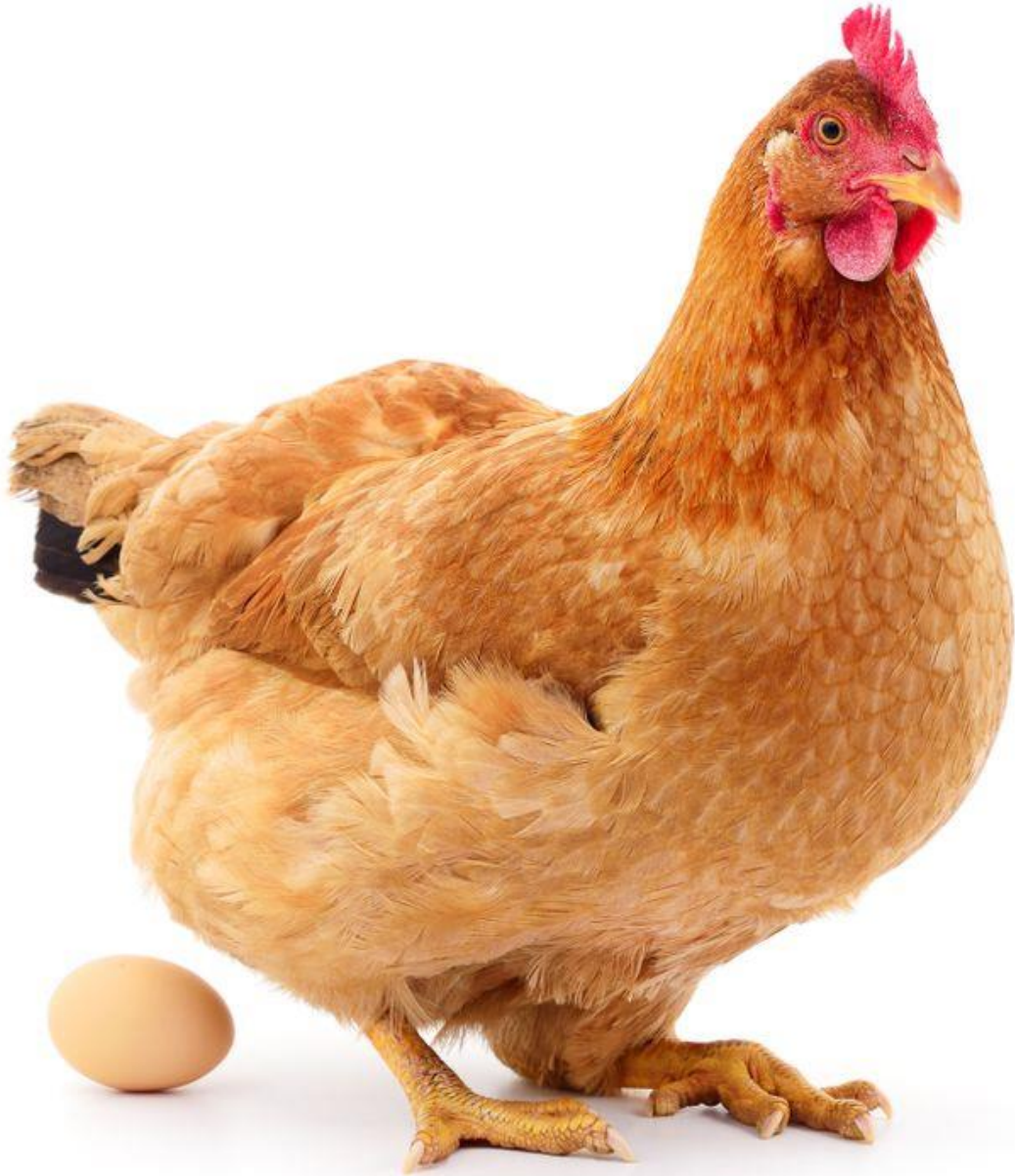


The hen is laying an egg



The hen will lay on her eggs to keep them warm. She will also turn them several times a day.



She will begin to peck holes in the shells to let more air in for the babies to breathe while they are hatching.



By the 21st day, the eggs are already beginning to hatch. The chicks use their egg teeth (small, sharp points on the tip of the baby's beak that break off after hatching) to break a larger hole in the shell. The baby moves his body around the interior of the shell until he has completed a full circle of peck marks. After that he pushes on the pecked area for hours until he has completely broken free.



Chicks are nearly independent when first hatched. They have feathers, can walk, see, hear and follow their mothers. They are also capable of feeding themselves as long as food is provided shortly after hatching.

