



# Summer Care

### Key points:

- Provide plentiful water
- Reduce food and give cold treats
- Clean coop frequently
- Focus on Red Mite prevention
- Provide Shade and ventilation

## Water

Chickens can't sweat so cool themselves by panting, spreading their wings and laying down. If you notice your chickens panting, having their mouth open or a sudden change in body language they are letting you know they are overheating.

Ensure their water is always topped up (you could also add some ice blocks) as chickens tend to drink twice as much in summer. If you have a number of chickens, add a second drinker to avoid competition. You could also add a poultry tonic to maintain the balance of vitamins and minerals.



Replace the water and clean the drinker daily. Keep it out of direct sunlight to prevent algae build up.

You can also freeze bottles of water and place them in the bedding area, and hose down the walls and roof of the coop to keep them cool.

## Feeding

Feed your birds during the cooler part of the day. Chickens tend to eat much less during the hotter months so adjust the amount of food accordingly.

## Care & Advice Sheet



Avoid grains, such as corn, which are high in starch content and raise body temperatures whilst digesting.

Put treat food in the fridge - a chilled apple is an ideal way of keeping hens cool on a hot day.

### In the run/coop

Move your coop regularly. Sunlight will kill worm eggs so moving your coop on to a nice sunny patch will reduce the risk of your birds getting worms. Make sure you secure your coop back down and shut your hens away at night to protect from visiting foxes.

**Cleaning:** In hot conditions, bedding will need changing more frequently to help keep the coop cooler.

**Red Mite:** The big summer job is to prevent/stop Red Mite. See our separate care sheet for advice.

**Dust baths:** Make sure your birds can keep cool outside. Give them an area to dust bath and lay themselves out. Wood chippings or shavings are great for them to bathe in.



**Shade and ventilation:** Provide shade for your chickens by placing a board across the run. If your coop has a hinged roof, prop it open to circulate air inside the coop during the day.



### Need Advice?

With over 15 years of poultry-keeping experience, we are best placed to help with all of your poultry needs.

We aim to give you the best advice possible and the best service possible: novice or experienced we are here to help you.

**Contact us today!**