

## Chickens

At Suntrap we have a variety of chickens. They roost in the chicken pens at night, but during the day they have free range of the Suntrap gardens, and often enjoy a dust bath just outside the front door.

**Vertebrate:** has bones.

**Bird:** body with feathers, lays eggs on the land.

**Habitat:** originally came from the wild jungle fowl. Now domesticated (kept for meat and eggs). Should be allowed to go out to scratch around for food and given a safe place to 'roost' at night.

**Eats:** seeds, small animals such as beetles and worms (invertebrates); they are omnivores. They also need grit to help digestion and to make shells for their eggs.



### Fascinating Facts:

Cockerels (males) are usually colourful to attract females. Hens (females) are dull to be camouflaged on the nest.

Cockerels have spurs on the back of their legs that they can use for defence. Hens can be very fierce when they have chicks to look after.

Cockerels will guard the hens and find food for them.

Smaller breeds of chickens can fly quite well. Larger breeds are now too heavy to fly.

