



**93 SUN VALLEY ROAD  
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### **POULTRY CARE**

**Chicks** - Chicks from 1 day to 6 weeks old should be fed a medicated chick starter crumble with a coccidiostat to help prevent Coccidiosis. Chicks will need to be kept under a heat lamp until they are at least 6 weeks old.

**We recommend all chicks be given an additional coccidiostat (such as Amprolium 200 or Cocciprol) to prevent and treat Coccidiosis.**

**Pullets** (chickens from 6 weeks old to point of lay) - Pullets should be fed a medicated pullet grower feed until they start to lay eggs. Keep pullets on this feed until they are all laying. Starting birds on layer food & scraps before they are laying will result in them taking longer to start producing eggs or it is possible they will never start laying at all.

**We recommend all pullets be given an additional coccidiostat (such as Amprolium 200 or Cocciprol) to prevent and treat Coccidiosis.**

Pullets start laying at different ages depending on breed and the time of year. As a rough guide, cross bred layers will start to lay between 18 and 24 weeks. Pure bred pullets will take a little longer to start, generally between 24 and 28 weeks. This can be longer over Autumn & Winter.

When adding pullets to an existing flock of chickens it is recommended to always add 2 or more birds at a time. Chickens do have a pecking order and it is common for new birds to be picked on. The harassment of new birds can last for days, weeks or occasionally even months before they are accepted as part of the group.

**Hens** – Should be fed a diet consisting of commercially available feeds such as Layer pellets (15-17% protein), Grain/scratch mix or a Layer mash.

All hens need shell grit for extra calcium to make nice hard egg shells.

Chickens should be dewormed every 2-3 months with a worming solution such as Piperazine or Avitrol.

Chickens should be dusted with an insect powder (such as Pestene) when necessary, to help control fleas, lice and mites. These occur more commonly over the warmer part of the year.

All chickens are sold free of Coccidiosis, Intestinal worms and external lice and mites.

If you do the above that will help to keep your new chooks happy and healthy.

### **Symptoms of Common Illnesses**

**Coccidiosis** – pale comb, loss of condition, blood in droppings, drooping wings – treat with Amprolium 200 or Cocciprol asap. Coccidiosis can kill a chick within a few hours and a pullet in 1-2 days.

**Respiratory problems** – runny nose, coughing, watery eyes or swollen face – treat with a broad-spectrum antibiotic such as Triple C or Oxyrav B.