

## Before You Bring Your Chickens Home



**Thinking about starting a backyard flock? Be sure you've thought about these things:**

- Check with your local zoning board to see if chickens (or roosters) are allowed in your area.
- Check with your state officials for mandatory poultry health testing requirements.
- Talk to your neighbors as they may be bothered by your chicken's vocalizations. Also, your chickens may wander onto your neighbors' property.
- Have a safe, appropriate shelter for the size and number of chickens you intend to keep.
- Have ample outdoor space for your chickens.
- Have a plan for manure storage and removal. Make sure it is not stored near wetlands or where it can contaminate surface water.
- Plan for a lifetime with your chickens. Chickens can live between 10-15 years, and hens will only lay eggs for a small portion of their lives. Are you ready to keep them for a lifetime?
- Locate a veterinarian for your birds. A Poultry Care book can help with minor health issues.
- Purchase necessary accessories, such as waterers, hanging feeders, etc.
- Plan ahead - Find a responsible person to take care of your chickens when you are away or have an emergency.