

# Information about Sinkkola animals

\*\*\*

## Information about Chicken



**Feeding the animals is forbidden!**

(No hay, bread or anything else)

**Please behave calmly around the animals.**

**It is allowed to pet the animals.**

Please do not feed the animals. The grass can be spoiled and dirty so animals can get ill if they eat it. Also feeding by hand could teach the animals to bite or nibble. It is difficult for the animal to understand that not everyone offer food so they might bite your hand. Animal keepers feed the animals at their feeding time with suitable food for each species.

### **Check list for keeping chicken:**

- Register as a chicken keeper
- Contact your community's health care authority and planning office
- Follow regulations about keeping chicken outside
- Get acquainted with animal regulations concerning chicken
- Take care of protection against salmonella and other illnesses
- Bookkeeping of medical care and dead animals
- Find information about slaughter and killing instructions and how to dispose the animal

### **Before getting chicken:**

- Find information about chicken breeds and their caretaking
- Find a trustworthy seller. Never buy from a suspicious seller from suspicious conditions
- Organize everything required: the henhouse, enclosure, food and other supplies ready BEFORE getting the chicken

### **When you go to get your new chicken:**

- Transport the chicken safely for example in a transportation crate. Make sure they are not kept in too hot place.
- Act calmly and assuredly.
- Chickens may not lay eggs right away after arrival, but it may take weeks for the stress caused by changes to ease

### **Henhouse and outdoor pen:**

One can fix up an old place for a henhouse or build a new one. First one must know whether the chicken will stay with you only the summer or throughout the year. Summer henhouse can be made rather easily for example from an old playhouse. If one gets chicken only for summer find out what happens to them when autumn comes. It is important to find out before cold weather who will either slaughter the chicken or take them for winter care. Chicken need warm isolated space for winter housing!

Old rule of thumb is to have as many chickens as there are members of family. This way there are enough eggs. Chicken are herd animals and they need the company of their own kind. The minimum recommendation is to have one rooster and two hens. Rooster adds safety and comfort to the hens.

Chicken are intelligent and social animals. One must treat chicken in a calm way. **Never chase a chicken!** Stressed out chicken stop laying eggs and suffer. When

dealing with the rooster consider its position as the protector of the flock. For example, if one crows to the rooster they assert themselves as the rooster's competition and that may lead the rooster to attack as it defends its flock from rivals.

When keeping domestic chicken the recommendation is to have two chickens per 1 m<sup>2</sup> floor space. The henhouse must be sheltered and in a peaceful place. On the floor there should be straw or hay as cushion. There should be at least one hut per four chickens for laying eggs. On the floor there should also be as litter some turf, straw or pellets. The litter is cleaned out regularly. Plan the henhouse so it is easy to clean.

There needs to be enough litter so chicken can fulfil their natural instinct to scrape the ground. Chicken need stimulus, one can give them a whole hay bale, cabbage to peck, tree branches to hide under and so on.

Place the perches so the chicken do not defecate to their feeding dishes. Natural wood is the best material for perches, the diameter should be about 3,5 – 4cm. The perches are placed in different heights. The breed and ability to fly will determine the height of the lowest perch, which can be about one metre for landraces and 20 cm for silk chicken. There needs to be 25cm of perch per chicken.

**Lighting:** There should be enough windows. Avoid placing the windows to the south side wall, so the henhouse does not heat up too much during summer. Do not use fluorescent lighting, as chicken can see better than humans the vibration of the light, which causes stress to the chicken.

It is important to have good ventilation. If you yourself enjoy the henhouse, the chicken will too! The smell of ammonia is a health hazard. If there is a pungent smell in the henhouse it must be cleaned and the litter changed quickly!

The recommendation for outdoor pens is 2 m<sup>2</sup> per chicken. The height of the fence is depending on the flying abilities of the breed. About 2 metres is enough for most chicken. Chicken were originally a jungle animal so there must be lots of hiding places and cover. The pen should be covered if there is a threat of wild beasts such as cats, hawks, and so forth.

**Feeding:** Chicken are omnivorous. The feeding dishes should be placed so they do not cause danger to the chicken and should be easily cleaned. Water needs to be changed daily and made sure it does not run out.

Feeding examples:

- The easiest way is to feed the chicken forage. In addition offer chicken calcium, gravel and water

- General feeding for domestic chicken: 1/2 chicken's concentrated forage and 1/2 oats grain, food leftovers, vegetables, fruit, root vegetables, grains, flakes, soaked or fresh bread, cooked macaroni, pastries and sour milk products.

**Chicken are lactose-intolerant so only sour milk products!**

**Avocado and rhubarb are not suitable for chicken!**

**Food must not be spoiled!**

Food leftovers are given to chicken in small amounts at a time so they do not get any indigestion problems.

If you want, you can feed your chicken without forage. In that case you need to find information about the dietary needs of chicken and serve food that fulfils all the required nutrient needs.

One can dry eggshells and crush them small to give to chicken as calcium for construction material for new eggs.

**One must check the well-being of the chickens at least once a day!**

Find information about medical care before getting chicken and contact vet if necessary.

# Sinkkola's chicken

**Kullervo the rooster**

Rock-kochi-mix breed

**Louhi**

black, Hämmäläinen-mix breed

**Ilmatar**

brown

**Aino, Annikki & Kylikki**

white, Leghorn breed

Ilmatar and the white trio have worked previously in factory farming. At the age of one they “retired” and moved into a small home henhouse. Despite being retired, they lay eggs regularly, almost daily.

Chicken can live up to 10-15 years depending on their breed. But in factories their lifespan is short.

There can be chicks after 21 days when chicken are allowed to incubate their eggs. In henhouses without roosters, the chicken lay eggs but the eggs cannot hatch out chicks.

The rooster's job is to keep the peace, protect and observe so that the chicken do not get too far off each other. Kullervo is a very exemplary rooster. He lets the chicken eat first and rushes to the spot if some of the chicken cluck restlessly.