

## Proper Chicken Handling

Anyone raising chickens will find it inevitable that they will need to pick them up at some point or another - a move from the hen house in order to clean, or transporting during a move. Whatever the case, knowing the proper way to pick them up and handle them is integral - not only for the chickens' safety but also their human handler.

The majority of chickens are docile and simple to pick up. If the birds are generally shy or panicking, it may be in the best interest of all to leave them until they calm down. An excellent time to attempt a move is after the birds are roosting for the night.

When picking up a chicken, put your hand on their back, coming from above. Most chickens will take this a sign of what's about to happen and stop moving. From there, apply some pressure with your hand onto their back, causing them to sit down or lie down. The goal here isn't to smash the chicken, but to put them in a submissive position that'll make it easier to grab from.

After your hand is on their back and they're seated, slide your free hand underneath them, being sure to keep your fingers on either side of the legs in an almost pinching grip. This will let your index finger and pinky finger hold onto the legs with your middle and ring fingers between. If you're able to, it's possible to use your thumb and pinky fingers to pin down the tips of their wings, making it so they can't really wiggle out and flap away and keeping things stable.

This simple technique is the most effective way to manage a chicken's level of calm and keep them relaxed for walking about. You can calm an excited or struggling chicken by holding under your arm and keep a firm grip underneath, trying to hold the feet by them tucking them into the crook of your arm and the side of your body. Chickens, like all birds, have light hollow bones that are more prone to injury, never pick them up and carry them by their legs.

Chickens are very simple to handle - knowing the proper way to do it. Remaining smart and calm will go miles in making handling chores more pleasant.

*REPRINT FROM:*  
**ChickenBreedsList.Com**