

CHICKEN REARING

Some helpful suggestions for chicken rearing. These are not hard and fast rules - only guidelines.

ON RECEIPT

See that the chickens are warm as this is their first need - chicks will not start to feed if they are cold. Brooding temperatures should be 33° Celsius for the first week and reduced weekly until down to about 15° Celsius. They can be kept in a hot water cupboard for the first couple of nights until other arrangements are made, or they could be placed under a broody hen, but this must be done at night to ensure that the hen becomes familiar with them.

A 40 to 60 watt bulb suspended over a suitable box and about 300mm above the chicks will provide a suitable temperature.

FEED AND WATER

Access to cool water in a suitable receptacle so that the chicks do not get wet. They will then be in a good condition to start feeding.

The most suitable feed is chick rearing crumbles which contains the correct vitamins or fine chick grain. These are obtainable from feed merchants and most stock and station agents.

If you have not got these, the chicks may be started on coarse oatmeal or rolled oats, even a hard boiled egg chopped finely will assist.

WARMTH

See above. At the end of 4 weeks a normal outdoor temperature can be tolerated. At approximately 10 weeks allow them 2 to 3 hours per day free ranging, but not in the rain. This helps to tighten up the feathers.

FEEDING

Give access to clean water and food at all times. Give Chick Ration Starter for the first week. (This is important as it contains all the necessary vitamins and minerals for young chicks), then add 5-10% extra protein (ie meat meal) but do not overdo it - OR feed crumbles if available and later pellets. (Food is available from Fiskens/Wrightsons/RD1/Pet Shop.)

GENERAL

See that all facilities are kept strictly clean at all times. As chicks grow, quarters must be enlarged. For any further instructions please contact Bromley Park sales staff.