

Backyard Chickens

Carlingford Animal Hospital

Backyard poultry flocks are at a distinct health advantage because they run free. They receive large amounts of sunlight and natural foraging opportunities. These conditions are ideal for health. The chickens are allowed to select exactly what they need from the green food and soil of the yard environment. On the downside, the backyard environment can also become a haven for germs and parasites that abound in wet areas after rain. Therefore, care must be taken to minimise exposure to these hazardous areas.

Dr Marshall has developed two health programmes for backyard chickens that provide the nutrient balance necessary for continuing good health. When incorporated with a free-range environment, this system will ensure your poultry flock glows with health and produces superior quality eggs.

The **Young Bird Programme** is designed for chickens that are less than 5 months old and have not yet reached laying age (22-26 weeks). This programme incorporates ongoing disease prevention to help establish a robust flock with strong natural resistance against the common health problems of backyard chickens.

The **Egg Laying Programme** is for adult birds and provides a continuous supply of the energy, vitamins, minerals and trace elements necessary for the production of quality eggs and ongoing health.

Our programmes follow the principles of organic farming and encourage natural resistance to common poultry problems such as Mareks, respiratory and other stress-related diseases. The use of **KD Water Cleanser** once a week enhances and maintains a strong level of natural resistance by protecting the flock from germs in the food, water and environment.

Dufoplus and Ioford provide the vitamins and trace elements necessary for superior feather quality as well as ongoing health and vitality. These additives are given in the drinking water for two days each week. **Turbobooster**, **E-Powder** and **F-Vite** provide a rich supply of protein and energy and are given on a small amount of seed for three days each week for young birds, and daily for egg-laying birds. The essential oils present in **Turbobooster** help to produce the finest quality eggs. **Quik Gel** is used during periods of rain to provide a readily available source of energy and vitamins. Its disinfecting properties have a fast action against potentially serious infections that may appear during rain. Quik Gel is also used to prevent the common health problems associated with inclement weather.

Young Bird Programme

The **Young Bird Programme** helps young chickens develop strong natural health and immunity. In doing so, repeat treatments for worms and coccidiosis become unnecessary in birds of laying age. A base diet of fresh poultry pellets is made available at all times and each morning, Turbobooster, E-Powder and F-Vite are given on one cup of sterile seed as a energy, vitamin and mineral booster. Drinking water supplements are given on the appropriate days (Friday - Sunday) and three days (Tuesday - Thursday) have been reserved as optional medication days. On these days, the disease prevention regime for young birds should be followed. During cold spells and periods of rain, Quik Gel is given in the drinking water. This combination of supplements are required to bring out the best health in your young chickens. There will be a noticeable improvement in feather colour and sheen; skin and comb health, within a week of starting this programme.

Day	In Drinking Water	On Sterile Seed	Feed bowl
Friday	KD Powder ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Saturday	Dufoplus & Ioford ^{2*}	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Sunday	Dufoplus & Ioford ^{2*}	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Monday	Fresh water [*]	Fresh seed mix	Fresh pellets
Tuesday	Optional Medication Days [*]	Fresh seed mix	Fresh pellets
Wednesday		Fresh seed mix	Fresh pellets
Thursday		Fresh seed mix	Fresh pellets

¹ Add 1gm KD Powder to 1 litre of drinking water.

² Add 2.5ml Dufoplus and 5ml Ioford to 1 litre of drinking water.

³ Into 1 cup sterile seed, mix 2ml Turbobooster and then add 1/4 tspn each of E-Powder & F-Vite.

^{*}Preventative medicines are given on rotation on these days as outlined to the right.

^{**}During rainy periods or cold spells, add 2ml Quik Gel to 1 litre of drinking water.

Any eggs that are laid during this programme should be boiled and given back to the chickens to eat. Once egg laying becomes established, the Egg Laying Programme should commence (see overleaf).

Young Bird Disease Prevention Regime

These treatments are given on the optional medication days over a four week rotation as follows:

Week 1 - Coccidiosis Prevention

Week 2 - Worm Prevention

Week 3 - Lice & Mite Prevention

Week 4 - Quik Gel as a health tonic

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.

Feeding Recommendations

Chickens of all ages should receive a base diet of grower pellets. This pelleted meal must be supplemented with hard grains to develop strong gizzard and digestive function from a young age.

We recommend 10 grams of hard wheat or mixed grains for bird each day or about 10% of the total pelleted diet eaten each day. Turbobooster, E-Powder and F-Vite are mixed into the grain and given as the first meal each day, or given as a treat later in the day.

Egg Laying Programme

This programme should commence when birds are at point of lay (5-6 months of age) and then continue into adult egg laying life. Turbobooster, E-Powder and F-Vite are mixed into grain each morning. Fresh poultry pellets should be provided during the day. Dufoplus and Ioford are given for two days each week and Quik Gel should be given whenever it rains or during cold spells. The use of KD Powder once a week helps to naturally control disease and is an important part of this programme.

Day	In Drinking Water	On Sterile Seed	Feed Bowl
Friday	KD Powder ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Saturday	Dufoplus & Ioford ^{2*}	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Sunday	Dufoplus & Ioford ^{2*}	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Monday	Fresh water [*]	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Tuesday	Optional Medication Days [*]	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Wednesday		Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets
Thursday		Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ³	Fresh pellets

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² Add 2.5ml Dufoplus and 5ml Ioford to 1 litre of drinking water.

³ Into 1 cup sterile seed, mix 2ml Turbobooster and then add 1/4 tspn each of E-Powder & F-Vite.

*Preventative medicines may be given on these days.

**During rainy periods or cold spells, add 2ml Quik Gel to 1 litre of drinking water.

Disease Prevention in Adult Birds

When good resistance has been established by the Young Bird Programme, ongoing preventative treatments for Coccidiosis and worms are not required unless there is an outbreak. During the warmer months it remains important to continue lice and mite control as follows:

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. Withholding Period: 7 days for meat and eggs.

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. Withholding period: nil

Emergency First Aid Treatment

Quik Gel & ER Formula Emergency First Aid Treatment for Poultry

Quik Gel provides a readily available source of energy and vitamins to sick poultry. When given with ER Formula, as part of an emergency first aid treatment plan, it restores body temperature, reverses dehydration and rapidly restores energy and vitamin levels.

1 drop Quik Gel gel is mixed into 20ml of prepared ER Formula (heated to 35°C) and is administered by crop needle.

For crop and gizzard blockages continue treatment twice daily for 3 days. For egg binding, add 2ml Hi-Cal to this mixture and continue treatment twice daily for 3 days. For uterus infections, antibiotics may be added.

Quik Gel may also be added to the drinking water as an immediate vitamin and energy tonic:

2ml Quik Gel is mixed into 1 litre of drinking water