

Backyard Chickens – Transitioning to a New Home

This information sheet is directed towards chicken breeders and anyone who has recently acquired a new pet chicken. The transition from breeder to a new home is a critical period of adjustment for chickens of any age. The breeder should implement a Pre-sale Preparatory Plan prior to the movement of birds to the new owner's home to protect the chickens throughout the critical three-week adjustment period. The new owners should then follow a New Bird Adjustment Plan whilst the chickens acclimatise to their new home. This plan alleviates stress during the transition period and in doing so, provides the conditions required to prevent stress-induced diseases that can lead to sudden death.

Instructions for Breeder:

- Move the birds for sale to a holding pen for 1 week prior to sale. This allows the breeder to monitor the resilience of the birds to changing housing conditions. Birds that remain robust during this period can be confidently sold. The Pre-sale Preparatory Plan prepares these birds for the hardships of rehoming.
- Treat with Quikgel (5ml), ZADE (0.5ml), Ioford (10mls) and Apple Cider Vinegar (20ml) into 2 litres of drinking water for 1 day.** Apple cider vinegar is high in potassium, which is lost from the body during periods of stress. The potassium in the apple cider vinegar helps rehydrate by stimulating the birds to drink more. Iodine in Ioford helps counteract the impact of stress by stimulating the thyroid gland to maintain functional hormone (thyroxin) levels. ZADE is given for 1 day only to boost immunity.
- Provide KD Powder in the drinking water for 1 day (day 4 as per chart below) as a cleanse and to stimulate immune function.
- Quickgel is given for 2 days prior to sale to energy load the chickens to be sold.

Pre Sale Preparatory Plan (1 week prior to sale)		
	In Drinking Water	Mixed with grain
Day 1	ZADE Liquid, Quikgel, Ioford, Apple Cider Vinegar	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 2	Quikgel	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 3	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 4	KD Powder	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 5	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 6	Quikgel	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 7	Quikgel (day of sale)	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite

Instructions for New Chicken Owners:

- On arrival, new birds should be housed in a pen lined with fresh straw and should remain there for 1 week whilst they adjust to their new home. The pen must be kept dry, cleaned and relined with fresh straw each day.
- After 1 week, the birds can be allowed to free range for short periods under supervision for the next 2 weeks. During this time, the birds should be trained to return to the pen by tempting them with the fortified grain mix.
- Provide the same pelleted food brand as fed by the breeder, together with the grain mix fortified with Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite daily.

- Drinking water containers are cleaned and refreshed daily. Supplements are added to the drinking water as per the New Bird Chicken Plan below.
- Throughout the critical 3 week transition period, chickens must not be exposed to any moist areas or allowed to forage in soil, gravel or compost that can impact health when ingested. They must also be protected from over-stimulation from other household pets or family members. The holding pen provides security from these stress factors.
- Any birds showing signs of illness should be isolated and the breeder informed immediately.

New Bird Chicken Plan at Home (3 weeks)		
	In Drinking Water	Mixed with grain
Day 1	ZADE Liquid & Quikgel	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 2	Quikgel	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 3	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 4	KD Powder	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 5	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 6	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite
Day 7	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite

YOUNG BIRD PLAN

After three weeks the birds should have adjusted to their new home and go onto the Young Bird Programme. This plan incorporates ZADE Liquid which is most effective at preventing respiratory and other stress related diseases when given to susceptible birds. The most susceptible birds are vulnerable varieties, birds under 20 weeks of age (pullets), birds at point of lay (16-24 weeks of age), hens at peak egg production and all birds during the peak summer moult.

Young Bird Health Programme			
	In Drinking Water	Mixed with grain	Rotational Disease Prevention Regime
Day 1	ZADE Liquid	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite	<p>* These treatments are given from 4 weeks of age on the optional medication days over a four week rotation as follows:</p> <p>Week 1: Coccidiosis Prevention Week 2: Worm Prevention Week 3: Lice & Mite Prevention Week 4: Quik Gel as a health tonic <i>See below for full instructions</i></p>
Day 2	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite	
Day 3	KD Powder	Turbobooster, E Powder & Fvite	
Day 4	Dufoplus, Ioford & Megamix	Fresh grain	
Day 5	Fresh water	Fresh grain	
Day 6	<i>Optional medication day*</i>	Fresh grain	
Day 7	<i>Optional medication day*</i>	Fresh grain	

Coccidiosis Prevention & Treatment: Carlox (1ml to 2 litres drinking water) should be administered to the flock for three days each month.

Worm Prevention & Treatment: GT Wormer (5ml to 1L drinking water) is given for 1 day each month.

Lice/Mite Prevention & Treatment: S76 (5ml to 2L drinking water) should be given for one day each month in summer and every third month throughout the rest of the year. KD baths are useful in helping to remove any dead lice and mites and may be given weekly during summer.

Quik Gel as a Health Tonic: Quik Gel (2ml to 1L drinking water) is given for three days each month as a health tonic and is also used during cold spells and periods of rain.