

## Chick Welfare & Rehoming

For the purpose of this policy The Customer refers to Nurseries, Schools, Care Homes or private individuals who have purchased the Living Eggs\* Hatching Programme.

**The welfare of chicks is extremely important to Living Eggs\* both during and at the conclusion of our Programmes.**

For the duration of the chick hatching programme the welfare of the eggs and chicks is the responsibility of The Customer. Living Eggs\* provides clear care and welfare instruction on delivery followed by support and advice at all stages via the Advice Line.

The chicks are the property of The Customer, however once the programme is completed Living Eggs\* takes full responsibility for ethically re-homing the chicks.

However, if The Customer has parents or staff who wish to keep the chicks then The Customer MUST make sure that *they* are happy that the chicks are going to a good home. Clarification MUST be sought that preparations have been made for keeping the chicks including:

- provision of a suitable and safe environment
- heat lamp
- appropriate water and feed containers
- food and bedding
- long term care of growing chickens

The Customer must also ensure that the persons re-homing the chicks are provided with our information on keeping chicks that can be found in our Resources section on the website. Serious consideration must be given as to whether they live somewhere suitable to have hens and cockerels. Due to their early morning crowing, cockerels *cannot* be rehomed in residential areas. The only suitable location for them is a rural area for example a small holding or farm.

If The Customer has any doubts about the suitability of where the chicks are to be rehomed, they must refuse the offer and return the chicks to the care of Living Eggs\*.

Once the chicks have been re-homed by The Customer, Living Eggs\* cannot take the chicks back. Consequently, it is extremely important that the re-homing decision is made responsibly by The Customer.

Living Eggs\* chicks should never be sent to an animal sanctuary or rescue organisation. Whilst Living Eggs\* are supportive of such organisations, we do not wish their resources to be taken up with chicks from our customers.

Living Eggs\* *do not* re-home chicks on intensive rearing farms. This is not ethically acceptable to us and would be contra to hygiene and bio security regulations of such companies.

Living Eggs\* will always ensure that all chicks returned to us by our customers are ethically and responsibly rehomed on one of the many smallholdings and free-range farms that work with us to provide safe and appropriate welfare.

**Living Eggs\* wants all our customers to enjoy hatching chicks and caring for them. We all have a responsibility for these chicks to ensure that they continue to thrive when the programme ends.**

**Please help us achieve this.**