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Chick Care 101

Brooder equipment:

- o Heat Lamp & bulb
- **o** Feeder
- o Waterer
- o Pine Shavings
- o Starter Feed (per poultry type)

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- o Thermometer Recommended!
- o ½ square foot per chick (7-8' across for 100 chicks)

Behaviors to watch for:

o Temperature Behavior – see illustration for best temperature guide!

TEMPERATURE BEHAVIORS



Chicks are huddled and crowding together under the light.



Chicks are spread out and far from the heat source.



Chicks "donut" around the heat source and are spaced out comfortably.

- o Pasty Hind Ends: This can indicate that they are too warm and/or do not have enough space. Be sure to remove the blockage gently with warm water and a wash cloth.
- o Pecking: This can also indicate that the chicks do not have enough space and/or are too warm. Double check your thermometer and raise the heat lamp to decrease brooder temperature if needed. A red bulb can dim the brooder and help reduce pecking as well.
- o Lethargy: If the chicks had a hard trip while being shipped and seem lethargic or weak upon arrival, put a spoonful of sugar in one quart of water and dip their beaks in it. Switch back to regular water after 24 hours. Townline also offers vitamins & electrolyte packs that can be ordered and shipped with your chicks.

Chick tips:

- **o** Upon arrival, dip their beaks into their water source. This teaches them where to find their water and encourages them to hydrate quicker after shipping. Make sure they have continuous, fresh water available!
- **o** Use proper bedding! Do not use sawdust or newspaper which can harm your chicks! Pine shavings are preferred. Be sure to add additional bedding as needed and replace altogether once completely soiled.
- o Enjoy your peeps! We hope you find raising poultry as fun and rewarding as we do!