

## Re: Chicken question

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**From:** Jill. (*news\_at\_REMOVETHISKintaline.co.uk*)

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Searcher 1 wrote:

> *There are 6 Chickens, The Pen is 10' X 10' squared.*

I take it you move this on to fresh ground every few months?

The Heated box is

> *4' X 4' Squared. the infrared lamp stays on 24 hrs. inside the box,*

> *the temp in the box stays at 85 degrees.*

Why?

That is tropical – it will be like a sauna

This is not comfortable for chickens

Only when the outside temp.

> *is less the 50 degrees.*

50 'F is 10 degrees C — our birds have that day in day out year around  
sometimes — that is not cold at all

Birds in a secure timber house with solid walls on each, high ventilation  
and a non condensing roof are perfectly capable of being very comfortable in  
temperatures down to 23 degrees F [ minus 5 degrees C] as long as its not  
all winter and the birds are dry.

There is a roof and three walls to the

> *enclosure, the front is open ti the elements, the enclosure is made*

> *from 4"x2" metal cage fencing.*

Okay — make the front a solid wall with a proper door and pophole. Have a  
ventilation strip at the top.

They need to be OUT of the elements at night – they also need peace away  
from any night time predators passing through

In this building you need to put perches off the ground that are about 2–3  
inches in diameter

What is a POP HOLE?

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It is the opening that the birds move in and out of a building that you shut every night

If it is the opening to

- > *the heated box then it is*
- > *the bottom 2/3rds of the heated box. Plenty big enough for them to*
- > *walk in yet low enough to hold the heat. The entire enclosure has a*
- > *dirt floor with fresh straw and hay every two weeks or so, likewise*
- > *the heated box. There are also six nesting boxes that the hens will*
- > *lay in during the warmer time of the year, they all roost on top of*
- > *the heated box and the nesting boxes at various times.*
- > *They drink hot water in the morning, We have to fill the bowl*
- > *three times a day with hot water and they seem to enjoy the warmer*
- > *water.*

The birds should have access to fresh water in a fountain drinker at ALL times

Warm water is not necessary — plenty of fresh water is

>

- > *Keep in mind this is all temporary,*

It is what the birds are living in right now tho

we are only renting this

- > *property and will be buying a house this spring (God willing). I do*
- > *plan to build a larger permanant structure for them once we move. I*
- > *want at least three more hens. That will make a total of 7 after*
- > *culling the two present cocks.*
- > *Any better ideas ARE appreciated, remember this is my first foray with*
- > *chickens.*

Which books have you read?

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regards

Jill Bowis

Pure bred utility chickens and ducks

Housing; Equipment, Books, Videos, Gifts

Herbaceous; Herb and Alpine nursery

Working Holidays in Scotland

<http://www.kintaline.co.uk>

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- > Searcher1