

Raising Chickens Sustainably in Urban Environments



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Roadmap



- A little history...
- Breeds and egg colors
- Brooding
- Housing
- Biosecurity
- Nutrition
- Behavior/welfare
- Challenges



A Little History...



- Chickens domesticated in Southeast Asia ~10,000 years ago
- Despite many years of selection, behavior of modern chickens remains almost identical to wild ancestors



Chicken Breeds



- **Light/Egg Breeds**



- **Heavy/Dual Purpose Breeds**



Chicken Breeds (cont.)



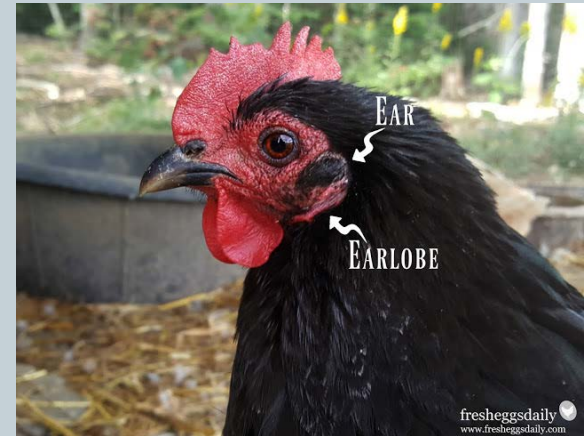
- **Fancy/Show Breeds**



What about Egg Colors ?



- It's all about the ear lobes...



Brooding



- Hatching to feathering
- Temperature
- Ventilation
- Monitor behavior



Pullet Rearing



- Fully feathered to egg laying
- No supplemental heat
- Same environment as adults BUT
- No nest boxes until point of lay



Housing



Features to consider:

- Adequate space
- Well ventilated
- Ease of cleaning
- Predator-proof
- Bedding
- Nest boxes
- Roosts



Nutrition



- **Feeding**

- Starter -> grower -> layer
- Metal vs plastic
- Pellets vs crumbles
- Calcium, grit

- **Watering**

- Importance of fresh clean H₂O
- Nipple vs through vs bell



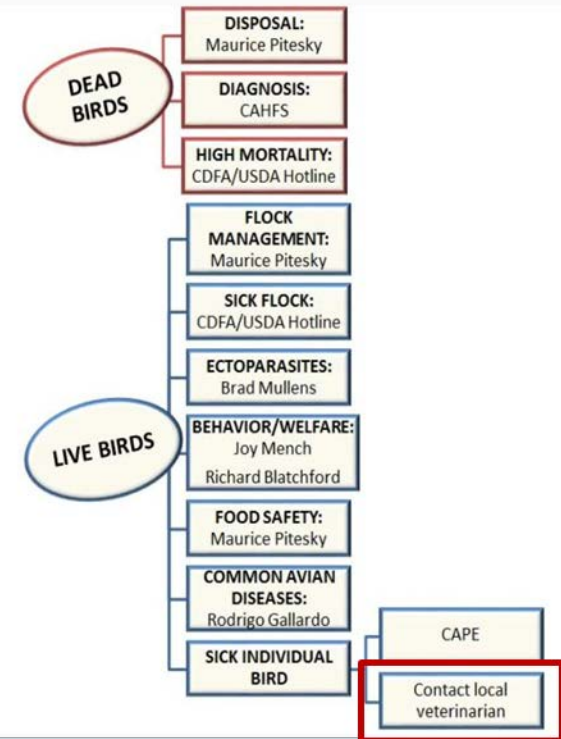
Biosecurity



- *Management practices designed to help reduce the introduction and spread of disease-causing organisms*
- Importance of high sanitation and cleaning practices
- Quarantine new birds
- Minimize contact with wildlife

Who to Contact in Case of Poultry Issues:

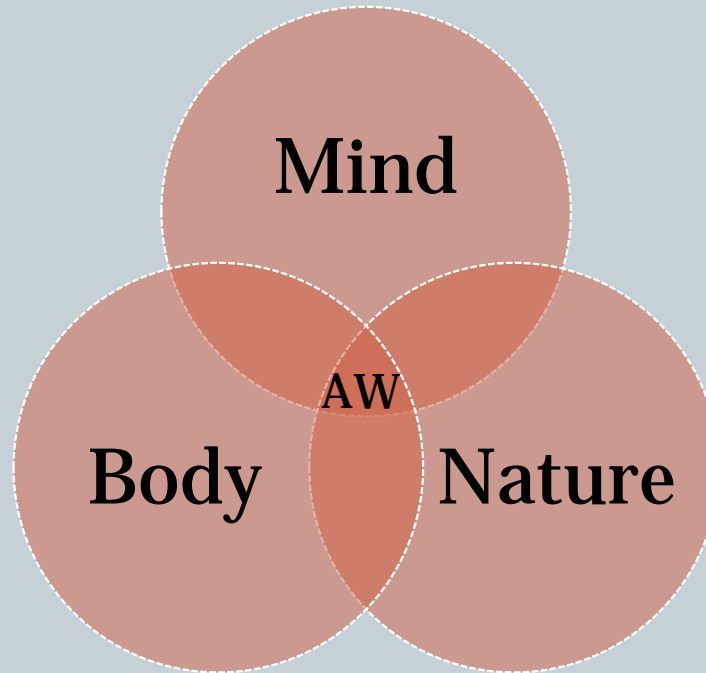
(See below flowchart for contact information.)



Behavior and Welfare



- What is animal welfare ?



Positive Behaviors



- **Perching**



- **Nesting**



Positive Behaviors (cont.)

- **Dust-bathing**



- **Foraging**



Negative Behaviors



- Aggression



- Egg eating



- Feather loss

Challenges in Urban Environments



- Ordinances
- Neighbor complaints (noise/manure/pests)
- Disease
- Abandonment
- Euthanasia/slaughter



Conclusion

- Increase Positive Behavior
 - Foraging, dust-bathing, perching, nesting
- Decrease Negative Behavior
 - Aggression, feather pecking, egg eating
- Questions:
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