1. **BROODER** Set your brooder up before bringing your chicks home. This will ensure a quicker transition and less stress on the babies. We recommend facing the heat lamp towards one side of the brooder. Chicks will move towards the side of the brooder that they are most comfortable in. Avoid giving them too large of an area that they may “get lost” from the heat. Heat is a must with young chicks.

2. **TRANSPORTING** When transporting the chicks home, try and keep their box as close to their brooding temperature as possible. (80-90 degrees) Considering they do not have their feathers, they have no way to regulate their body temperature.

3. **FEEDING** Give your chicks room temperature water, (to avoid pasty butt) and as much feed as they would like to eat. Avoid putting the feed and water directly under the heat lamp.

4. **GRIT** At two weeks old, they will be old enough for chick grit. Grit aids in proper digestion.

5. **HANDLING** We recommend not handing your chicks for the first 24 hours after bringing them home. This will give them time to adjust to their new home and surroundings. Salmonella and other bacteria can be transferred to humans. It is important to wash your hands after handling any animal.

**Tips**

- Once the chicks have all their feathers grown in, they are old enough to go into their coop.
- Many predators in this area can climb and dig. Coops and runs should be fully secure, including wire dug into the ground, and a solid roof.
- Chickens LOVE treats! Once they are full grown, try giving them, black oil sunflower seeds, mealworms, fruits & vegetables. As chicks are growing, giving them too many treats can off balance their proper nutrition that they would get from a starter or grower feed.

**CHECK LIST**

- Heat Bulb
- Brooder Lamp
- Appropriate Feed
- Bedding
- Feeder
- Waterer
- Brooder/Cage
- Chick Grit
- Thermometer

**Poultry Friendly Vets**
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