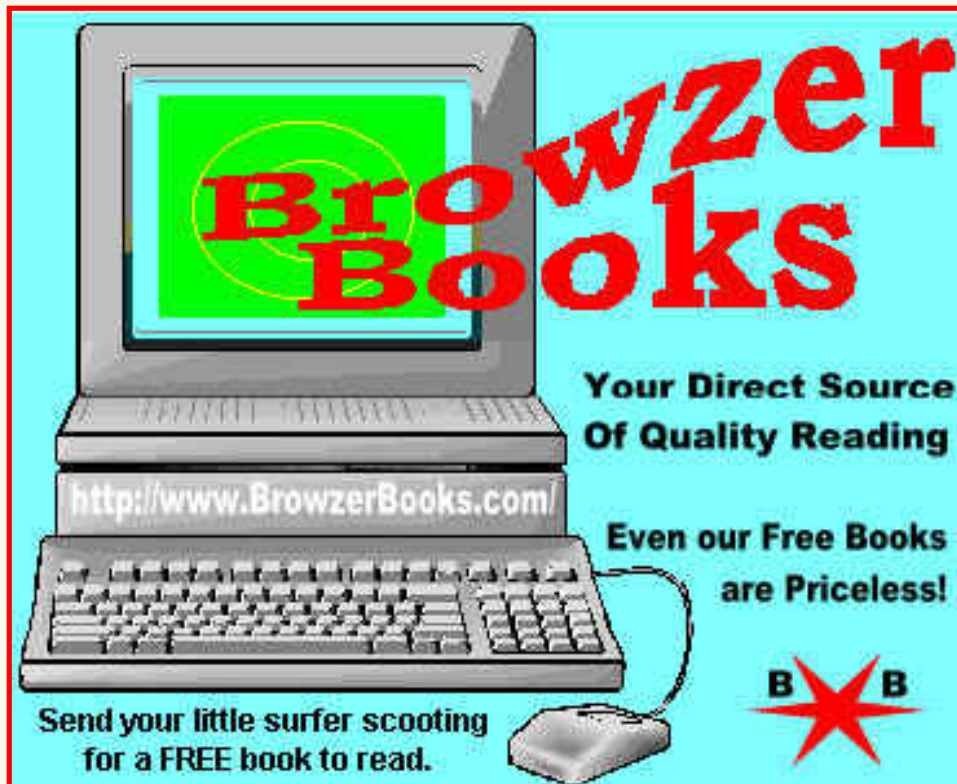


# Chickens Are Cute Little Carnivores

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## Chickens Are Cute Little Carnivores

Joyce Hansen, better known as the Chicken Lady in [Mena Arkansas](#), has a special sale on every year in the week of Good Friday.

Baby chicks, still wet and fresh from the egg, are sprayed with food coloring in various colors. Then they are delivered to Joyce at Parks & Hansen, Inc. -- the feed, seed and fertilizer store on Fourth and Gillham.



Some are red, some are green  
and all of them are fuzzy, wuzzy cute.

People just reach into the box and pluck out a chick with the color they want.

The colors wear off gradually over a period of three or four weeks, fascinating one and all with their splendid colors.

"The food coloring doesn't hurt them a bit," says Joyce.

"One of my granddaughters has kept a rooster for three years now. She says he's just about ready to decorate the family crock pot."

One reason baby chicks are so fascinating  
is that they are so obviously,

**BIRDS**



but you don't even need  
to put salt on their tails to catch them.

Capitalizing on America's love affair with babies of any kind, these cute, cuddly little birds go "Cheep, Cheep, Cheep" all day long. They are easily caught and fit right into a child's small hand for closer scrutiny. Line that tender palm with millet and crunched corn and the little chick can keep the child fascinated for weeks on end.

It is easy to make a pet of a baby chick.

With any encouragement at all, the little bird will follow a child -- indoors, and out. It will climb up into the child's lap, peer earnestly into the face, and express eternal friendship in fifty different ways. Chickens love to be stroked and petted, responding in songs more pleasing to the human ear than a cat's perfectly boring purr.

Within two weeks of hatching, these little birds can take flights of a foot or more.

Grown chickens in good practice and strong health can actually soar to heights of twelve feet when driven by panic, and they are not terrified of gliding down from housetops or tall tree

limbs. Yet, give them any other opportunity of escape and these little birds will run; flight is their last resort.

Baby chicks don't need a mother to fend for them; though they obviously fare better when a loving mother is there.



While chickens are notorious for being cowards, don't test that theory out when a mother hen is protecting her brood. The largest bully in your class will wisely decide to flee the wrath of a mother hen. Even big black bears have been known to turn tail and run when a mother hen gets on their case.

Roosters are known to be aggressive too.

Equipped with spurs up to four inches long, they can leave deep scars on the toughest complexions. When aroused by fury or protective instincts, roosters and mother hens will light on a child's head, pecking and spurring for as long as they can find a hair left to hang

onto. Even grown boys will scream for Mama to come save them when the chickens are in top form.

Ah, but then you see,  
Chickens are Cute little Carnivores.

That's right. You can raise chickens on the sweetest corn and the most wholesome grain from day 1.

BUT THEN, if you turn those same cheeping little chicks loose on the world they will leave the corn behind and go to chasing chiggers. They will scratch and dig anywhere chiggers are likely to be found, chugging down all the grubs and anything else that moves which they find along the way.



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## Chickens are birds.

Birds were created with a metabolism starving rather constantly for nourishment. For every ounce they weigh birds will need to eat up to one ounce of food just to maintain their weight. Baby chicks want to GAIN weight, so they eat more than their share of an ounce.

Country estates can spend far less on exterminators (and fertilize) by employing chickens to tend their landscape. Chickens love to chomp down on:

1. grasshoppers,
2. moths,
3. caterpillars,
4. flies,
5. and even carpenter ants.

Given any kind of a chance they will terrorize the entire neighborhood of lesser critters, chomping on anything bigger than a newborn baby gnat.

Why, if cats and dogs would just hold still long enough, chickens would eat the ticks off of them and completely dissolve the need for flea collars.

Please note: You are INVITED to make copies of this file and GIVE it to all your friends, neighbors, and customers. Even your cousins can have a copy, if they have been nice lately. All I ask is that you don't make any changes to the book; I have changed it enough already.



Smart farm wives capitalize on this attribute by using square wire which lets only the little chicks into a garden plot. As the chicks chase down chiggers to crunch on, they will keep the ground constantly cultivated, and clean of creeping pests too. On top of all that they will lay down a residue of easily absorbed, top grade fertilize yon smart housewife's tender young plants will thrive on.

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Chickens are so popular there's even a town named CHICKEN.



## Why Do They Call it "Chicken?"

In the late 1800's, early miners traveled far in search of gold. Food was sometimes scarce, but a particular area near the South Fork of the 40-Mile River was abundant in Ptarmigan, now the state bird which bears a resemblance to a chicken (Ah the foreshadowing is thicker than steel.) The miners kept themselves alive with the help of the Ptarmigan (if you consider being eaten as helping.)

In 1902, Chicken was to become incorporated, the second town in Alaska to do so. The name "Ptarmigan" was suggested. Many people liked the name, but felt the quotation marks were too presumptuous. Therefore, the name was shortened to Ptarmigan.

The only problem was that nobody could agree on the correct spelling of that wholesome bird. Of course they didn't want their town name to be the source of ridicule and laughter, so they compromised on the name "Chicken." (The irony is thicker than the foreshadowing.)



The best news of all about chickens is that they are homebound. They don't need to be caged when food is plentiful and protection from thieving coyotes is adequate. As long as they know where home is, chickens will roam no farther than necessary to fill their little craws with nourishing foods.

Build a roost for them and chickens will almost never range too far to hear table scraps being raked off the plate into the yard.

Potato peelings, fried okra, biscuits, even spinach, Anything people eat, chickens will chomp on.



That makes them better garbage disposal units than anything you can buy in a store.



This is a White, Black-Tailed Japanese Bantam owned by Daniel Wade Phone 479 394 4723. He has enough color to make a peacock blush.



**Remember, there are more chickens  
in the United States than there are people.**

**What would happen if Chickens were allowed to vote?**

One of the best suppliers of chickens that I know is [Estes Hatchery](#). It has been in the poultry business since 1922. "We now have the fourth generation of family active in the operation of our hatchery."

Below are some close-up shots of their favorite breeds, including: Production Reds \* Rhode Island Reds \* New Hampshire \* Reds Barred Plymouth Rocks \* White Plymouth Rocks \* Black Australorps \* Buff Orpingtons \* Silver Laced Wyandottes \* Araucanas \* Danish

Brown Leghorns \* Hybrid White Leghorns \* California Whites \* Crested Polish Specials \* and the little Bantam Specials.

Guineas, game birds and other specialties are also available.



For even more pictures and more breeds,  
Visit the [Oklahoma State University](http://www.okstate.edu/~poultry/) web site.

Since chickens arrive in various natural colors and sizes they can be chosen to compliment the Farm House decor. White chickens will match homes painted white, Rhode Island Reds will enhance brick mansions.

the end.

Lin Stone is an author, writer and photographer living in [Mena Arkansas](#) among the gentle mountains known as Ouachita. His articles and essays are [syndicated by talewins](#) to be published automatically on other web sites. He writes about adventures and he writes about the peaceable things of this world for [Share Your State](#). In his spare time Lin writes copy for [American Insurance Depot](#). You can have immediate, and free, reading of many more pieces when you send your little surfer scooting to Lin's home page at <http://www.talewins.com/StoneSoup.htm> where he keeps stirring up more good things for the soul.

Here is the most important question in this book:  
Do YOU need a place to raise chickens?

Search these [CHEAP LAND listings](#) for FREE. Discover the very best bargains waiting right there in your own backyard. You will find listings in ALL 50 States, YES, EVERY County! You will receive the Addresses, the Phone Numbers, and even see the Asking Prices. You will find Properties in all 4 phases of foreclosures available in many states, and that includes bankruptcy properties.

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spare dedicated bandwidth (on a cable or DSL connection) and a good sized collection of music and a bit of spare cash you will find it easy to start your own broadcasting unit, from home.

Even in his own lifetime it was said of [Buffalo Bill](#): "He can scarcely be said to have had a childhood, so early was he thrust among the rough scenes of frontier life, therein to play a man's part at an age when most boys think of nothing more than marbles and tops. He enlisted in the Union army before he was of age, and did his share in upholding the flag during the Civil War as ably as many a veteran of forty, and since then he has remained, for the most part, in his country's service, always ready to go to the front in any time of danger. [Buffalo Bill](#) is the one credited with avenging Custer.

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