

— ♥ BLUE BOOGIE FARM ♥ — ADULT CHICKEN CARE GUIDE

Welcoming & Integrating Adult Chickens into Your Flock

INTRODUCING ADULT CHICKENS TO AN EXISTING FLOCK

Adding adult birds to an established flock requires patience. Chickens naturally establish a pecking order, so careful introductions help reduce stress and fighting.

Our Preferred Introduction Method:

- 1 Quarantine new birds in a separate but visible area (such as a large dog crate, pen, or section of run) for 7–14 days. This allows you to observe their health and lets the existing flock get used to seeing them.
- 2 Place the new birds' enclosure inside or right next to the main run so the flock can interact safely through the wire.
- 3 After quarantine, allow short supervised periods together or open the enclosure gradually.
- 4 Provide multiple feeding and watering stations to reduce competition.
- 5 Monitor closely during the first several days.

Normal vs. Not Normal Behavior:

Usually Normal:

- ♥ Curious pecking
- ♥ Chasing
- ♥ Mild correction behavior
- ♥ Establishing hierarchy

Not Normal (Needs Intervention):

- ♥ Relentless attacking
- ♥ Cornering or trapping
- ♥ Blood being drawn
- ♥ Preventing access to food or water

Tip: If bullying is too intense, temporarily separate the aggressive bird or the newcomer and try again later. Slow introductions work better than rushing the process.

BRINGING ADULT CHICKENS HOME

The first 24–48 hours are important.

- 1 Have your coop and run fully prepared before the birds arrive.
- 2 Place them directly into the coop or secure area at dusk so they settle easier.
- 3 Offer fresh water and layer feed immediately.
- 4 Let them settle quietly with minimal handling the first day.
- 5 Check on them after dark to make sure they've found the roosts.

Some vocalization is normal. Loud, nonstop distress usually means they are stressed, thirsty, or unsettled.

DAILY ADULT CHICKEN CARE

Your Daily Routine:

- ♥ Refresh water (clean daily)
- ♥ Refill layer feed
- ♥ Collect eggs
- ♥ Remove wet or soiled bedding
- ♥ Check for signs of illness or injury
- ♥ Observe behavior

Signs of Healthy Adult Chickens:

- ♥ Bright eyes and combs
- ♥ Clean vent area
- ♥ Good appetite
- ♥ Active and social
- ♥ Smooth, glossy feathers (outside of molt)

Patience, consistency, and a calm environment are the keys to a happy, peaceful flock!

— ♥ Thank you for being part of the Blue Boogie Farm family. ♥ —

BASIC ADULT CHICKEN KEEPING

HOUSING REQUIREMENTS

- ♥ At least 3–4 square feet per bird inside the coop
- ♥ 8–10 square feet per bird in the run
- ♥ Good ventilation without drafts
- ♥ Secure housing with hardware cloth (not chicken wire)
- ♥ Roosts: 8–12 inches per bird, higher than nesting boxes
- ♥ 1 nesting box per 4–5 hens

FEEDING

- ♥ High-quality layer feed (16–18% protein) as the main diet
- ♥ Free-choice oyster shell or crushed eggshells for calcium
- ♥ Grit if birds don't free-range
- ♥ Treats in moderation (no more than 10% of diet)

FLORIDA HEAT TIPS

- ♥ Provide constant shade and multiple water sources
- ♥ Watch for panting or wings held away from the body (overheating signs)
- ♥ Use electrolytes in water during extreme heat or stress
- ♥ Avoid overcrowding

MOLTING

Birds lose feathers and may stop laying 1–2 times per year.
Increase protein to 20% during molt.

HEALTH & COMMON ISSUES

COMMON ISSUES:

- ♥ **Mites/Lice:** Check under wings and around vent weekly. Use food-grade diatomaceous earth or approved treatments.
- ♥ **Egg Binding:** Hen strains in nest without laying. Warm bath and calcium may help — contact a vet if needed.
- ♥ **Worms:** Consider regular fecal testing if free-ranging.

WHEN TO CONTACT A VET:

- ♥ Trouble breathing
- ♥ Severe lethargy
- ♥ Blood in droppings
- ♥ Persistent illness or major injury

PREDATOR AWARENESS (FLORIDA):

Hawks, raccoons, snakes,
loose dogs.

Always use hardware cloth
and lock birds in at night.

FUN & ENRICHMENT TIPS

- ♥ Create dust bath areas (sand + dirt + wood ash)
- ♥ Hang cabbage, treat balls, or scatter greens
- ♥ Add branches, perches, and platforms in the run
- ♥ Talk to your chickens daily — many become friendly
- ♥ Grow chicken-safe herbs (oregano, mint, lavender)

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

You don't need a perfect setup to raise happy chickens.
Clean water, quality feed, safe housing, space, and daily care matter most.
The rest comes with time, experience, and plenty of chicken stories.

Welcome to the flock!
— Blue Boogie Farm —