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Domesticated subpecies of Red JunglefowlFor the culinary use of chickens, see Chicken as food. For other uses, see Chicken (disambiguation)."Rooster" and "Roosters" redirect here. For other uses, see Rooster (disambiguation)."Cockerel" redirects here. For the Faberg egg, see Cockerel (Faberg egg).ChickenMale (left) and female (right)Conservation statusDomesticated Scientific classification Domain:EukaryotaKingdom:AnimaliaPhylum:ChordataClass:AvesOrder:GalliformesFamily:PhasianidaeGenus:GallusSpecies:G.gallusSubspecies:G.g. domesticusTrinomial nameGallus gallus domesticus(Linnaeus, 1758)Chicken distributionSynonymsGallus domesticus L.The chicken (Gallus gallus domesticus) is a domesticated subspecies of the red junglefowl (Gallus gallus), originally native to Southeast Asia. It was first domesticated around 8,000 years ago and is now one of the most common and widespread domesticated animals in the world. Chickens are primarily kept for their meat and eggs, though they are also kept as pets.[1]As of 2023, the global chicken population exceeds 26.5 billion, with more than 50 billion birds produced annually for consumption. Specialized breeds such as broilers and laying hens have been developed for meat and egg production, respectively. A hen bred for laying can produce over 300 eggs per year. Chickens are social animals with complex vocalizations and behaviors, and feature prominently in folklore, religion, and literature across many societies. Their economic importance makes them a central component of global animal husbandry and agriculture.Terms for chickens include:Biddy: a chicken, or a newly hatched chicken[2][3]Capon: a castrated or neutered male chicken[a]Chick: a young chicken[4]Chook /tʊk/: a chicken (Australia/New Zealand, informal)[5]Cock: a fertile adult male chicken[6][7]Cockerel: a young male chicken[8]Hen: an adult female chicken[9]Pullet: a young female chicken less than a year old.[10] In the poultry industry, a pullet is a sexually immature chicken less than 22 weeks of age.[11]Rooster: a fertile adult male chicken, especially in North America. Originated in the 18th century, possibly as a euphemism to avoid the sexual connotation of the word cock.[12][13][14]Yardbird: a chicken (southern United States, dialectal)[15]Chicken can mean a chick, and this was historically the meaning of the word chicken,[16] as in William Shakespeare's play Macbeth, where Macduff laments the death of "all my pretty chickens and their dam".[17] The usage is preserved in placenames such as the Hen and Chicken Islands.[18] In older sources, and still often in trade and scientific contexts, chickens as a species are described as common fowl or domestic fowl.[19]Comb and wattles of maleComb of female, generally smallerChickens are relatively large birds, active by day. The body is round, the legs are unfeathered in most breeds, and the wings are short.[20] Wild junglefowl can fly; chickens and their flight muscles are too heavy to allow them to fly more than a short distance.[21] Size and coloration vary widely between breeds.[20] Newly-hatched chicks of both modern and heritage varieties weigh the same, about 37g (1.3oz). Modern varieties however grow much faster; by day 35 a Ross 708 broiler may weigh 1.8kg (4.0lb) as against the 1.05kg (2.3lb) of a heritage chicken of the same age.[22]Adult chickens of both sexes have a fleshy crest on their heads called a comb or cockscomb, and hanging flaps of skin on either side under their beaks called wattles; combs and wattles are more prominent in males. Some breeds have a mutation that causes extra feathering under the face, giving the appearance of a beard.[23]Chickens are omnivores.[24] In the wild, they scratch at the soil to search for seeds, insects, and animals as large as lizards, small snakes,[25] and young mice.[26] A chicken may live for 510 years, depending on the breed.[27] The world's oldest known chicken lived for 16 years.[28]Chickens are gregarious, living in flocks, and incubate eggs and raise young communally. Individual chickens dominate others, establishing a pecking order; dominant individuals take priority for access to food and nest sites. The concept of dominance, involving pecking, was described in female chickens by Thorleif Schjelderup-Ebbe in 1921 as the "pecking order".[29][30] Male chickens tend to leap and use their claws in conflicts.[31] Chickens are capable of mobbing and killing a weak or inexperienced predator, such as a young fox.[32]Crowing (with audio)A male's crowing is a loud and sometimes shrill call, serving as a territorial signal to other males,[33] and in response to sudden disturbances within their surroundings. Hens cluck loudly after laying an egg and to call their chicks. Chickens give different warning calls to indicate that a predator is approaching from the air or on the ground.[34]To initiate courting, some roosters may dance in a circle around or near a hen (a circle dance), often lowering the wing which is closest to the hen.[35] The dance triggers a response in the hen[35] and when she responds to his call, the rooster may mount the hen and proceed with the mating. Mating typically involves a sequence in which the male approaches the female and performs a waltzing display. If the female is unreceptive, she runs off; otherwise, she crouches, and the male mounts, treading with both feet on her back. After copulation the male does a tail-bending display.[36]Sperm transfer occurs by cloacal contact between the male and female, in an action called the 'cloacal kiss'.[37] As with all birds, reproduction is controlled by a neuroendocrine system,[38] the Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone-I neurons in the hypothalamus. Reproductive hormones including estrogen, progesterone, and gonadotropins (luteinizing hormone and follicle-stimulating hormone) initiate and maintain sexual maturation changes. Reproduction declines with age, thought to be due to a decline in GnRH-I-N.[39]Newly hatched chicksHens often try to lay in nests that already contain eggs and sometimes move eggs from neighbouring nests into their own. A flock thus uses only a few preferred locations, rather than having a different nest for every bird.[40] Under natural conditions, most birds lay only until a clutch is complete; they then incubate all the eggs. This is called "going broody". The hen sits on the nest, fluffing up or pecking defensively if disturbed. She rarely leaves the nest until the eggs have hatched.[41]Eggs of chickens from the high-altitude region of Tibet have special physiological adaptations that result in a higher hatching rate in low oxygen environments. When eggs are placed in a hypoxic environment, chicken embryos from these populations express much more hemoglobin than embryos from other chicken populations. This hemoglobin has a greater affinity for oxygen, binding oxygen more readily.[42]Fertile chicken eggs hatch at the end of the incubation period, about 21 days; the chick uses its egg tooth to break out of the shell.[35] Hens remain on the nest for about two days after the first chick hatches; during this time the newly hatched chicks feed by absorbing the internal yolk sac.[43] The hen guards her chicks and broods them to keep them warm. She leads them to food and water and calls them towards food. The chicks imprint on the hen and subsequently follow her continually. She continues to care for them until they are several weeks old.[44]Inbreeding of White Leghorn chickens tends to cause inbreeding depression expressed as reduced egg number and delayed sexual maturity.[45] Strongly inbred Langshan chickens display obvious inbreeding depression in reproduction, particularly for traits such as age when the first egg is laid and egg number.[46]Red junglefowl, the wild ancestor of the chicken Water or ground-dwelling fowl similar to modern partridges, in the Galliformes, the order of bird that chickens belong to, survived the CretaceousPaleogene extinction event that killed all tree-dwelling birds and their dinosaur relatives.[47] Chickens are descended primarily from the red junglefowl (Gallus gallus) and are scientifically classified as the same species.[48] Domesticated chickens freely interbreed with populations of red junglefowl.[48] The domestic chicken has subsequently hybridised with grey junglefowl, Sri Lankan junglefowl and green junglefowl;[49] a gene for yellow skin, for instance, was incorporated into domestic birds from the grey junglefowl (G. sonneratii).[50] It is estimated that chickens share between 71 and 79% of their genome with red junglefowl.[49]Further information: DomesticationChicken domestication and dispersal;[49] possibility of early arrival in Americas[51][52]According to one early study, a single domestication event of the red junglefowl in present-day Thailand gave rise to the modern chicken with minor transitions separating the modern breeds.[53] The red junglefowl is well adapted to take advantage of the vast quantities of seed produced during the end of the multi-decade bamboo seeding cycle, to boost its own reproduction.[54] In domesticating the chicken, humans took advantage of the red junglefowl's ability to reproduce prolifically when exposed to a surge in its food supply.[55]Exactly when and where the chicken was domesticated remains controversial. Genomic studies estimate that the chicken was domesticated 8,000 years ago[49] in Southeast Asia and spread to China and India 2,000 to 3,000 years later. Archaeological evidence supports domestic chickens in Southeast Asia well before 6000BC, China by 6000BC and India by 2000BC.[49][56][57] A landmark 2020 Nature study that fully sequenced 863 chickens across the world suggests that all domestic chickens originate from a single domestication event of red junglefowl whose present-day distribution is predominantly in southwestern China, northern Thailand and Myanmar. These domesticated chickens spread across Southeast and South Asia where they interbred with local wild species of junglefowl, forming genetically and geographically distinct groups. Analysis of the most popular commercial breed shows that the White Leghorn breed possesses a mosaic of divergent ancestries inherited from subspecies of red junglefowl.[58][59][60]Prehistoric introduction of domesticated chickens into Oceania from the Philippines via Neolithic Austronesian expansion (starting at c. 4000 BP), inferred from genetic markers on ancient and modern chicken DNA (Thomson et al., 2014)[61]A word for the domestic chicken (*manuk) is part of the reconstructed Proto-Austronesian language, indicating they were domesticated by the Austronesian peoples since ancient times. Chickens, together with dogs and pigs, were carried throughout the entire range of the prehistoric Austronesian maritime migrations to Island Southeast Asia, Micronesia, Island Melanesia, Polynesia, and Madagascar, starting from at least 3000BC from Taiwan.[61][62][63][64] These chickens may have been introduced during pre-Columbian times to South America via Polynesian seafarers, but this is disputed.[65]The possibility that domestic chickens were in the Americas before Western contact is debated by researchers, but blue-egged chickens, found only in the Americas and Asia, suggest an Asian origin for early American chickens. A lack of data from Thailand, Russia, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa makes it difficult to lay out a clear map of the spread of chickens in these areas; better description and genetic analysis of local breeds threatened by extinction may also help with research into this area.[66] Chicken bones from the Arauco Peninsula in south-central Chile were radiocarbon dated as pre-Columbian, and DNA analysis suggested they were related to prehistoric populations in Polynesia.[51][52] However, further study of the same bones cast doubt on the findings.[67][68]Chicken remains have been difficult to date, given the small and fragile bird bones; this may account for discrepancies in dates given by different sources. Archaeological evidence is supplemented by mentions in historical texts from the last few centuries BC, and by depictions in prehistoric artworks, such as across Central Asia.[69] Chickens were widespread throughout southern Central Asia by the 4th century BC.[69]Middle Eastern chicken remains go back to a little earlier than 2000BC in Syria.[66] Phoenicians spread chickens along the Mediterranean coasts as far as Iberia. During the Hellenistic period (4th2nd centuries BC), in the southern Levant, chickens began to be widely domesticated for food.[70] The first pictures of chickens in Europe are found on Corinthian pottery of the 7th century BC.[71][72]Breeding increased under the Roman Empire and reduced in the Middle Ages.[66] Genetic sequencing of chicken bones from archaeological sites in Europe revealed that in the High Middle Ages chickens became less aggressive and began to lay eggs earlier in the breeding season.[73]Chickens reached Egypt via the Middle East for purposes of cockfighting about 1400BC and became widely bred in Egypt around 300BC.[66] Three possible routes of introduction into Africa around the early first millennium AD could have been through the Egyptian Nile Valley, the East Africa Roman-Greek or Indian trade, or from Carthage and the Berbers, across the Sahara. The earliest known remains are from Mali, Nubia, East Coast, and South Africa and date back to the middle of the first millennium AD.[66]Main article: Poultry disease8 day old chick with avian influenza Chickens are susceptible both to parasites such as mites, and to diseases caused by pathogens such as bacteria and viruses. The parasite Dermanyssus gallinae feeds on blood, causing irritation and reducing egg production, and acts as a vector for bacterial diseases such as salmonellosis and spirochaetosis.[74]Viral diseases include avian influenza.[75]Main article: Poultry farmingChickens are common and widespread domestic animals, with a total population of 23.7 billion as of 2018[update].[76] More than 50 billion chickens are reared annually as a source of meat and eggs.[77] In the United States alone, more than 8 billion chickens are slaughtered each year for meat,[78] and more than 300 million chickens are reared for egg production.[79] The vast majority of poultry is raised in factory farms. According to the Worldwatch Institute, 74% of the world's poultry meat and 68% of eggs are produced this way.[80] An alternative to intensive poultry farming is free-range farming. Friction between these two main methods has led to long-term issues of ethical consumerism. Opponents of intensive farming argue that it harms the environment, creates human health risks and is inhumane towards sentient animals.[81] Advocates of intensive farming say that their efficient systems save land and food resources owing to increased productivity, and that the animals are looked after in a controlled environment.[82] Chickens farmed for meat are called broilers. Broiler breeds typically take less than six weeks to reach slaughter size,[83] some weeks longer for free range and organic broilers.[84]A commercial chicken house with open sides raising broiler pullets for meatChickens farmed primarily for eggs are called layer hens. The UK alone consumes more than 34 million eggs per day.[85] Hens of some breeds can produce over 300 eggs per year; the highest authenticated rate of egg laying is 371 eggs in 364 days.[86] After 12 months of laying, the commercial hen's egg-laying ability declines to the point where the flock is commercially unviable. Hens, particularly from battery cage systems, are sometimes infirm or have lost a significant amount of their feathers, and their life expectancy has been reduced from around seven years to less than two years.[87] In the UK and Europe, laying hens are then slaughtered and used in processed foods, or sold as 'soup hens'.[87] In some other countries, flocks are sometimes force moulted rather than being slaughtered to re-invigorate egg-laying. This involves complete withdrawal of food (and sometimes water) for 714 days[88] or sufficiently long to cause a body weight loss of 25 to 35%,[89] or up to 28 days under experimental conditions.[90] This stimulates the hen to lose her feathers but also re-invigorates egg-production. Some flocks may be force-moulted several times. In 2003, more than 75% of all flocks were moulted in the US.[91] Chickens are one of the most efficient sources of foods for many different purposes. See also: Urban chicken keepingKeeping chickens as pets became increasingly popular in the 2000s[92] among urban and suburban residents.[93] Many people obtain chickens for their egg production but often name them and treat them as any other pet like cats or dogs. Chickens provide companionship and have individual personalities. While many do not cuddle much, they will eat from one's hand, jump onto one's lap, respond to and follow their handlers, as well as show affection.[94][95] Chickens are social, inquisitive, intelligent[96] birds, and many people find their behaviour entertaining.[97] Certain breeds, such as silkies and many bantam varieties, are generally docile and are often recommended as good pets around children with disabilities.[98]Main article: CockfightA cockfight in Tamil Nadu, India, 2011 A cockfight is a contest held in a ring called a cockpit between two cocks. Cockfighting is outlawed in many countries as involving cruelty to animals.[99] The activity seems to have been practised in the Indus Valley civilisation from 2500 to 2100 BC.[100] In the process of domestication, chickens were apparently kept initially for cockfighting, and only later used for food.[101]Chickens have long been used as model organisms to study developing embryos. Large numbers of embryos can be provided commercially; fertilized eggs can easily be opened and used to observe the developing embryo. Equally important, embryologists can carry out experiments on such embryos, close the egg again and study the effects later in development. For instance, many important discoveries in limb development have been made using chicken embryos, such as the discovery of the apical ectodermal ridge and the zone of polarizing activity.[102]The chicken was the first bird species to have its genome sequenced.[103] At 1.21 Gb, the chicken genome is similarly sized compared to other birds, but smaller than nearly all mammals: the human genome is 3.2 Gb.[104] The final gene set contained 26,640 genes (including noncoding genes and pseudogenes), with a total of 19,119 protein-coding genes, a similar number to the human genome.[105] In 2006, scientists researching the ancestry of birds switched on a chicken recessive gene, talpid2, and found that the embryo jaws initiated formation of teeth, like those found in ancient bird fossils.[106]Main article: Cultural references to chickensChickens are featured widely in folklore, religion, literature, and popular culture. The chicken is a sacred animal in many cultures and deeply embedded in belief systems and religious practices.[107]Roosters are sometimes used for divination, a practice called alectryomancy. This involves the sacrifice of a sacred rooster, often during a ritual cockfight, used as a form of communication with the gods.[108] In Gabriel Garca Mrquez's Nobel-Prize-winning 1967 novel One Hundred Years of Solitude, cockfighting is outlawed in the town of Macondo after the patriarch of the Buendia family murders his cockfighting rival and is haunted by the man's ghost.[109] Chicken jokes have been made at least since The Knickerbocker published one in 1847.[110] Chickens have been featured in art in farmyard scenes such as Adriaen van Utrecht's 1646 Turkeys and Chickens and Walter Osborne's 1885 Feeding the Chickens.[111] The nursery rhyme "Cock a doodle doo", its chorus line imitating the cockerel's call, was published in Mother Goose's Melody in 1765.[112] The 2000 animated adventure comedy film Chicken Run, directed by Peter Lord and Nick Park, featured anthropomorphic chickens with many chicken jokes.[113][114][115]Etruscan askos in the form of a rooster, 4th century B.C.Rooster and hen, ng H folk woodcut, VietnamFeeding the chickens by Walter Osborne, 1885Joseph Crawhall III, Spanish Cock and Snail, c. 1900Wooden chicken mask, Bali, late 20th centuryCarved and painted wooden tribal statue of a cock fight, Yoruba, West Africa, c. 2000Rooster sculpture, Bordeaux, France. The bird is a symbol of the country.[116]^ The surgical and chemical castration of chickens is now illegal in some parts of the world.^ Joshua (July 27, 2020). "Chickens and RoostersAs Pets?". IAABC Foundation Journal. Retrieved December 5, 2024.^ "Definition of biddy". Dictionary.com. Archived from the original on May 7, 2021. Retrieved May 7, 2021.^ "Biddy definition and meaning". Collins English Dictionary. Archived from the original on May 7, 2021. Retrieved May 7, 2021.^ "Chick". Cambridge Dictionary. Archived from the original on September 7, 2015.^ "Chook". Cambridge Dictionary. Archived from the original on September 7, 2015. Retrieved March 4, 2021.^ "Cock". Cambridge Dictionary. Archived from the original on September 7, 2015. Retrieved March 4, 2021.^ "Hen". Cambridge Dictionary. Archived from the original on September 7, 2015. Retrieved March 4, 2021.^ Cockerel. Dictionary Reference. Archived from the original on March 7, 2016. Retrieved August 29, 2010.^ "Hen noun". 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expense.The average chicken can live anywhere from 3 to 8 years.Chickens that are well protected from the usual dangers of being a prey animal and other such problems will live much longer lives than they used to. The oldest chicken ever recorded was over 20 years old when she died.Ensuring your coop and run is safe for your birds will help them to live a long and productive life.Disease and infection can be problematic especially if the chickens have been on the same ground for a few years.The build-up of parasites and bacteria can cause many problems from worms to coccidiosis.It is also worth noting that many of todays breeds are bred specifically for high egg production.These breeds tend to die after a couple of years or so because the high rate of production is not healthy for the longevity of the bird.If you keep dual purpose or heritage chickens you can expect them to live 5+ years.SummaryThe life of a chicken is a snapshot of a fairly intelligent and hard-working creature.These creatures have a structured hierarchy, great memories, are able to learn and give much pleasure to humans.Chickens of today live much longer lives than the barnyard hen used to.Back then the average hen would live only for a few years and would lay fewer eggs than they do today. They had to survive on a poor diet gathering what they could from the barn and surrounding areas.Todays average backyard chicken by contrast is well fed, produces a huge amount of eggs and in smaller settings lives a very good life

**Life cycle of a chicken draw. Life cycle of a chicken bbc. What is the life cycle of a chicken. Life cycle of a chicken explained. Life cycle of a chicken description. Life cycle of a chicken explanation.**