure run so that predators can't harm them. Ideally the run should be at least 3m by 1.5m with a coop for them to roost and sleep in.



DIET

Animals need a healthy diet and access to fresh water at all times.

Chickens need to be able to get to their food – usually layers pellets mixed with corn – throughout the day but it should be taken away at night. Chickens' favourite treats include carrots, corn on the cob, plain popcorn and red fruits such as strawberries and tomatoes.



They will need their water in something called a 'drinker' so that they don't knock it over or kick dust into it.



COMPANIONSHIP

Some animals need friends of their own kind, some would rather live by themselves.

Chickens really need to be kept in groups to feel safe and happy and hens love the company of a cockerel. The cockerel will help his hens too by searching out food, such as worms and slugs, for them to eat. You must not have more than one cockerel living with the flock though or they will fight with each other.



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NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

Animals need exciting things to do and space to behave normally.

Chickens need perches and nest boxes in their night time space but they would like to have them in their daytime run too. They like to have treats like whole cabbages hung up for them to peck at and a tray of dust or soil for them to have a bath in.



VET CARE

Animals need to be kept healthy and see the vet if they are sick or injured.

A happy, healthy chicken will be bright and alert. Their combs and wattles will be bright red and the comb should be standing up.

Chickens can get mites under the scales on their legs causing scaly leg and if caught early this can be treated by smothering their legs in Vaseline.



WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN WITH YOUR CHICKENS?

With the right treats, you can train your chickens to do their own agility course.

Watch some Wood Green chickens having a go here:

www.youtube.com/user/woodgreen100

Visit: woodgreen.org.uk

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