

DOMESTIC CHICKENS

(GALLUS DOMESTICUS)

CONSERVATION STATUS: NOT LISTED



WE ARE BIRDS
with a lifespan
of 5-10 years



Origin: Worldwide.

Diet: Grain, seeds, insects, lizards, young mice and vegetables. They are omnivores.

Predators: Mammals, reptiles, birds, humans, foxes, dogs, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, skunks, opossums, snakes, hawks and owls.

Habitat: Mostly domesticated.

Keeper Notes: There are a few different breeds of chicken here at Knockhatch. Many of our chickens are mixed breeds.



Height

25cm varies with breed



Weight

1.8-4kg varies with breed



Top Speed (running)

9mph

DID YOU KNOW?

A chicken can fly but only for very short distances and not very high off the ground.

There are more chickens in the world than any other bird.

Domestic chickens are a subspecies of red junglefowl - a species native to Southern Asia.

A group of chickens is called a 'flock'. A male is called a 'Cockerel' but in America they call him a 'Rooster'. The female is a 'Hen' and a baby is known as a 'Chick'.

A hen can lay 300 eggs a year so she needs to be fed well.

ADAPTATIONS

Cockerels (males) produce a shrill call to alert other males about their territory. Hens (females) cluck to gather their chicks.

REPRODUCTION

When a hen is six months old she begins laying one egg a day. If there is no cockerel around then the eggs will not hatch into chickens. If there is a cockerel around, they will perform a special dance to attract the hen. If the hen accepts his dance then the two birds mate. After mating the hen will lay fertilised eggs everyday for up to two weeks which, if incubated, will hatch into chicks. The fertilised egg has to be kept warm for 21 days before hatching. Sometimes the mother hen keeps them warm in a nest but often the eggs are put in an incubator to keep them at the right temperature and are turned often to mimic what the hen would do. It can sometimes take hours for a chick to hatch. They use their egg tooth to break out of the shell, this is called 'pipping'.

YOU CAN BUY FARM FOOD FROM THE ENTRANCE FOR 50p