

# SPECK

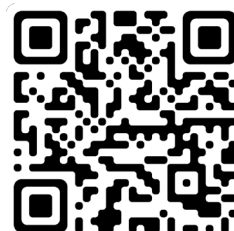


## SPECIES: Speckled Sussex

A very old breed from Britain, dating back to the Roman invasion in the 1st century A.D. They are raised for both their eggs and meat. They can easily put on fat, which can reduce the number of eggs they lay.

## ABOUT:

Speck is the bold matriarch of our flock. When the coop is opened, she is typically the first out the door, and the others follow behind when they notice her departure. She is quite comfortable around humans and can be picked up without much fuss. Speck is usually the one tearing up the ground in the garden looking for bugs. She can also be a bit of a bully to Blanche, chasing her and pecking at her.



# SHEBA

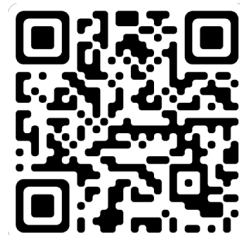


## **SPECIES: Orpington**

Developed in Orpington, England in the late 1800s for their white skin, which was preferred for meat. Within a few decades, they had spread globally. They are respectable layers but are mainly known for their great feathers and docile nature.

## **ABOUT:**

The quiet but calm Sheba can usually be found brooding with all the newly laid eggs in the coop. While not as much of a people person as Speck, Sheba has grown more accustomed to humans. Still, picking her up can be a challenge—if you can catch her! She loves to sunbathe in the garden.





# BLANCHE

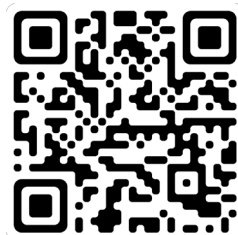


## **SPECIES: Ameraucana** (possibly hybrid)

An American breed derived from the Araucana breed from Chile. Developed in the 1970s, they were bred to retain the blue tint of the Araucana breed while eliminating the breed's dangerous genetic issues.

## **ABOUT:**

The newest member of the group, Blanche is very skittish and timid. Though Speck often bullies her, she also doesn't like straying far from the group. Due to her fear of humans, she keeps a wide berth whenever we clean the coop. In 2023, a dog attacked Blanche, wounding her badly. She has gotten back to her old self, but her eggs are a bit wrinkly now.



# CHICKEN CARE

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The type of care a domestic chicken needs depends on the breed and what the owner wants from the chicken, if anything.

Our chickens are mainly egg-laying breeds (“Layers”), so their diet is different from meat-giving breeds (“Broilers”) because they need less protein to make muscles but more calcium to create strong eggshells. They can get this calcium from their food, typically sold as “laying feed” or “laying scratch,” or from crushed oyster shell, if their food supply is inadequate. In addition, dietary nutrients such as phosphorus and lysine needs can vary between Layer and Broiler breeds’ diets.

Layers need nesting boxes attached to their coop to feel secure while laying, but the boxes also make it easier for the owner to collect the eggs (via a hinged roof).

All chickens, though, need good food, clean water, clean housing, and ample space to move around.

