Who is the laying hen?

She is a forest bird

Hens have an average lifespan of 7 to 8 years, whereas in commercial production they are slaughtered at around 1.5 years of age, after their egg production starts to drop



How do laying hens spend their **dav**

Sleeping and resting

Dust-bathing

Foraging, scratching and pecking

Perching

What does the laying hen want?

A variety of comfortable places to perch Easy access to good feed and water

Shelter for protection

A safe, quiet, and high place to rest undisturbed

To interact with

other hens

To enjoy a good dust bath

Sleeping and resting

Hens need at least 8 hours of continuous darkness to be able to have a good rest on a high perch

> Laying eggs Hens lay an average of one egg per day. They like a secluded, quiet nesting area

Perching Hens like to sleep, rest and perform vigilant behaviour on a high perch.

Hens love to dustbathe - it's comforting, refreshing, and keeps their feathers in good condition

Foraging, scratching and pecking Hens keep busy exploring their environment by foraging, pecking & scratching in suitable substrates

Socialising Hens form complex hierarchies and love spending time with each other

Eating and drinking

Socialising

Laying eggs

Possibilities to forage, peck and scratch

To run and flap her wings

Opportunities to explore their complex environment

> A safe and secluded place to nest

Dust-bathing

What do laying hens think?

Hens are intelligent animals and social beasts!

They can recognise over 100 faces

They dream too!

They can produce over 30 different sounds to communicate with other hens

How can we provide laying hens with a good quality of life?





