

Spring into action and join our Egg Club



This little hen is a proud member of the BHW's Egg Club



Are your spring chickens laying more eggs than you know what to

do with? Well, that's music to our ears, and to the ears of the hens waiting to be rehomed by us.

Our Egg Club scheme encourages pet hen owners to sell their surplus eggs and donate the proceeds back to the BHW, all of which is put towards our rehoming work – think of it as hens helping hens.

So, if you've done all the baking, whisking, frying and scrambling you can think of and STILL have eggs left over, we'd love to hear from you. You'll get a free Egg Club pack to get you started plus you can visit our Egg Club Hub for more resources and join our private Egg Club Facebook group for eggexclusive content.

Alex Ashton joined the Egg Club shortly after rehoming hens from the BHW in September 2019. She started

off with just four, which soon became eight, and now she has 14 hens – we do warn people that hen keeping is addictive...

"When I first joined Egg Club, I'd sell the eggs to people at work but then Covid hit and a lot of my colleagues were working from home," Alex told us. "This coincided with people panic buying staple goods so I started supplying people from our village who were struggling to get eggs elsewhere.

"We've now got a loyal band of customers and demand always outstrips supply. This isn't helped by the fact that a few of our girls have had implants to stop them laying because they'd developed problems, but we'd much rather have happy, healthy hens than more eggs.

"On the days when they haven't laid a single egg, we do jokingly call them Freeloading Slackers but they don't take it personally (we hope!). Our

best customers pay well over the suggested donation price because I've told them about the work of the BHW and they are happy to support the charity. They're also really pleased with how good the eggs taste. It's obvious that they've come from pampered hens!"

Pampered hens do indeed lay the best eggs going, so if you've got lots of your hens' tasty wares going spare and fancy doing a good deed by joining our Egg Club, simply visit Egg Club | British Hen Welfare Trust (bhw.org.uk) to find out more.

If you don't have hens, but would like to taste the best eggs on the market (laid by truly free-range, happy hens of course!), then there's an Egg Club map on the BHW website where you can find your nearest member to buy from. Head to Egg Clubs | British Hen Welfare Trust (bhw.org.uk).

BHWT

The British Hen Welfare Trust (BHWT) was established in 2005 by Jane Howorth MBE and is Britain's first registered charity concerned with rehoming laying hens while improving hen welfare across commercial and domestic sectors. We believe that pet hens matter; everything we do is to improve the welfare of our feathered friends and introduce more people to the joys of hen-keeping.

- Every year, with support from over 1,200 volunteers at 46 pop-up sites, we rehome over 50,000 hens saved from slaughter. To date we've rehomed over 900,000 hens.
- We educate consumers to help them make informed choices when shopping. For example, about caged eggs hidden in processed foods and the problem of using large eggs, rather than small or mixed weight.
- We work closely with government agencies and veterinary institutions to develop programmes and practices to improve hen welfare in both the commercial and domestic sectors.
- We offer a wealth of information and guidance online and offer a free 'Hen Helpline' service to all hen keepers needing advice on caring for sick chickens.

- We have also developed an educational programme providing resources to schools to help pupils explore the connections between food, farming, and animal welfare.

- We work with academic researchers to facilitate ground-breaking studies into pet hens and provide grants to vets and veterinary students to conduct research into chickens to build evidence-based data about how best to care for pet hens.