

# An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Backyard Chickens

Thinking about raising backyard chickens? You're in for a treat! Chickens are fascinating and rewarding animals to keep, and they can provide you with fresh eggs, fertilizer, and even companionship.



## An Absolute Beginner's Guide to Keeping Backyard Chickens: Watch Chicks Grow from Hatchlings to Hens

by Raymond Barrett

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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But before you jump into chicken keeping, it's important to do your research and make sure you're prepared to provide your flock with the care they need. This guide will teach you everything you need to know to get started, from choosing the right breeds to building a coop and caring for your chickens.

### Chapter 1: Choosing the Right Breeds

The first step in raising backyard chickens is to choose the right breeds. There are hundreds of different chicken breeds available, each with its own

unique characteristics. Some breeds are better for egg production, while others are better for meat. Some breeds are more cold-hardy, while others are more heat-tolerant.

When choosing a breed, it's important to consider your climate, the size of your backyard, and your own needs and preferences. If you're new to chicken keeping, it's a good idea to start with a breed that is known for being docile and easy to care for.

Some of the most popular breeds for beginners include:

- Rhode Island Reds
- Plymouth Rocks
- Wyandottes
- Orpingtons
- Australorps

## **Chapter 2: Building a Coop**

Once you've chosen your breeds, it's time to build a coop. A coop is a shelter that will provide your chickens with a place to sleep, lay eggs, and escape from the elements.

There are many different types of coops available, so you can choose one that fits your needs and budget. However, all coops should have the following features:

- A sturdy frame

- A weatherproof roof
- Perches for the chickens to sleep on
- Nesting boxes for the chickens to lay eggs in
- A run where the chickens can exercise and forage

### **Chapter 3: Caring for Your Chickens**

Once you've built a coop, it's time to start caring for your chickens.

Chickens are relatively low-maintenance animals, but they do require some basic care to stay healthy and happy.

Here are some of the most important things you need to know about caring for chickens:

- **Feeding:** Chickens need to eat a balanced diet that includes protein, carbohydrates, and vitamins. You can feed your chickens a commercial chicken feed, or you can supplement their diet with fruits, vegetables, and table scraps.
- **Watering:** Chickens need access to fresh water at all times. Make sure to provide your chickens with a clean waterer that is large enough for all of them to drink from.
- **Housing:** Chickens need a clean, dry place to sleep and lay eggs. Make sure to clean your coop regularly and provide your chickens with fresh bedding.
- **Health care:** Chickens are susceptible to a variety of diseases and parasites. It's important to vaccinate your chickens and to treat them for any health problems that arise.

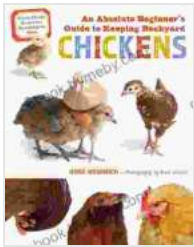
## Chapter 4: Troubleshooting

Even if you do everything right, there may be times when you encounter problems with your chickens. Here are some of the most common problems and how to solve them:

- **Egg eating:** Chickens sometimes eat their own eggs. This can be a problem if you're trying to collect eggs for eating. There are a few things you can do to prevent egg eating, such as providing your chickens with a balanced diet, making sure they have plenty of nesting boxes, and collecting eggs frequently.
- **Feather picking:** Chickens sometimes pick at each other's feathers. This can be a sign of boredom or stress. To prevent feather picking, make sure your chickens have plenty of things to keep them occupied, such as toys, perches, and a dust bath.
- **Disease:** Chickens are susceptible to a variety of diseases. If you think your chickens are sick, it's important to contact a veterinarian right away.

Raising backyard chickens can be a rewarding experience for the whole family. By following the tips in this guide, you can learn everything you need to know to get started and keep your chickens healthy and happy for years to come.

So what are you waiting for? Get started on your backyard chicken adventure today!



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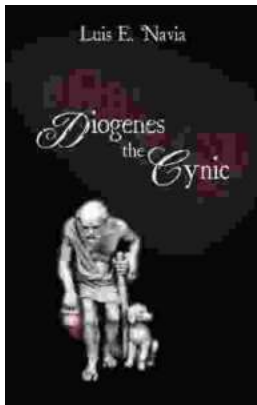
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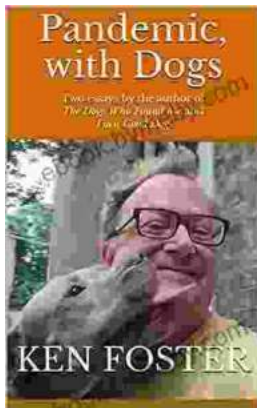
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