



Green Mountain Farm Chickens - 2009

GreenMountainFarmPress

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In late February 2009, we bought 10 three-day-old chicks, six different breeds, and the experience of raising them turned out to be even more fun and productive than we had hoped. The expansion of our household also provided some great photo ops, the results of which we shared in a series of e-mail updates to the Green Mountain Farm Chicken Fan Club. This book recaps some of those images.

Nine of the 10 chicks thrived, traveling back and forth with us between farm and city in a plastic tub, and later a large cardboard container. They got to know our laps, our kitchens, our grandkids, and eventually, the yard at the farm and their custom-built coop and coop annex. We now know a thousand times more about chickens than we did in 2008, and we've grown accustomed to having nest-fresh eggs with rich yolks and

firm, artistically designed shells. The eggs are "free," of course, although on a strict cost-accounting basis our council of economic advisors tells us we should break even in about 13 years after tallying up materials, equipment, feed, bedding, manicures, beak polish, and so on. But it's been well worth the time and investment just to be able to teach kids about chickens and have a fluffy flock decorating the yard every day.

The birds have a lot of personality, exuberance and smarts, and we love having them around. Unfortunately, the lone rooster, highly photogenic Quarterback, had to be referred to our outplacement agency due to his aggressiveness-management issues. He now lives a few miles away under the supervision of three much-larger roosters. He quickly learned to toe the line.

JoEl and Ethan



Only a few days old...



Like all babies everywhere: Eat, drink, sleep, poop; repeat...



(L) Polish Crested. (R) Buff Orpington.



The chicks got some handling time at least twice a day...



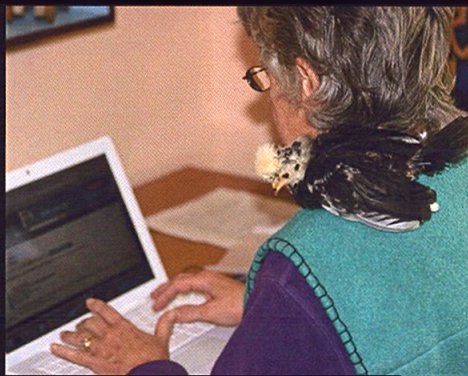
They enjoyed getting a look around...



Their appearance and behavior changed noticeably day to day...



The chicks and the kids were quite compatible...



The Polish pair were the first to read and to surf the Web...



That first visit to the great outdoors was a big eye-opener...



Chickens love carpentry and companionship...



The development of a full suit of feathers is quite a process...



Early wings don't fly, but they do help with balance...



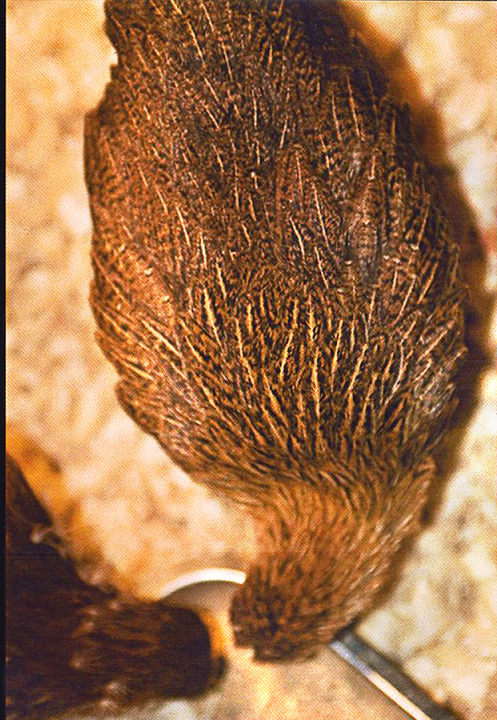
Quarterback and Mazurka stick to formal attire...



Mazurka explores the play tunnel...



These bushes quickly became the favorite hideyhole...



(L) Chipper. (R) A blondie and a red...



(L) Yummy 4-leaf clover! (R) Wanna come out and play?



At home in the expanded coop; checking out the nesting area.



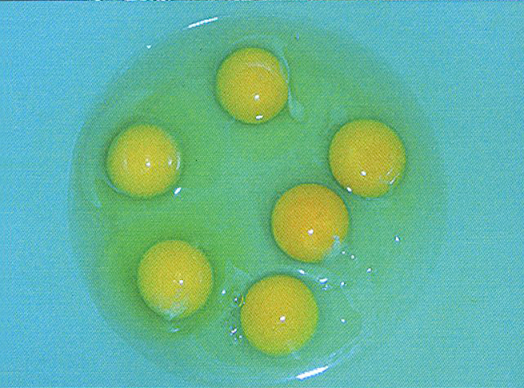
The birds love their sunbaths and party trays...



But no day is complete without a rowdy dust bath!



Quarterback the Magnificent in his full regalia...



Each breed has its own egg style, but they all taste wonderful!



The End