

Chickens

Fowls have elaborate social behaviors. They maintain their personal space and communicate by posture changes. The signals are determined by the head angle and the body position. They maintain contact with flock mates by making sounds. Hens lay on a 23-26 hour cycle and then the hen will produce about 10-15 eggs. The hen will then incubate the eggs constantly with a long break daily to eat and take care of its plumage. When the eggs hatch the hen rapidly imprints on the hatchlings. The hatchlings stay close to the hen for about six weeks. That's when the hen tries to teach them how to roost when the hatchlings are about 10-12 weeks old the hen starts the weaning process. At about 16-18 weeks when the hatchlings are fully weaned they join the juvenile flock. Chickens have an internal feed monitor that tells them what they need in their diet.

Chickens have many types of learned behaviors such as dust bathing, foraging, and they sometimes even know when it's feeding time. Chickens need to keep themselves clean so they learned different ways to do so. Dust bathing is one way that animals keep themselves clean and they do that by rolling around in the dust to clean their feathers, get rid of dead skin, and even get rid of parasites. Foraging is another learned behavior that chickens do. Foraging is what a chicken does when its roaming around looking for food. When a chicken forages it pecks and scratches at the ground looking for food. Some flocks of

chickens know when it's feeding time because they have learned the routine of when the farmer feeds them.

Believe it or not there is a safe way to handle chickens. Most chickens are friendly but also fearless. Picking up a chicken is a learned skill. You need to do it quickly and firmly. Hold their wings at their sides so that they can't flap. Chickens can see almost everything so you can easily startle them if you're not careful. Chickens have a 300 degree field of vision and have better eyesight than humans.

Works cited:

Poultry Behaviour - Poultry Hub. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2016, from <http://www.poultryhub.org/production/husbandry-management/poultry-behaviour/>

This website is about the behavior of chickens

Normal Behaviors of Chickens in Small and Backyard Poultry Flocks - eXtension. (n.d.). Retrieved November 29, 2016, from <http://articles.extension.org/pages/66175/normal-behaviors-of-chickens-in-small-and-backyard-poultry-flocks>

This article is about the pecking order and the behavior of chickens

Peeps, M. (2014). Information on Chicken Eyesight. Retrieved November 29, 2016, from <http://www.backyardchickens.com/a/information-on-chicken-eyesight>
This website is about the field of view of the chickens and how chickens use their eye site