

THE CARE OF BABY CHICKS, TURKEYS, GUINEAS, PHEASANTS, & PARTRIDGE

WARMTH/HEAT is the most important thing to fix first. Chicks must be warm (95 degrees the first week), and they must stay dry. After temperature, food and water are the important factors. Take your job seriously, but remember, if the mother chicken can do this, so can you. The temperature where the birds are should be 90-95 degrees for the first week. Reduce it 5 degrees each week, until you get to 70 degrees, then you shouldn't need any more heat.

The best way to regulate heat is to watch the birds. If they huddle under the light and cry a lot, they are cold. If they move evenly around the box, and make small peeping sounds they are comfortable. If they are crowded in the corners and are panting with mouth open, they are too hot. Protect from drafts. Remember- the garage is not warm enough without a heat bulb near the chick box. This means "heat" bulb, not light bulb.

FEED: Use a complete Starter feed in the beginning. After 8 weeks Layer chicks will change to Grower.

WATER: Water should be offered free choice. But don't let them swim in it either. Ducks will waste a lot of their water. One or 2 gallons per 50 chicks, depending on type, will work in the beginning well.

STRESSED CHICKS: If the tail area is pasted up with manure, gently wash it off with warm water. Keep the chicks warm. Pasting-up is caused from chicks getting chilled.

DUCKS AND GEESE: Ducks and geese must have plenty of water; it helps to keep their eyes from being infected, and it helps them to digest food. Waterfowl should not have any medicated feed or water. Ducklings from a hatchery should not swim until they are older; they do not have protective oil from the mother duck. They also need heat in the beginning as chicks do.

Source: <http://www.alaska.net/~dtaplin/care.html>