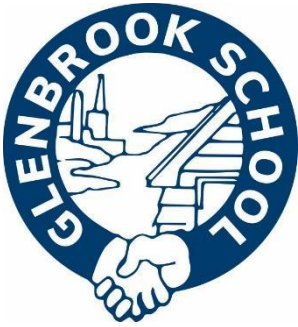


# Glenbrook School Calf Club

## Information & Rules for

### Chickens



# Chicken Rearing Information

You are going to take home a baby chicken that is less than one week old. It will be covered with fluffy down. Very quickly you will see your chicken grow and change, if you feed it regularly and look after it carefully. The most important things for looking after your chicken are:

- Clean water and food,
- Adequate warmth/heating,
- Good hygiene and,
- Safe dry housing.

**Chickens must be ordered through the school.** Look out for the notices for order deadlines and the date for collection. You must order a minimum of 2 chickens for warmth and company as chicks like to huddle to keep warm and are very social.

You will be required to make a poster which counts for 50% of your grade. See the poster section and the last page for the poster criteria. The poster will need to be completed and delivered to school the week before calf club. On calf club day, you will bring your chicken to school. See the below section on what happens at calf club.

## **What your Chicks will need:**

- A 10kg bag of chick crumble
- Chick feeder
- Chick water container
- Cage / box / container (as a brooder)
- Wood shavings or shredded paper
- Heat lamp or plate

## **Brooders:**

Chicks first home is called a brooder. Chicks need to be kept warm in a brooder either with a heat light, heat plate or something similar. The heat should be left on until the chicken has its feathers.

A brooder can simply be a large cardboard box, or any large container. It should have high and solid sides so the chicks cannot jump out and also to prevent drafts. As the chicks grow you can change their box to a larger container. The container should be easy to clean and have enough room for the chicks to move around.

Baby chicks like a temperature between 32-38°C so they will need a heat source. This can be a light bulb with a flex and plug (an old bedroom lamp is ideal) with a 60-100 watt reflector bulb hung approximately 300mm above the chickens. Don't use energy saving bulbs as these don't produce enough heat. Be careful to ensure that the bulb cannot make contact with the litter or the chicks directly.

Watch the chicks as they will show you whether the temperature is right - if they are too cold they will constantly huddle under the light. If they are too hot, they will be at the opposite end from the light, and possibly panting. Make sure your chicks have enough room to be able to move between warmer and cooler areas to where they are comfortable. Keep monitoring the temperature and raise the light as the chicks grow.

Once the chicks have their feathers, at approximately 5-8 weeks old, they can start to venture outside during the day (if it's warm) and come in at night.

Place litter, shredded paper or wood shavings (but not dust), around the bottom. Change the litter as soon as it is wet to avoid the chicks catching a chill. Diseases such as coccidiosis love to grow in damp, warm areas so keep the litter dry.

## Food and Water

- Make sure your chickens have food and water available all the time.
- Chicks need fresh clean water. If using a bowl or container, make sure it's not too deep as chicks don't like being damp and can drown. You can source water dripper bottles which stop water being spilt and making the litter damp.
- Chicks will need a food container. This could be a dish or jar lid.
- Chick crumbs are designed to be a complete food for chickens. If you have not got these, the chickens may be started on coarse oatmeal or rolled oats, even a hard-boiled egg chopped finely will be alright. Chicken starter crumble or crumbs can be obtained from any pet or farming shop.

**Remember to wash your hands after cleaning the chicken's brooder.**

## What to do with your Chicken?

- Handle it carefully. Chicks can be hurt or even killed with rough handling. Don't drop them.
- Keep the brooder, and later the cage clean.
- If the weather is warm, take your chicken outside on the grass for half an hour (longer as the chicken grows). You can make a pen to protect it from cats or dogs or have a cage that it will use when it is bigger.
- Observe your chicken
  - How does it eat?
  - How does it drink?
  - What are its eyes like?
  - What are its feet like?
  - What sounds does it make?
  - What happens to the yellow down?
  - What colour are the feathers?
  - What grows on its head?
  - What are the new feathers like?
  - How does it behave on the grass?

## SETTING UP A BROODER

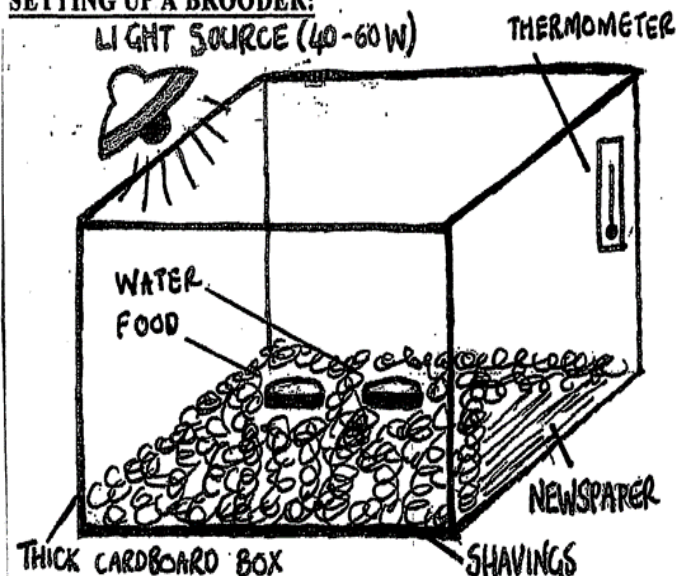
One idea for a brooder is set below.

Discuss the plan with the children.

Consider the parts of the brooder.

Why are they needed?

### SETTING UP A BROODER:



### ADOPT A CHICKEN:

1. Have each child adopt their chicken after receiving it.
2. Children should name their chickens.
3. The chicken should be allowed to spend time with its adopted parents each day.
4. Each child is to put his/her chicken down on the floor and allow it to run around and investigate as follows:

- Does it stay near you?
- Walk away from it and call it?
- Does it follow?
- Take your chicken for a walk outside
- Protect your chicken as a mother would.
- What does the chicken do outside?

## **Imprinting:**

Newly hatched chickens tend to follow the first large moving object they see after hatching. In the natural situation, the big moving thing would be the mother hen. But young chicks will imprint on almost anything, colour and shape do not appear to matter. The chickens form a lasting attachment for this object (or person).

Imprinting should be carried out on the first day of the chicken hatching. It works best if carried out between 6 and 18 hours and if the object (person) makes a sound while moving from the chicken.

The sensitive period for imprinting is over in about 36 hours. So it is important for your child to do this the night the chickens arrive at your home. After this the chicken cannot be imprinted.

## **Posters:**

Children are required to complete an informative poster about their chicken. You can include any information you like on it. Some interesting things could be ...

- A drawing of your chicken
- A drawing of the brooder
- Some photos
- A weight graph
- A height graph
- Information on food, housing, care etc...



The poster must be done on A2 card which is available at the school office. Posters larger than A2, or scale models will not be judged. Posters should be bright and colourful and 100% child effort.

The posters are collected for marking during the week before Calf Club day. The date is confirmed below and will be in the school newsletter ~ this date is usually the Monday before Calf Club day.

The poster is worth 50% and the other 50% comes from your chicken on the day. Please ensure your name, age and school team (Pouakai/Kereru/Piwakawaka) is written on the back of your poster.

## **What happens on Calf Club Day:**

On the day of Calf Club you bring your chicken along to school. At school the Chicken Judge will weigh your chicken and then talk to you about how you raised your chick. You can handle your chicken on the day, though this is not compulsory, but will count towards your points.

## **Please note:**

- Lamps can be brought very cheaply at the Warehouse just check the bulb wattage! (not energy saving bulbs) Heat pads are available from the Chookyard (Reid Road, Glenbrook).
- Thermometers can be purchased at the \$2.00 shop.
- Food for chickens is available from Farmsource, the Chookyard (Reid Road, Glenbrook), Animal Stuff and other rural supply shops.
- Have fun with your little friends.
- You provide for them now and later they will provide for you!!

## **Due dates:**

Posters are due at school on Monday 21st September at 9am

# Pet Poster Guidelines

*What the judges are looking for in pet posters*

## Include a Catchy Title

Add a decorative border

Feeding

Short story about  
your pet or chicken

Grooming

Pictures

Housing

Importance of  
Cleanliness

Handling

Don't forget to write you name, age and team on the **back** of the poster

- 1) Plan first!** Sketch out your poster idea on a separate piece of paper before you begin.
- 2) Add pictures!** Draw your own images or include photos of your animal to match your text. Posters do leave the school for judging so please don't make them fragile!
- 3) Share lots of details!** Give as much information about your animal as you can.
- 4) Judging is based on age expectations.** Younger kids (like five-year-olds) aren't expected to have perfect handwriting, but creativity, effort, and clear messaging matter most!
- 5) Use lined paper for writing!** Then, glue it onto your poster for a neat look.
- 6) Handwritten posters are best!** Try to write your text instead of typing it.
- 7) Use the whole space wisely!** Fill the page, but don't go past the poster's size.
- 8) Keep it neat and tidy!** A well-organized poster is easier to read.
- 9) Make it pop!** Bright colors and bold designs make your poster stand out.
- 10) Your poster is important!** It makes **50% of your overall mark**, so put in your best effort and make it shine