

Re: A FAQ

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.agriculture.poultry/2005-07/msg00095.html>

- *From:* "Kathleen" <lovebirds1201@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 7 Jul 2005 07:44:45 -0500
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Darn! I typed out a huge long response of questions and my program shut down!

When I got my chicks, I got 33 chicks from several places, several varieties.

- 1 barred rock
- 2 Americaunas
- 1 Rhode Island Red
- 15 RIR
- 15 White Leghorns

30 were raised for my Dad just until they were big enough to join his flock. I had the special feeding trays and I had the heat lamp. They were all in the house in an open cardboard box (DH works at the box factory) with my black lab. I had a small rabbit hutch outside.

Questions I had then:

- How long until they can be introduced to an established flock?
- How long until they can go outside with the heat lamp?
- How do I keep them from pooping in the water feeder?
- How big does the coop need to be for 4 chickens, and how long do I have until they need it?
(It was finished just in time – a cheap PVC pipe creation)
- How do I keep my dog from eating them? For some reason I thought she would adore them the way we do, but that doesn't seem to be the case.
- When do I feed them chick grit?
- What extra foods or table scraps can I feed them?
- How am I going to train them to come back to the coop at night?

Questions I have now:

- They are 4 months old today. (We have 6 now– the rest went home to Dad's farm)
- Is it OK that I am still feeding them medicated crumble? The bag is almost gone.
- Then do I switch to 'layer' crumble?
- When do I start feeding the oyster stuff?
- What extra foods or table scraps can I feed them?
(We let them free range for 4–10 hours a day, and throw a handful of scratch out daily)

Re: A FAQ

Can I use the rabbit hutch for nesting boxes if I put a lid on it? Right now they roost on the edges of it. I figure I have a couple more months to figure all this out.

They don't always come home to the coop, and I suspect they roost in the trees on those occasions. How do I discourage that?

How do I know if they are roosters? I suspect my RIR is a rooster because tail feathers stand up, and shinier than the others at Dad's. Hard to tell with the combs and underthings (wattles? sorry, just dont know the terminology yet) They all have beginnings of both. The 2 leghorns we kept look different, and one of them was 'skirmishing' with the RIR. How do I figure out if one of them is a rooster?

That's all the questions I can think of right now. It's been very interesting and fun... I'm not emotionally attached to them, but we really like to watch them and like having them around. And in the midst we got another dog, who has trained our black lab to not be so very interested anymore. To the point where we don't have to supervise when she's outside! The new dog is a ACD or "red heeler" and I was hoping I could teach her to heel the chickens back into the coop but so far she only herds my feet as they are herding chickens back in the coop!

With hope and heart,
Kathleen

• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* Mary Fisher

• *References:*

- ◆ **A FAQ**
◇ *From:* unicorn
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* Mary Fisher
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* SHIVER ME TIMBERS
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* Bruce Sinclair
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* Mary Fisher
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* unicorn
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* SHIVER ME TIMBERS
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
◇ *From:* unicorn

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- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
 - ◇ *From:* Rosyposey
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
 - ◇ *From:* Kathleen
- ◆ **Re: A FAQ**
 - ◇ *From:* Jill.

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