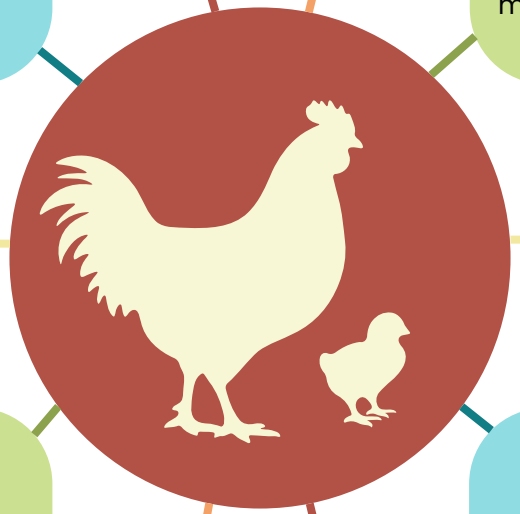
Buying Backyard Birds: What to Know



Space Matters

Each bird needs 2-4 sq. feet inside the coop and 10 sq. feet outside. Too little space can lead to stress, pecking, and disease in the flock.

Biosecurity

Disease prevention is key for having a healthy flock. Start with buying birds from a trusted source. Learn good biosecurity ahead of time to be prepared.

Coop Costs Add Up

A safe, well-ventilated, predator-proof coop with nesting boxes can be expensive to buy or build yourself.

Feed Can Be Costly

Research the monthly costs for feeding your flock. Poor diet means fewer eggs and risks more health problems in the flock.

Check Local Laws

Some cities and HOAs don't allow backyard chickens, have flock size limits, or don't allow roosters. Check local rules before you buy birds or build a coop.

Daily Care Needed

Chickens are not low-maintenance animals. They need feed, water, egg checks, and coop cleaning every day.

Rooster Reminder

Some chicks grow up to be roosters and will crow. Many housing areas don't allow roosters, so ask for sexed chicks to avoid any surprises.

Watch For Predators

Foxes, raccoons, hawks, and even dogs can kill your birds. Secure your run and coop to keep birds safe.

Eggs Take Time

Hens don't lay eggs right away – most start laying around 4-6 months old. Be prepared for taking care of birds long term.

Long Lifespan

Chickens can live 5-10 years. Egg production slows with age, so make sure to have a plan that fits your goals for the flock.

Find out more at
www.healthybirds.info

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