

Non-fiction Introduction

Purple Non-fiction 1
Hens

Lots of people keep **hens** – like **Sam**'s mum. Hens are female chickens. They love having space to run, jump and sunbathe. They also need plenty of straw and a high fence to keep the **foxes** away.

Hens are great pets to have because they lay lots of **eggs**, so their owners can eat lovely **fresh** eggs every day. A healthy chicken lays about 265 eggs each year. Did you know that all hens cluck after laying an egg?

Keeping hens is hard work. Their **pens** need to be cleaned every day, and fresh food and water must be set out. Hens eat almost anything. In the wild, they have been known to eat baby snakes, and will even guzzle strings of spaghetti if they are given it. However, their basic diet is made up of grains, seeds, fruits and vegetables. Did you know that chickens swallow gravel to help mash up their food?

Read about how Sam helps his mum look after their hens in this book...

TTYP: What do you know about hens?