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# The Chicken Whisperer's Guide To Keeping Chickens: Everything You Need To Know . . . And Didn't Know You Needed To Know About Backyard And Urban Chickens



## Synopsis

Are you looking for a great way to reconnect with the earth, the community, and your food sources? Keeping backyard chickens is a fun, simple way to start making this happen, even with limited space in your backyard. Let the Chicken Whisperer (poultry personality Andy Schneider) teach you everything he knowsâ and everything you need to knowâ about raising a backyard flock! Ditch the super-technical manuals and enjoy Andy's unique, common-sense perspective in The Chicken Whisperer's Guide to Keeping Chickens. This fun, comprehensive guide is a perfect fit for your busy lifestyle. Inside, youâ™ll learn: â "The Benefits of a Backyard Chicken Flock â "So You're Eggspecting: The Art of Incubation â " The Art of Brooding â "Home Sweet Home: Coops & Runs â "Nutrition, Health, and Wellness â and much more!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Andy Schneider, better known as the Chicken Whisperer, is the go-to guy for anything chickens. Over the years, he has helped a countless number of people start their very own backyard flocks. He is not only a national radio personality, as host of the "Backyard Poultry with the Chicken Whisperer" radio show, but also a contributor for Mother Earth News Magazine, Grit Magazine, and Farmers Almanac. He is the national spokesperson for the USDA-APHIS Bio-Security for Birds Program. He is the owner of Atlanta Pet Chickens, Classroom Chickens, and is the Founder/Organizer of the Atlanta Backyard Poultry Meetup Group. He has been featured on CNN, HLN, FOX, ABC, CBS, NBC, NPR, as well as in The Wall Street Journal, TIME Magazine, The Economist, USA Today, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, New Life Journal, and other local and national

publications. More recently, Andy has been traveling around the country on the Chicken Whisperer Tour, educating people about the many benefits of keeping a small backyard flock of chickens. Andy and his wife Jen keep 35 chickens on their property just north of Atlanta, Georgia. [chickenwhisperer.com](http://chickenwhisperer.com) Dr. Brigid McCrea, Ph.D, began her lifelong love of chickens quite by accident, and she attributes it all to her involvement in 4-H. With the help of the family mechanic, who was also a show chicken breeder and a 4-H poultry leader, she began to raise and show chickens. The poultry community is full of kind people willing to share their knowledge with fellow poultry enthusiasts, and it was this camaraderie that spurred her on to study poultry and birds in college. She received her B.S. and M.S. in Avian Sciences from the University of California, Davis, and then received her Ph.D. in Poultry Science from Auburn University. Brigid is pleased to share her poultry knowledge with everyone who is interested in learning how best to start or serve their flock.

How a Chicken Makes an Egg You reach into the nest box and wrap your fingers around a warm, just-laid egg. You pick it up, feel its warmth against your cheek, and then pop it into in your pocket. Back in the house, you heat up the fry pan and crack open your egg, staring at all of its curious parts and poking at the yolk with a spatula. This egg came from your happy hens; unhappy hens do not lay eggs so you must be doing something right. The yolk breaks open from the spatula's weight and spreads into the egg white. As it cooks, you wait patiently. When it is ready, you put it on a plate and serve yourself a fresh, egg-a-licious breakfast. The taste, well, those words are best left to your own imagination. But what about the journey that wonderful egg took to get to your breakfast? The egg starts with the yolk. It begins small and is surrounded by a follicle necessary to transport the nutrients and pigments needed. Once ready, it's filled with sufficient nutrients and genetic material, the yolk descends into the oviduct, traveling first through a funnel-like section called the infundibulum. This is where it gets fertilized by sperm, if any has been stored. Next it ends up in the largest oviduct section called the magnum, where the yolk connects to the white, also called the albumen. The next stop on the yolk's journey is the short, narrow isthmus, where the inner and outer shell membranes are added, the latter of which provides the foundation upon which the shell is built. The yolk and albumen spend seventy-five minutes in the isthmus. Once surrounded by the inner and outer shell membranes, the group continues on to the shell gland, where the shell gets added, hardens, and changes pigment color and where the albumen's four layers unfold. The egg spends more than twenty-four hours in the shell gland. Finally, the last layer, a thin protein mucus called the cuticle or bloom, seals the egg's pores to prevent invasion by

bacteria. Now the egg is ready to be laid. The egg is formed inside the hen with the small end facing downward. It flips around just before it is laid so that it leaves the hen large end first. The egg passes through the vagina and out through the cloaca or vent. If needed, a hen can hold onto an egg until a favorable place or situation to lay it. This is key for a wild hen avoiding a predator. In this rare circumstance, it is possible that a hen will lay two eggs within a twenty-four hour period. Whew! It takes all that to lay an egg. To all the hens in your coop: Take a bow. They have earned it!

For someone who is new to chickens, this appears to be a great guide. I do wish that there were picture of all of the breeds mentioned in the book, and although there is a glossary in the back, it would be helpful if chicken-centric terms were defined the first time they were used. Aside from those two minor things I'm really pleased with the amount and quality of the information and I look forward to chicken-raising in the future. I feel that this text goes a long way towards preparing a first-time chicken owner.

I love this book. We have several chicken books... but nothing like this one. There is so much more information in this book that I have not found in other books. If I had found this book first... it would probably be the only chicken book I would need.

Great book ! This books gives all the vital information on raising chickens . It also tells about the different illnesses they can get and what you can do for it . This book also tells a bought different breeds of chickens .

Love this book! We've had chickens for awhile and this book is full of lots of random information that is super helpful. A lot of stuff in here I didn't even know I needed to know. Awesome book just to have on hand.

I Love chickens and this book is very user friendly with lots of pics! This is not the most in depth book I have ever read, but it is an excellent reference book for beginners,

Great book

I preordered this book and was very excited when it came in. Unfortunately for me, although the book is well organized and filled with lots of great full color glossy pics, I was really looking for

something really deep - a (insert your animal of choice here) whisperer should have loads of tips, hints, and deep insights. What I really needed was a copy of the chicken shouter - has that been written yet? This is more Billie Mays than Robert Redford. Good for basic start up info and the family liked all the pics - I was just hoping for more depth - example - the author mentions wing clipping for flight prevention once - and that's it - no instructions, pictures, or anything else. Not trying to be harsh, but this reads as more of a 'chicken for pets' book a 12 year old would pick up at the Petco counter - whose chickens will end up being taken care of by an older, more knowledgeable relative... That being said, I do agree with the first review concerning chickens and tightly settled neighborhoods. Lots of good info there. I do recommend anything by Storey Publishing on the subject - unless you are looking for a pet...

Very helpful with lots of practical information for those just starting out with chickens.

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