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Acquiring Chickens and Common Breeds

When contemplating the addition of chickens to one's "homesteading" lifestyle, the consideration of the expense and responsibility of caring for them must occur. As with all animal guardianship, animals are not a necessity but rather a "luxury" for those with disposable income. There is no doubt about the intrinsic value and joy that animals bring to our lives, but their proper care requires an honest reflection of a guardian's financial budget and available time. The cost of everyday preventive care, veterinary care for ill birds, nutritional needs, equipment (upkeep and replacement), appropriate predator-proof housing, cleaning supplies, enrichment, and upgrades to living arrangements must be included in a guardian's planning. All too often, people forget that animal guardianship is a privilege, not a right. Chickens are living, intelligent, and sentient beings deserving the Five Rights of Animal Welfare and respect from their caregivers.

Five rights (or freedoms) of animal welfare
Right to live in a clean environment
Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
Right to express normal behavior
Freedom from hunger and thirst
Right to live without fear and distress

Table by Sarah Meyer.

Once the downy cuteness of a chick wears off, the fact that a chicken's life span can reach or exceed 10 years can be an unwelcome reality to new chicken caregivers. The animal's daily physical and psychological needs lose priority and novelty, and chickens are neglected. Many towns have ordinances in place prohibiting roosters, and caregivers are faced with finding a suitable home. Oftentimes, cruel ignorance leads to dumping roosters in the countryside or public parks to fend for themselves. There are fates worse than death, and roosters are severely misunderstood and mistreated for exhibiting normal behaviors.

The intention of bringing chickens into a family, regardless of sex, should be thoroughly researched, and contingencies for future adverse events must be considered. Being a responsible chicken guardian requires dedicated mindfulness, rationality, and forethought. The purpose of this text is multifaceted—provide a credible resource for veterinary staff in clinical practice and empower caregivers with information to provide excellent care to their feathered family members.

1.1 “What Breed Is Best?”

The first step in selecting the right breed is figuring out the reason chickens are desired. Eggs? Meat? Enjoyment? Many breeds have dual purposes, meaning they are used for meat and egg production. In this chapter, each bird’s original intended use is listed: egg production, meat production, dual purpose, or ornamental. Commonly, the ornamental breeds are “just for fun,” competition, and companionship. The selection of specific breeds should consider that intentional trait-focused breeding can increase susceptibility to breed-associated hereditary disorders. Prolific egg-laying breeds are predisposed to reproductive malignancies early in life, and their nursing care should be considered. Meat-breed birds can develop orthopedic and cardiovascular disorders due to obesity.

Novice chicken guardians discover a breed’s nuances and develop preferences of certain breeds over time. Experienced guardians keep their favorite breeds depending on personal preferences and the use of the birds. Many backyard flocks comprise mixed-breed chickens with hybrid vigor, and these birds tend to have longer lifespans.

1.2 Step Two: Size Matters

The second step is determining what breed fits the planned living space. Of course, the larger the bird and the number of birds, the more space is necessary to prevent overcrowding, which can result in psychological and physical ailments. Some breeds are not compatible with confinement, certain types of housing, and space available. Chapter 3, Husbandry, Housing, and Biosecurity, details spacing recommendations.

Chickens vary from bantam-sized to extra-large, heavy-bodied breeds. The bantam breed is very small, so they will not be ideal for meat birds or egg production. In general, bantams are the miniature version of a standard chicken breed; they are not an actual breed of chicken. The eggs laid will not be regular-sized eggs, but rather extra small and proportional to their body size. Medium-sized chickens will comprise most of the egg layers and a larger carcass is desirable for consumption. It is recommended that at least 4 sq. ft. per medium chicken be provided. Large-breed chickens are typically dual-purpose. Most large-bodied chickens are heritage breeds, as they were originally bred within small communities for both eggs and meat. It is recommended to provide at least 6 sq. ft. per large bird. Extra-large birds can be some of the friendliest chickens; however, ample space must be provided for these big friends. They require at least 8 sq. ft. per extra-large bird.

1.3 Step Three: Location, Location, Location

The third consideration in selecting the right breed is the geographical location. Some chickens do not thrive in colder climates; some will suffer in hotter or humid climates. Depending on their origin, a purebred chicken was adapted not only for purpose or use but also for different climates. Cold-hardy breeds will be the plumper breeds with smaller combs. Heat-hardy breeds will be the leaner-bodied breeds with larger combs for effective heat convection. All-season breeds can flourish in multiple climates. Hatcheries often provide this key information in their catalogs for keepers to consider when selecting breeds for their location.

1.4 More Than a Pretty Face

All too often, a breed is selected based on its physical characteristics, not its hardiness, which is unfortunate for the bird(s). When planning for chickens, keep in mind that chickens are a social species and prefer same-species companionship. Regardless of breed, chickens will be more psychologically stable with at least one fellow avian companion per enclosure.

1.5 Special Consideration When Ordering Chicks

While vaccines for chickens are not readily available outside of commercial hatcheries and production farms, vaccination is an option when purchasing chicks. Reputable hatcheries will vaccinate chicks at the time of purchase or when ordered (catalogs of breeds). Later in this book, preventable diseases are discussed; these diseases are either preventable through strict biosecurity measures or by vaccination. Commercial hatcheries are typically certified through an NPIP (National Poultry Improvement Plan), which was established to diminish Pullorum Disease (*Salmonella pullorum*) and now provides testing and monitoring of other poultry diseases. Small- and large-scale breeders and hatcheries can voluntarily earn NPIP certification, certifying that the facility is “clean.” Purchase of NPIP-certified eggs (or chicks) or vaccinated chicks does not guarantee the health of the birds, but it is a responsible choice made by the new or experienced caregiver to “prevent the preventable.”

The chicken breed list in this chapter is not exhaustive; rather, it includes commonly seen birds in clinical practice with a few author favorites. There is a plethora of sources for more extensive lists, including the American Poultry Association, state poultry associations, and state extension services. Each breed includes its origin, use, average body weight, egg production, primary feather color(s), egg color, temperament, life span, comb type, and breed-specific health concerns.

Ameraucana

Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1 Ameraucana Hen. Megan Marie Weaver / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United States
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—7 pounds, Female—4 pounds
Egg Production: Average of 250 eggs yearly
Color: Variety of colors
Egg Color: Blue
Temperament: Docile and sweet
Life Span: 7–8 years
Comb Type: Pea
Breed-Specific Health Concerns:
 Susceptible to cross beak



Andalusian
Figure 1.2.



Figure 1.2 Andalusian Hen. Animal Lover / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Province of Andalusia, Spain
Use: Egg Production
Weight: Male—7 pounds, Female—5.5 pounds
Egg Production: Around 150 eggs yearly
Color: Blue
Egg Color: White
Temperament: Friendly, curious, and flighty
Life Span: 5–8 years
Comb Type: Single
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to frostbite, feather eating, and faded plumage

Araucana
Figure 1.3.



Figure 1.3 Araucana Hen. cynoclub / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Chile
Use: Egg Production
Weight: Male—6.6 pounds, Female—5.5 pounds
Egg Production: Around 250 eggs yearly
Color: Variety
Egg Color: Blue
Temperament: Friendly and intelligent
Life Span: 7–10 years
Comb Type: Pea
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Can be prone to ear infections if ear tufts are not kept clean, developmental abnormalities of the auditory canals, copulation issues, and defecation issues due to lack of a tail.

Austra White

Figure 1.4.

Figure 1.4 Austra White Hen. Funk Design / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Oregon

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—6.5 pounds, Female—5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 220–280 eggs yearly

Color: White

Egg Color: Off-white and cream

Temperament: Active, quiet, and inquisitive

Life Span: 6–10 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to frostbite

*Australorp*

Figure 1.5.

Figure 1.5 Australorp Hen. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: Australia

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—9 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 250–300 eggs yearly

Color: Black

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Active and yet gentle

Life Span: 5–8 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None



Ayam Cemani

Figure 1.6.



Figure 1.6 Ayam Cemani Hen. Eric Isselée / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Indonesia

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—9.5–15 pounds, Female—7.5–9 pounds

Color: Black

Egg Production: 60–100 eggs yearly

Egg Color: Cream with a pinkish tinge

Temperament: Intelligent and friendly

Life Span: 6–8 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Barnevelder

Figure 1.7.



Figure 1.7 Barnevelder Hen. Eric Isselée / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Netherlands

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—6–7 pounds, Female—5.5–6 pounds

Egg Production: Around 180–200 eggs yearly

Color: Black with red mottling

Egg Color: Dark brown

Temperament: Quiet, active, and docile

Life Span: 6–12 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Barred Rock

Figure 1.8.

Figure 1.8 Barred Rock Hen. Sarah Meyer.**Origin:** United States, Massachusetts**Use:** Dual Purpose**Weight:** Male—9–10 pounds, Female—7–7.5 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 200 eggs yearly**Color:** Dark gray and white striping**Egg Color:** Light tan**Temperament:** Inquisitive, friendly, and docile**Life Span:** 6–12 years**Comb Type:** Single**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** None*Black Copper Marans*

Figure 1.9.

Figure 1.9 Black Copper Maran Hen. AGrandemange / Adobe Stock Photos.**Origin:** France**Use:** Dual Purpose**Weight:** Male—8.5 pounds, Female—7 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 200 eggs yearly**Color:** Black with copper neck feathers**Egg Color:** Dark brown**Temperament:** Friendly and calm**Life Span:** 8 years**Comb Type:** Single**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** None

Brahma

Figure 1.10.



Figure 1.10 Brahma Hen. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: United States

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—12 pounds, Female—9.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150–200 eggs yearly

Color: Light, dark, and buff

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Friendly and approachable

Life Span: 5–8 years

Comb Type: Pea

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to frostbite on toes from wet feathers

Bresse

Figure 1.11.



Figure 1.11 Bresse Rooster. Maurice Metzger / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Bresse Province of France

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—6.5 pounds, Female—5.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 250 eggs yearly

Color: White

Egg Color: White

Temperament: Skittish

Life Span: 6–7 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Disease resistant

Buckeye

Figure 1.12.

Figure 1.12 Buckeye Hen. Cavan / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United States, Ohio

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—9 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 200 eggs yearly

Color: Dark red-brown

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Calm and Gentle

Life Span: 10+ years

Comb Type: Pea

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None



Cinnamon Queen

Figure 1.13.

Figure 1.13 Cinnamon Queen Hen. Kathy / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United States

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—8 pounds, Female—6 pounds

Egg Production: Around 300 eggs yearly

Color: Red with white splashes

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Friendly and curious

Life Span: 3–7 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns:
Reproductive cancer, egg binding,
and egg yolk peritonitis



Cochin

Figure 1.14.



Figure 1.14 Cochin Hen. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: China

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—12 pounds, Female—7–9 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150–180 eggs yearly

Color: Variety

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Friendly and gentle

Life Span: 8–10 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to obesity

Cornish Cross

Figure 1.15.



Figure 1.15 Cornish Cross Rooster. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: United States

Use: Meat Production

Weight: Male—10 pounds, Female—6 pounds

Egg Production: N/A

Color: Variety

Egg Color: White

Temperament: Docile

Life Span: 10 weeks

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Congestive heart failure, joint issues, and obesity

Cream Legbar

Figure 1.16.

Figure 1.16 Cream Legbar Hen.
Tabatha / Adobe Stock Photos.**Origin:** United Kingdom**Use:** Egg Production**Weight:** Male—7.5 pounds, Female—
5.5 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 180 eggs yearly**Egg Color:** Blue**Temperament:** Easy-going and peaceful**Life Span:** 5–10 years**Comb Type:** Single**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** Prone
to Marek's Disease and frostbite*Delaware*

Figure 1.17.

Figure 1.17 Delaware Hen. Guy Sagi / Adobe Stock
Photos.**Origin:** United States**Use:** Dual Purpose**Weight:** Male—8.5 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 100–150 eggs yearly**Color:** White**Egg Color:** Dark Brown**Temperament:** Gentle**Life Span:** 5–7 years**Comb Type:** Single**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** None

Dominique

Figure 1.18.



Figure 1.18 Dominique Hen. SHS Photography / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: New England
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—7 pounds, Female—5 pounds
Egg Production: Around 230 eggs yearly
Color: Gray and white striping
Egg Color: Brown
Temperament: Calm and hardy
Life Span: 6–8 years
Comb Type: Rose
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Dorking

Figure 1.19.



Figure 1.19 Dorking Hen. Adeline / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United Kingdom
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—9 pounds, Female—7 pounds
Egg Production: Around 170–190 eggs yearly
Color: Variety
Egg Color: White or Cream
Temperament: Friendly
Life Span: 7 years
Comb Type: Single or Rose
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to obesity and more susceptible to respiratory infections

Belgian Bearded D'Uccle

Figure 1.20.

Figure 1.20 Belgian Bearded D'Uccle Hen.
Eric Isselée / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Belgium
Use: Ornamental
Weight: Male—26 ounces, Female—22 ounces
Egg Production: Around 100–150 eggs yearly
Egg Color: Cream
Temperament: Docile and friendly
Life Span: 7–8 years
Comb Type: Single
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None



Easter Egger

Figure 1.21.

Figure 1.21 Easter Egger Hen. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: Chile
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—5 pounds, Female—4 pounds
Egg Production: Around 260 eggs yearly
Color: Variety
Egg Color: Green, Blue, or Light Pink
Temperament: Friendly and docile
Life Span: 5–8 years
Comb Type: Pea
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to cross beak



Egyptian Fayoumi

Figure 1.22.



Figure 1.22 Egyptian Fayoumi Rooster with Hens. Almas / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Egypt

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—4.5 pounds, Female—3.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150–200 eggs yearly

Color: Cream and gray mottled

Egg Color: Cream

Temperament: Independent, flighty

Life Span: 5–8 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Faverolles

Figure 1.23.



Figure 1.23 Salmon Faverolles. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: France

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—8 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150–200 eggs yearly

Color: Salmon or white

Egg Color: Cream

Temperament: Docile and gentle

Life Span: 5 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to frostbite and external parasites

Indio Gigante

Figure 1.24.

Figure 1.24 Indio Gigante Hen. Infinity Focus / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Brazil
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—10–12 pounds, Female—8–10 pounds
Egg Production: Around 200 eggs yearly
Color: Variety
Egg Color: Tinted
Temperament: Calm and inquisitive
Life Span: 5–7 years
Comb Type: Single and small
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Cold intolerant

*Java*

Figure 1.25.

Figure 1.25 Mottled Java Hen. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: United States
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—9.5 pounds, Female—7.5 pounds
Egg Production: Around 150–180 eggs yearly
Color: Mottled black, brown, and white
Egg Color: Brown
Temperament: Friendly and calm
Life Span: 5–8 years
Comb Type: Single
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None



Jersey Giant

Figure 1.26.



Figure 1.26 Jersey Giant Hen. Sarah Meyer.

Origin: United States

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—13 pounds, Female—10 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150–200 eggs yearly

Color: Black and white

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Calm and docile

Life Span: 8+ years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: More susceptible to heat stroke

Langshan

Figure 1.27.



Figure 1.27 Langshan Rooster. Idea Lab / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: China

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—9.5 pounds, Female—7.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150 eggs yearly

Color: Black

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Docile and friendly

Life Span: 5–8 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Leghorn

Figure 1.28.

Figure 1.28 Leghorn Hen. Stephanie Freeman.**Origin:** Italy**Use:** Egg Production**Weight:** Male—6 pounds, Female—4.5 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 280–300 eggs yearly**Color:** Variety, commonly solid white or brown**Egg Color:** White**Life Span:** 4–6 years**Comb Type:** Single**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** Prone to frostbite*Minorca*

Figure 1.29.

Figure 1.29 Minorca Rooster. Dani Olives / Wirestock / Adobe Stock Photos.**Origin:** Spain**Use:** Dual Purpose**Weight:** Male—9 pounds, Female—7.5 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 120 eggs yearly**Color:** Black with white face; white**Egg Color:** White**Temperament:** Flighty**Life Span:** 8–10 years**Comb Type:** Single or Rose**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** Prone to frostbite

New Hampshire
Figure 1.30.



Figure 1.30 New Hampshire Hen. Leoniek / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United States

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—8.5 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 220 eggs yearly

Color: Buff with black tail feathers

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Vary between docile and unfriendly

Life Span: 7–8 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to frostbite

Old English Game
Figure 1.31.



Figure 1.31 Old English Game Hen. ณัฐวุฒิ เงินสันเทียะ / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United Kingdom

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—1.5 pounds, Female—1.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 160–180 eggs yearly

Color: Variety

Egg Color: White

Temperament: Aggressive and noisy

Life Span: 10–15 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Olive Egger

Figure 1.32.

**Figure 1.32** Olive Egger Hen. Sarah Meyer.**Origin:** United States**Use:** Dual Purpose**Weight:** Male—7 pounds, Female—5 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 260 eggs yearly**Color:** Variety**Egg Color:** Green**Temperament:** Docile and friendly**Life Span:** 5–8 years**Comb Type:** Pea**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** None*Orpington*

Figure 1.33.

Figure 1.33 Orpington Hen. Sarah Meyer.**Origin:** United Kingdom**Use:** Dual Purpose**Weight:** Male—8–10 pounds, Female—6–8 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 170–200 eggs yearly**Color:** Black, blue, buff, and white**Egg Color:** Brown**Temperament:** Docile and friendly**Life Span:** 8 years**Comb Type:** Single**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** Prone to heat stroke, obesity, crop disorders

Pekin Bantam

Figure 1.34.



Figure 1.34 Pekin Bantam Hen.
Alexandre Prevot / Adobe Stock
Photos.

Origin: United Kingdom

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—2 pounds, Female—1.7 pounds

Egg Production: Around 120–140 eggs yearly

Color: White

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Docile

Life Span: 4–5 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to obesity

Plymouth Rock

Figure 1.35.



Figure 1.35 Plymouth Rock.
Elenathewise / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United States

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—9.5 pounds,
Female—7.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 200 eggs per year

Color: Gray and white striping

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Calm and docile

Life Span: 6–19 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Polish

Figure 1.36.

Figure 1.36 Polish Hen. Funky Chicken Rescue.

Origin: Spain

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—6 pounds, Female—4.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150–200 eggs yearly

Color: Variety

Egg Color: White

Temperament: Calm, gentle, and friendly

Life Span: 5–8 years

Comb Type: V

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to hydrocephalus



Red or Black Sex Link

Figure 1.37.

Figure 1.37 Red Sex Link Hen. Tony Campbell / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: United States

Use: Egg Production

Weight: Male—8 pounds, Female—6 pounds

Egg Production: Around 200–280 eggs yearly

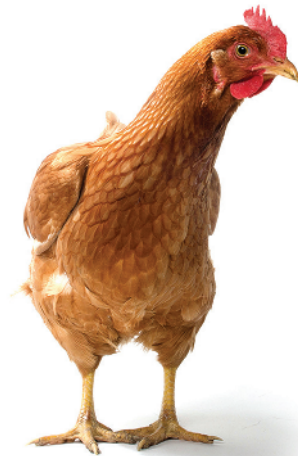
Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Docile and friendly

Life Span: 3–5 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Reproductive cancer, egg binding, and egg yolk peritonitis



Rhode Island Red
Figure 1.38.



Figure 1.38 Rhode Island Red Hen. Funky Chicken Rescue.

Origin: United States
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—8.5 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds
Egg Production: Around 300 eggs yearly
Egg Color: Brown
Temperament: Docile and friendly
Life Span: 5–8 years
Comb Type: Single
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None

Sebright
Figure 1.39.



Figure 1.39 Sebright Rooster and Hen. Funky Chicken Rescue.

Origin: United Kingdom
Use: Ornamental
Weight: Male—22 ounces, Female—20 ounces
Egg Production: Around 60–80 eggs yearly
Color: Gold or silver spangled
Egg Color: Creamy White
Temperament: Sweet and Docile
Life Span: 8–12 years
Comb Type: Can vary, but the most common is single
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Susceptibility to Marek's Disease

Serama

Figure 1.40.

**Figure 1.40** Serama Rooster. kimberlywood / Adobe Stock Photos.**Origin:** Malaysia**Use:** Ornamental**Weight:** Male—0.8–1.2 pounds, Female—0.5–1.2 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 150–200 eggs yearly**Egg Color:** Cream**Temperament:** Docile and friendly**Life Span:** 7–10 years**Comb Type:** Single**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** None*Sicilian Buttercup*

Figure 1.41.

Figure 1.41 Sicilian Buttercup Hen. Herman Vlad / Adobe Stock Photos.**Origin:** Island of Sicily**Use:** Dual Purpose**Weight:** Male—5–6 pounds, Female—4 pounds**Egg Production:** Around 140–180 eggs yearly**Color:** Gold spangled**Egg Color:** White**Temperament:** Can be flighty if not handled**Life Span:** 5–8 years old**Comb Type:** Two single combs that merge over the beak**Breed-Specific Health Concerns:** Prone to frostbite

Silkie

Figure 1.42.



Figure 1.42 Silkie Hen. Funky Chicken Rescue.

Origin: China

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—2–3 pounds, Female—1.5–2 pounds

Egg Production: Around 120 eggs yearly

Color: Variety

Egg Color: Cream

Temperament: Docile and gentle

Life Span: 8–9 years

Comb Type: Walnut

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Susceptible to Marek's Disease, wry neck, and head injuries

Sussex

Figure 1.43.



Figure 1.43 Sussex Hen. Funky Chicken Rescue.

Origin: United Kingdom

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—9 pounds, Female—7 pounds

Egg Production: Around 240–260 eggs yearly

Color: Red, black, white, and mottled

Egg Color: Cream

Temperament: Friendly and calm

Life Span: 5–8 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to obesity

Transylvanian Naked Neck (Turken)
Figure 1.44.

Figure 1.44 Transylvanian Naked Neck. Megan Marie Weaver / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Europe
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—8.5 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds
Egg Production: Around 265 eggs yearly
Color: Black, buff, red, and white
Egg Color: Brown
Temperament: Docile and friendly
Life Span: 7–8 years
Comb Type: Single
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Frost bite, hypothermia



Welsummer
Figure 1.45.

Figure 1.45 Welsummer Hen. Q2Studios / Adobe Stock Photos.

Origin: Welsum, Holland
Use: Dual Purpose
Weight: Male—8 pounds, Female—6 pounds
Egg Production: Around 150–200 eggs yearly
Color: Partridge; brown and gold
Egg Color: Dark Brown
Temperament: Friendly and docile
Life Span: 6–12 years
Comb Type: Single
Breed-Specific Health Concerns: None



White-Faced Black Spanish

Figure 1.46.



Figure 1.46 White-Faced Black Spanish Hen. Funky Chicken Rescue.

Origin: Caribbean Islands

Use: Ornamental

Weight: Male—8 pounds, Female—6.5 pounds

Egg Production: Around 180 eggs yearly

Color: Black with a white face

Egg Color: White

Temperament: Active and noisy

Life Span: 5–7 years

Comb Type: Single

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to frostbite

Wyandotte

Figure 1.47.

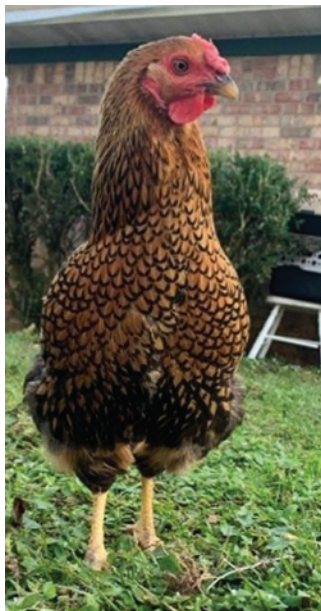


Figure 1.47 Golden Laced Wyandotte Hen. Stephanie Freeman.

Origin: New York

Use: Dual Purpose

Weight: Male—8 pounds, Female—6 pounds

Egg Production: Around 150–200 eggs yearly

Color: Variety

Egg Color: Brown

Temperament: Friendly and docile

Life Span: 6–12 years

Comb Type: Rose

Breed-Specific Health Concerns: Prone to obesity

Further Reading

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