



CHICKEN EYES

KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON YOUR FLOCK!



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Those beady little eyes are pretty amazing!

Sometimes dust, foreign objects, dirt, and the losing end of pecking from other flock members may be the problem. Unrelated to an actual illness.

Swelling, redness, or discharge can all be signs that something is not right or very serious. Separate the bird and provide a darkened room for resting. Various types of diseases list eye issues as one of their many symptoms.

FAST FACTS

1. Their eyes are on the sides of their heads; this provides a better range of peripheral vision. This placement does limit their binocular vision.
2. Each eye has its own system and abilities. The right eye's system is best for recognition - like looking at a tasty treat close to the ground in front of them. The left eye works for depth, such as watching for predators in the distance or in the air.
3. Tetrachromatic-They can see red, blue, and green light. Plus, Ultraviolet blue light.
4. They've stellar daytime vision but are very limited in the dark. Therefore, they instinctively head for cover at nightfall.
5. Their eyes are large for their tiny little heads, but it gives them keen eyesight.
6. Chickens have three eyelids. Upper, lower, and a THIRD eyelid called a Nictitating membrane. This membrane has its own lubricating duct. The third eyelid moves horizontally across the eye. This membrane is for protecting their eye from pecking and to clean the chicken's eye.



Normal

- Free of discharge, swelling, and cloudiness
- Clear, bright, and have a copper red iris.
- Round pupil with well-defined margins. Young chicks will have a blue-grey Iris.

*NOTE:

Some chickens can have Colobomas of the Iris.

Online-Reference

- [Colobomas of the iris in a flock of rosecomb bantam chickens](#)
- [Roup in Poultry](#)
- [Common Chicken Illness](#)

DISORDERS OF THE EYE

- Marek's
- Infectious Coryza
- Wet Pox
- Infectious Bronchitis
- Newcastle
- Fowl Cholera
- Eye worms
- Roup

Keeping your flocks' living area clean, providing good nutrition, plenty of clean water, draft-free coop, and practicing strict biosecurity is important. It is vital to ask whomever you purchased your chicks or adult birds from if they are vaccinated. Or contact a local veterinarian for further assistance.

*This is NOT a diagnosis. If you suspect any of these issues, please separate your bird from the rest of your flock and consult a veterinarian ASAP.