

Lucky Hens Rescue

The Pecking Order

The Pecking order is something that has to take place, there is no way around it adding new hens to your flock can be a very stressful time not just for the hens, but for the re-homer watching it take place.

We recommend, the less you get involved the quicker it will be established!
We say, as long as there is no blood, try and leave them to it.

There is always going to be a 'boss' and the hen at the 'bottom' of the pecking order we can't stress enough how **important** it is to keep a close eye that all of them are getting to the food & water whilst the pecking order is established.

Each introduction can be so different to another you may have already experienced. We are always available to offer support on our Facebook page if you need us - www.facebook.com/LuckyHenRescue

A Few Basic Tips

- Add extra food & water to ensure all hens get the chance to get to them
- Make sure you have a tub of Sudocrem/Germolene available should you need it! These will help with the healing process should pecking take place
- Introduce a new hen at night to the coop when it's dark, place her amongst the other hens. They will not fight in the dark and it will give others a chance to get used to the new smell
- Create distractions immediately if fighting occurs, i.e. a clap of the hands, a whistle blow or the use of a water squirter
- If blood is drawn at any point, remove the hen and try again when the injury has healed, chickens are attracted to red, and will peck blood very quickly
- If you notice them gripping the comb & pulling at it, Vaseline is great to stop this, as it makes the comb too slippery to grip! They also don't like the taste of it either.

Before you print think about the ENVIRONMENT!