

## Re: Broody – How long?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.agriculture.poultry/2007-05/msg00174.html>

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- *From:* "Jill" <[news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 27 May 2007 14:04:41 +0100
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diddy wrote:

. She's in good flesh and never starved. Are you saying some broody hens won't eat at all? She did eat less, but she didn't have the nutritional needs of a egg producing hen or one out scratching around. I just figured her body was resting from a long laying period. So i let her rest.

Normally chickens are pretty much constantly grazing on food. Its not difficult to see that the difference between that and the amount they take in while they are broody is significant. As most of the "condition" of the bird is inside the body cavity, as are any fat deposits when they get over fed its hard to judge entirely by what the covering over the skeleton is. As most hens are expected to start laying again after this time they need to maintain their mineral / vits and protein intake. I absolutely fail to understand why anyone would want to leave birds in this situation for weeks on end if there is no intention of hatching. Its simply to break and effective given some care. Maybe it is just me.

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regards  
Jill Bowis

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