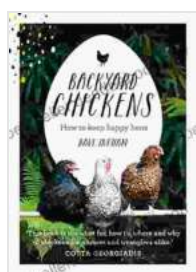


Backyard Chickens: How to Keep Happy Hens

Backyard chickens are becoming increasingly popular, and for good reason. They're a great way to get fresh, organic eggs, and they can also be a lot of fun to watch. But if you're thinking about raising backyard chickens, it's important to do your research first. Here's everything you need to know to keep your hens happy and healthy.



Backyard Chickens: How to keep happy hens by Chris Brady

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 240 pages



Coop Design

The first step in raising backyard chickens is to build a coop. The coop is where your chickens will sleep, lay their eggs, and shelter from the elements. It's important to choose a coop that is the right size for your flock and that is well-ventilated and insulated.

There are many different types of chicken coops available, so you'll need to decide what type is best for you and your flock. Some popular options include:

- **A-frame coops** are a good choice for small flocks. They're easy to build and can be made from a variety of materials.
- **Gable coops** are a good choice for larger flocks. They provide more space for your chickens to move around and lay their eggs.
- **Run-in coops** are a good choice for flocks that have access to a fenced-in yard. They provide a sheltered area for your chickens to sleep and lay their eggs, but they also allow them to get outside and forage for food.

Once you've chosen a coop design, you'll need to decide where to place it. The coop should be located in a well-drained area that gets plenty of sunlight. It should also be protected from the wind and rain.

Feeding

Chickens need a balanced diet to stay healthy and productive. The best way to provide your chickens with a balanced diet is to feed them a commercial chicken feed. Chicken feed is available in a variety of forms, including pellets, crumbles, and mash. You can also supplement your chickens' diet with fresh fruits, vegetables, and herbs.

It's important to make sure that your chickens always have access to fresh water. Water is essential for chickens to stay hydrated and to produce eggs.

Egg Collection

Chickens typically start laying eggs at around 6 months of age. They will lay one egg every 1-2 days. You should collect eggs daily to prevent them from becoming dirty or broken.

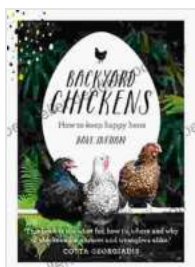
To collect eggs, simply reach into the coop and gently pick up the eggs. Be careful not to touch the eggs with your bare hands, as this can contaminate them.

Predator Protection

Chickens are prey animals, so it's important to protect them from predators. There are a number of things you can do to protect your chickens, including:

- **Build a strong coop.** The coop should be made of sturdy materials and have a secure door that can be locked at night.
- **Fencing.** If your chickens have access to a fenced-in yard, make sure that the fence is high enough and strong enough to keep predators out.
- **Guard dogs.** Guard dogs can be a great way to deter predators. Choose a dog that is friendly with chickens and that is trained to protect them.

Raising backyard chickens can be a lot of fun and rewarding. But it's important to do your research first and to be prepared to provide your chickens with the care that they need. By following the tips in this guide, you can help your hens live long, healthy, and productive lives.



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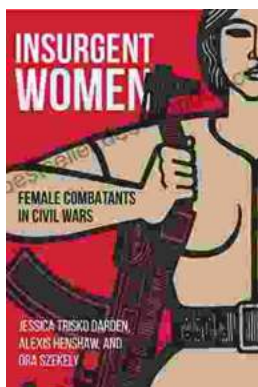
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