

— ♥ BLUE BOOGIE FARM ♥ — COMPLETE SILKIE GUIDE

From Fluffy Chick to Beloved Backyard Companion

Welcome to the Blue Boogie Farm Silkie Guide! Whether you're raising your first Silkie or adding to an existing flock, this guide is designed to help you confidently care for these unique, lovable birds from chickhood through adulthood.

WHY SILKIES ARE DIFFERENT

- ♥ Feathers that feel more like fur than traditional feathers
- ♥ Five toes instead of four
- ♥ Black skin, connective tissue, and bones
- ♥ Turquoise-blue earlobes
- ♥ Reduced flying ability
- ♥ Limited weather resistance compared to standard-feathered chickens
- ♥ Calm, friendly temperaments
- ♥ Strong broody instincts and excellent mothering abilities

Many Silkie owners describe them as "part chicken, part puppy."

BEFORE YOUR CHICKS ARRIVE

BROODER SETUP

Your brooder should provide:

- A draft-free environment
- A brooder plate (preferred) or safe heat source
- Non-slip flooring
- Fresh feed
- Fresh water
- Plenty of room to move around

AVOID:


- × Slippery newspaper flooring
- × Deep water dishes
- × Overcrowding

WATER SAFETY

Silkie chicks are tiny and can become soaked surprisingly easily.

For the first week or two:

- Place clean pebbles or marbles in shallow water dishes to help prevent drowning.
- Change water daily or whenever dirty.
- Keep water away from the heat source.
- If a chick becomes wet, dry it immediately and ensure it stays warm.

 A soaked chick can become chilled very quickly.

TEMPERATURE GUIDELINES

Week 1: 95°F

Week 2: 90°F

Week 3: 85°F

Week 4: 80°F

Week 5: 75°F

Watch your chicks:



Huddled together = Too cold



Staying far from the heat source = Too warm



Spread comfortably throughout the brooder = Just right

Always let your chicks tell you what they need.

FEEDING YOUR SILKIE CHICKS

OFFER:

- High-quality chick starter feed (20–22% protein preferred)
- Fresh water at all times

TREATS

Wait until chicks are at least 2 weeks old before offering treats.

Safe treats include:

- Scrambled eggs
- Mealworms
- Finely chopped herbs
- Small amounts of fruit



Always provide chick grit whenever feeding anything besides chick feed. ♥

REMEMBER

Silkies may need a little extra care, but they give so much more in return. With the right care, your Silkies will thrive and fill your life with joy!

*You've got this — your Silkies are lucky to have you!
— Blue Boogie Farm —*

SILKIE NUTRITION

Silkie generally benefit from slightly higher protein levels than many standard chicken breeds because of their abundant feathering. Feathers are made primarily of protein, and maintaining a full, healthy Silkie coat requires additional nutritional support.

RECOMMENDED PROTEIN LEVELS

Chicks (0–8 weeks):

- 20–22% protein chick starter

Growers (8–18 weeks):

- 18–20% protein feed is ideal

Adults:

- 16–20% protein

While Silkies often thrive on higher-protein feeds, they can still do very well on a quality standard layer feed (typically 16% protein), especially when supplemented with occasional protein-rich treats.

HEALTHY PROTEIN-RICH TREATS

Offer in moderation:

- ♥ Mealworms
- ♥ Black soldier fly larvae
- ♥ Scrambled eggs
- ♥ Plain cooked fish
- ♥ Plain cooked chicken
- ♥ High-protein poultry treats

DURING MOLTING

Growing new feathers requires significant protein. Many owners temporarily increase protein during molts to support healthy feather regrowth.

FEATHER QUALITY REFLECTS NUTRITION

A Silkie's feathers can tell you a lot about its overall health.

Healthy Silkies typically have:

- ♥ Soft feathering
- ♥ Full plumage
- ♥ Good feather coverage

Poor feather quality may indicate:

- ♥ Nutritional deficiencies
- ♥ Stress
- ♥ Parasites
- ♥ Illness
- ♥ Molting

BLUE BOOGIE FARM TIP

We prefer feeding our Silkies a slightly higher-protein diet whenever possible to support feather quality, growth, and overall condition. However, don't worry if you're feeding a quality standard layer feed—many Silkies thrive on regular feed supplemented with healthy treats.

UNDERSTANDING PASTY BUTT

Pasty butt is one of the most common issues seen in young chicks.

COMMON CAUSES

Pasty butt is usually not caused by anything the owner did wrong. Common causes include:

- ♥ Shipping stress
- ♥ Temperature fluctuations
- ♥ Dehydration
- ♥ Feed changes
- ♥ Stress from a new environment
- ♥ An immature digestive system

PREVENTION

- ♥ Check vents daily during the first two weeks.
- ♥ Ensure chicks stay warm but not overheated.
- ♥ Provide fresh water at all times.
- ♥ Minimize stress.

TREATMENT

If droppings become stuck to the vent:

- 1 Soften with warm water.
- 2 Gently remove buildup.
- 3 Dry thoroughly before returning the chick to the brooder.

GROWING JUVENILE SILKIES

WHEN CAN THEY GO OUTSIDE?

Most Silkies can move outdoors once they are:

- ♥ Fully feathered
- ♥ Around 6–8 weeks old
- ♥ Experiencing appropriate weather conditions

Because Silkies feather more slowly than many breeds, some may need additional time.

HOUSING ADULT SILKIES

COOP REQUIREMENTS

Provide:

- ♥ Dry conditions
- ♥ Excellent ventilation
- ♥ Predator-proof construction
- ♥ Clean bedding

The biggest enemy of Silkies is moisture, not cold. Dry birds handle cool weather much better than wet birds.

ROOSTS

Many Silkies prefer:

- ♥ Low roosts
- ♥ Wide roosts
- ♥ Ramps

Some Silkies choose to sleep on the coop floor, and this is completely normal.

WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS



RAIN

Silkies are not waterproof. Unlike standard chickens, their feathers absorb water easily.

During rainy weather:

- ♥ Provide covered shelter.
- ♥ Ensure access to dry areas.
- ♥ Check birds regularly.

If a Silkie becomes soaked:

- 1 Towel dry as much as possible.
- 2 Use a blow dryer on a cool or low-warm setting.
- 3 Keep the dryer moving.
- 4 Never use high heat.



SUMMER HEAT

Provide:

- ♥ Shade
- ♥ Cool water
- ♥ Good ventilation

Watch for:

- ♥ Panting
- ♥ Wings held away from the body
- ♥ Lethargy

Frozen watermelon, berries, or peas make great summer treats.



WINTER

Keep Silkies:

- ♥ Dry
- ♥ Draft-free
- ♥ Well ventilated

Avoid sealing up the coop completely. Moisture buildup causes more problems than cold temperatures.



GROOMING SILKIES



CREST MAINTENANCE

Some Silkies develop large crests that can block their vision.

Check regularly for:

- ♥ Dirt buildup
- ♥ Eye irritation
- ♥ Difficulty seeing food or water

A careful trim around the eyes may be helpful if vision becomes obstructed.



NAIL TRIMMING

Check nails every few months.

Trim only the tip and avoid cutting into the quick.



FOOT CHECKS

Because Silkies have feathered feet and five toes:

- ♥ Mud may become trapped between toes.
- ♥ Injuries can be harder to notice.

Perform a quick foot inspection monthly.



DUST BATHING

Dust bathing helps chickens:

- ♥ Control oils
- ♥ Remove parasites
- ♥ Maintain healthy feathers

Provide:

- ♥ Loose dirt
- ♥ Sand
- ♥ A dry area protected from rain

Don't panic if your chicken appears to be rolling around dramatically—they're just enjoying their spa day.

INTEGRATING SILKIES INTO A FLOCK



Silkies are often gentle and non-confrontational.

Because of this, they may be bullied by larger breeds.

1

Quarantine new birds for at least 30 days.

2

Allow birds to see each other through fencing.

3

Gradually introduce supervised interactions.

4

Monitor closely for bullying.



SILKIE HEALTH BASICS

SIGNS OF A HEALTHY SILKIE

Healthy birds generally:

- ♥ Are alert and curious
- ♥ Have bright eyes
- ♥ Eat and drink normally
- ♥ Preen themselves
- ♥ Dust bathe
- ♥ Walk normally
- ♥ Breathe quietly

SIGNS SOMETHING MAY BE WRONG

Watch for:

- ♥ Refusing food or water
- ♥ Labored breathing
- ♥ Persistent diarrhea
- ♥ Swollen eyes
- ♥ Limping
- ♥ Sudden lethargy
- ♥ Weight loss

Silkies often hide illness, so subtle changes can be important.



COMMON HEALTH CONCERNS

Monitor regularly for:

- ♥ Mites
- ♥ Lice
- ♥ Bumblefoot
- ♥ Respiratory illness
- ♥ Scaly leg mites

Early detection is often the key to successful treatment.



MOLTING

Molting is the natural process of replacing old feathers.

During a molt:

- ♥ Feather loss is normal.
- ♥ Egg production may decrease.
- ♥ Birds may appear scruffy.
- ♥ Extra protein may be beneficial.

Silkies can look especially funny during heavy molts.



UNDERSTANDING BROODINESS

Many Silkies become broody.

A broody hen may:

- ♥ Stay in the nest box
- ♥ Puff up when approached
- ♥ Growl or cluck
- ♥ Eat and drink less

Silkies are famous for their mothering abilities and are often used to hatch eggs from other poultry species.



BIOSECURITY BASICS

Simple habits help keep your flock healthy.

- ♥ Wash hands before and after handling birds.
- ♥ Quarantine new birds for at least 30 days.
- ♥ Clean feeders and waterers regularly.
- ♥ Disinfect shared equipment.
- ♥ Avoid visiting multiple poultry flocks in the same day when possible.



PREDATOR SAFETY

Silkies are especially vulnerable because they:

- ♥ Fly poorly
- ♥ Have limited vision due to their crests
- ♥ Tend to be trusting and gentle

Common predators include:

- ♥ Hawks
- ♥ Owls
- ♥ Raccoons
- ♥ Dogs
- ♥ Coyotes
- ♥ Snakes
- ♥ Opossums

Always provide secure nighttime housing.



Happy, healthy Silkies thrive with good care, attention, and a little extra love.



- ♥ BLUE BOOGIE FARM ♥ -
SILKIE CHICKEN KEY CARE REMINDERS

Quick Reference for Happy, Healthy Silkies



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THINGS EVERY SILKIE OWNER SHOULD KNOW

Tips, Fun Facts & Frequently Asked Questions

RAISING CONFIDENT SILKIES

At Blue Boogie Farm, we believe temperament is just as important as appearance.

Confident Silkies are often raised through:

- ♥ Regular gentle handling
- ♥ Exposure to normal household sounds
- ♥ Exposure to new objects and environments
- ♥ Positive interactions with people
- ♥ Routine daily care

The more positive experiences a young Silkie has, the more likely it is to become a calm, friendly adult.

THINGS MOST FIRST-TIME SILKIE OWNERS DON'T KNOW

SILKIES OFTEN PREFER LOW PERCHES

Many Silkies either cannot fly well or simply choose not to.

THEIR CREST CAN AFFECT PREDATOR AWARENESS

That adorable fluffy crest can limit a Silkie's ability to spot danger.

THEY ARE USUALLY LOW IN THE PECKING ORDER

Watch for bullying when housed with larger breeds.

THEY LOVE ROUTINE

Consistent care helps create calm, confident birds.

SOME SILKIES ENJOY HUMAN COMPANY MORE THAN CHICKENS

Many owners are surprised by how social Silkies can be.

THEY FEATHER MORE SLOWLY THAN MANY BREEDS

Don't panic if your Silkie chick appears less feathered than other chicks its age.

WET SILKIES LOOK COMPLETELY DIFFERENT

When soaked, a Silkie may look half its normal size. This is completely normal.

FUN SILKIE FACTS

- ★ **SILKIES HAVE BLACK SKIN AND BONES**
A genetic trait called fibromelanosis causes dark pigmentation throughout much of their body.
- ★ **SILKIES HAVE FIVE TOES**
Most chickens have four toes. Silkies have five.
- ★ **THEIR FEATHERS FEEL LIKE FUR**
Silkie feathers lack the tiny hooks that hold standard feathers together.
- ★ **THEY ARE ONE OF THE OLDEST CHICKEN BREEDS**
Silkies have been documented for centuries.
- ★ **THEY ARE FAMOUS FOSTER MOTHERS**
Silkies have successfully hatched and raised:
 - ♥ Chicken eggs
 - ♥ Duck eggs
 - ♥ Turkey eggs
 - ♥ Quail eggs
 - ♥ Pheasant eggs
- ★ **THEIR EARLOBES ARE NATURALLY BLUE**
Those beautiful turquoise-blue earlobes are a recognized breed characteristic.
- ★ **THEY ARE SOMETIMES CALLED "THE PUPPY DOGS OF THE CHICKEN WORLD"**
Many Silkie owners say their birds act more like pets than livestock.

BLUE BOOGIE FARM'S FAVORITE SILKIE TIPS

- 1 Mealworms can win over almost any shy Silkie.
- 2 Sit quietly in the run and let your birds approach you.
- 3 Wet beards collect mud much faster than you expect.
- 4 Keep extra towels nearby—you'll eventually need one.
- 5 Check feet, crests, and vents during monthly health checks.
- 6 A frightened Silkie often just needs patience and positive experiences.
- 7 Handle chicks regularly from a young age to build trust and confidence.
- 8 Exposure to normal household sounds, visitors, and routine activity can help create calmer adult birds.
- 9 Silkies thrive when treated as companions, not just chickens.
- 10 The number of Silkies you want is always one more than the number you currently own.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do Silkies lay eggs?

Yes. Most hens lay approximately 100–180 small cream-colored eggs per year.

Can Silkies live with standard chickens?

Yes, but monitor carefully for bullying.

Can Silkies free-range?

Yes, but they require more predator protection than many breeds.

Do Silkies need special feed?

No. However, they often benefit from slightly higher-protein diets because of their abundant feathering.

Why is my Silkie so fluffy?

Silkies lack the feather structure that creates smooth feathers in most chickens, giving them their unique appearance and soft texture.

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Thank you for choosing a Blue Boogie Farm Silkie. We are passionate about raising friendly, healthy birds and sharing the joy these wonderful chickens bring to our lives.

If you ever have questions, we're always happy to help.

Blue Boogie Farm

Raised with Care, Rooted in Love