



NO 7.
FRENEMIES FOR LIFE

Moving house and meeting strangers can be stressful for chooks. When new arrivals first appear, the established hierarchy of the flock is disrupted. Ditto when chickens suddenly show up in the territory of a pet dog or cat. Monitor the situation and intervene if necessary during the settling-in period to make sure nobody gets hurt.



NO 8.
IS THERE A DOCTOR
IN THE (HEN) HOUSE?

Familiarise yourself with common poultry diseases and watch your chooks closely – as animals of prey they will do their utmost to hide any signs of illness from the outside world.

If something seems out of the ordinary, call your vet straight away.

NO 9.
THE NAUGHTY CORNER

It's not just toddlers that need a timeout occasionally; poultry can develop undesirable tendencies, too.

Watch for unwelcome behaviour such as broodiness, egg-eating, and plucking at feathers or pecking other birds, and be prepared to step in.



NO 10.
FEAST FOR THE SENSES

Just as you enjoy a varied diet, so too do your feathered friends. Foraging for tasty morsels is part and parcel of being a truly free-ranging chook. However, the average backyard does not contain nearly enough quality food for domestic poultry.

Guarantee their health by providing a complete, balanced commercial feed enriched with calcium for eggshell and bone strength; supplement this with leafy greens and make sure your hens can access a steady supply of small hard grit.



WHO ARE WE?



At Barastoc, regardless of which came first, we believe in always putting the chicken before the egg.

More than 75 years of experience feeding poultry has taught us that healthy, happy and well-fed chooks produce better eggs, more often – and that means more delicious, nutritious boiled, poached or scrambled breakfasts for you.

For more information

on keeping your flock in tip-top condition visit:
barastocpoultry.com.au/chook-book/

RIDLEY

BARASTOC

TOP 10 TIPS
FOR HEALTHY HENS

Whether you have a small flock already or are just thinking about starting out, Barastoc is happy to share with you our **top 10 tips** for keeping backyard layers in peak hen health.

Here are our top 10 golden-egg rules



NO 1. CHECK THE FINE PRINT

Regulations on keeping poultry vary across Australia and cover such things as how many birds you allowed to keep and whether roosters are allowed in the mix - not everyone is enamoured with a dawn chorus.

Consult your local council to make sure you know where you (and your potential backyard boarders) stand.

NO 2. GET THE DNA RIGHT

What's your reason for wanting chooks? For a lifetime supply of eggs, commercial hybrids with high egg-laying potential (such as ISA Browns or Hy-line Browns) are ideal.

If having brown-shelled eggs is a priority, Black Crosses (Australorp-New Hampshire) and Red Crosses (Rhode Island-New Hampshire) are best.

'Chooks with looks' include Plymouth Rocks, Barnevelders, Silkies, Polishes, Frizzles and Seabrights.



NO 3. SPREADING THEIR WINGS

Make sure your hen house is big enough to allow at least 0.4 square metres of floor space per bird, and consider whether your hens will be able to wander freely around your garden during the day.

The more time they will be spending inside the hen house the more room they will need!



NO 4. MR FOX IS NOT YOUR FRIEND

Wherever you live in mainland Australia, the chances are high that there's a fox, feral cat, ferret or even native quoll lurking nearby with a taste for chicken.

The enclosure you install must be strong enough to keep your chooks safe, particularly at night.

NO 5. LAY, LADY, LAY

Chooks like to lay in a place that's comfortable, private, clean and secure.

If you don't want to have to hunt through the shrubbery for your breakfast's star ingredient, provide nest boxes lined with a dry, loose, light material.



NO 6. IF YOU WOULDN'T DRINK IT, NEITHER SHOULD THEY

Surface water (collected from dams, rivers etc) or any water that could be contaminated by waterfowl or other wild birds can affect your hens.

Sanitise it first with equipment from your local pet-food store or give your flock potable or treated tap water.

Try to keep the container off the ground so it stays free of droppings. In the warmer months position it in the shade and avoid using dark-coloured containers as these heat up quickly in the sun.

