

Laying Hens

Gallus gallus domesticus · Layer breed

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Poultry, kept for eggs

PRODUCTIVE LIFE Lays from 18–20 weeks, productive 2–4 years



SPACE

**0.3–0.4m² coop,
2m² run**



DIET

**Layer pellets +
scraps + grit**



WATER

**Fresh daily,
~250ml/bird**



TEMPERAMENT

**Calm, easily
handled**

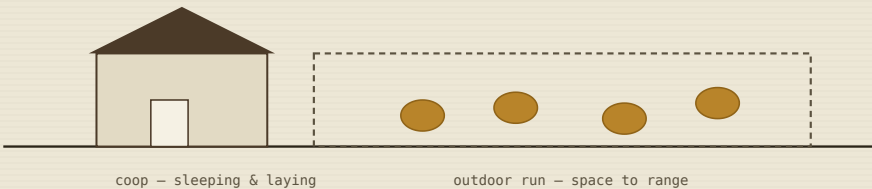


LIFESPAN

6–10 years

01 Coop and run space

Allow roughly 0.3–0.4m² of coop space per bird for sleeping and laying, plus at least 2m² of run per bird for daytime ranging — more room reduces pecking and stress.



02 Housing & setup

SHELTER	Weatherproof coop with roosting bars and one nest box per 3–4 hens, raised off the ground.
FENCING	1.8m fencing or a covered run — hens fly reasonably well and foxes dig.
BEDDING	Straw or wood shavings in nest boxes, changed regularly to control mites.

04 Health & problems

- **Red mite** — infest coop cracks at night; treat the coop, not just the birds.
- **Egg drop** — moulting, stress, or age; usually resolves on its own.
- **Fox/predator loss** — the single biggest risk; secure housing overnight is essential.
- **Worms** — worm periodically as part of routine care.

03 Daily care

- Let out in the morning, lock in safely at dusk against predators.
- Provide fresh water and layer feed daily; supplement with kitchen scraps and greens.
- Collect eggs daily to discourage broodiness and egg-eating.
- Check for mites, and refresh bedding regularly.

05 Production & harvest

YIELD	4–6 eggs per week per hen in peak lay, tapering with age and season.
COLLECTION	Daily, ideally more than once to reduce breakage and egg-eating.
PEAK SEASON	Spring–summer; lay slows over winter without supplementary light.
STORAGE	Unwashed eggs keep several weeks at room temperature, or longer refrigerated.

06 Compatibility & considerations

GOOD WITH

Ducks

Guinea fowl

Vegetable garden (manure)

AVOID KEEPING WITH

Unsecured dogs

Roosters if noise is a concern

NOTE

Check local council rules on flock size and rooster ownership before scaling up.