THE INSIDE STORY

THE KING

COUNTING HIS CHICKENS – INCLUDING ONE-IN-A-MILLION HENRIETTA – AS HE FEATHERS THEIR RATHER ROYAL NEST

The King's chickens have come home to roost – and with a pad this luxurious, who can blame them? The souped-up coop (left) was created by fashion designer Lulu Guinness in collaboration with the British Hen Welfare Trust, to celebrate after the one millionth hen to be rehomed by the charity was adopted by the monarch.

Along with 30 of her feathered friends, the hen, named Henrietta by His Majesty, has joined the brood in the gardens at Highgrove House (right, the King with some of his Burford browns and Maran chickens), the Gloucestershire home he has owned since 1980.

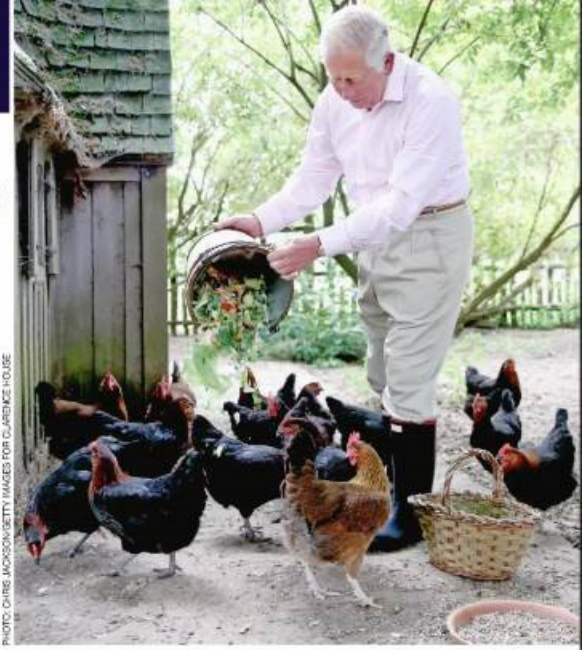
The other birds travelled in crates, but as first in the pecking order, Henrietta made the trip in a bespoke carrier handcrafted from wood and painted with foliage and embellished with embroidery by Lulu herself. Inspired by the royal residence, "Hengrove" features replica mullioned windows and a front door. Little wonder the plucky bird had no problem making herself at home.

Famous for his longstanding passion for sustainable farming and animal welfare, the King was the perfect fit for Henrietta – although the trust's founder Jane Howorth admitted to being as surprised as she was delighted.

"Did I ever expect that my one millionth hen would be going to such an incredible home, to be adopted by His Majesty King Charles III? No, I didn't ever dream that," she said in a reel on the charity's Instagram.

"It's the strongest message to say that these little birds have so much to give and are worthy of that second chance in life that we give them."

REPORT: KATHRYN WILSON. PHOTO: BRITISH HEN WELFARE TRUST



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