

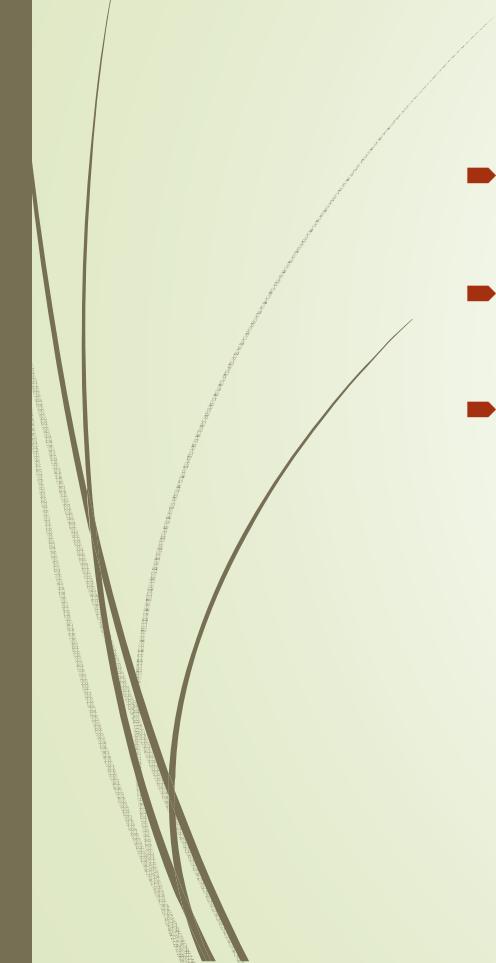


# Hand- and Foster-rearing Pheasants & Curassows

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## Considerations before hand-rearing

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- ▶ Like many other species we work with Pheasants and Curassows can be very long lived.
  - ▶ If you raise a monster it will be a monster for the next 20 to 30 years depending on the species.
  - ▶ Always keep that thought in mind while rearing these species. They are extremely cute chicks but a vicious adult is not cute and can be detrimental to a population.

# Pheasant Hand-rearing



## Supplies Needed

- ▶ Iodine
- ▶ Swabs
- ▶ Wooden Brooder
- ▶ Substrate/ no slip mats
- ▶ Water source
- ▶ Some sort of cover – feather duster or browse.
- ▶ Chopped food

# Siamese Fireback Day 0





## Chick Day 0

- ▶ Once the chick hatches we weight it and swab its umbilicus with iodine. It is put back in the hatcher until it has dried.
- ▶ Once dried it is transferred to a wooden brooder.
- ▶ Be sure to check the chicks legs and toes as minor issues after hatch can become major issues in the future if not noted and corrected.

## Wooden Brooder



- ▶ Dimensions 35" Length X 23" Wide X 24" Height.
- ▶ Pull out tray in the front for cleaning. Design flaw the tray often gets stuck.
- ▶ Front opens and the top also opens.
- ▶ Heat source is from a light bulb that can be raised or lowered.

## Brooder Set-up



- ▶ Slip-proof kitchen mats or towels as substrate.
- ▶ Some sort of hide.
- ▶ Thermometer. Make sure if using the cheaper thermometer that the glass is not slipping away from the plastic.

# Congo Peafowl Day 1



# Diet

## Pheasant and Curassow



- ▶ The rearing diet for Pheasants and Curassows is exactly the same.
- ▶ It consists of our fruit mix finely chopped. (Apple, Steamed Sweet Potato, Grapes, and Papaya)
- ▶ Mazuri Galliformes Starter
- ▶ Chopped Greens (not shown in the picture)
- ▶ Live food – Mealworms and small crickets.



## Pheasant hand-rearing

- ▶ Chicks are weighed daily at around 7am and then again at 4pm. The brooder box is cleaned while the chick is getting weighed at both time periods.
- ▶ You can expect a weight loss to occur for the first several days.
- ▶ Breaking hatch weight takes longer in some species. It is recommended that you contact the Program Leader for that species or the TAG to find out more information about what chick you are going to rear.
- ▶ For the first few days food is pointed out by forceps and with most Pheasant chicks they begin to self feed rather fast. The one exception being the Congo Peafowl which like a Curassow is slow to self feed.



## Curassow hand-rearing

- ▶ Curassow chicks are slower to start eating on their own than the Pheasant chicks.
- ▶ If hand rearing a Curassow food needs to be offered from the tray on forceps at least ten times through-out the day until the chick starts feeding on its own.
- ▶ Be sure to add perches at Day 0 to the brooder otherwise the risk of curled toes goes up!

## Wattled Curassow Day 2



Wattled Curassow able to fly from day 0





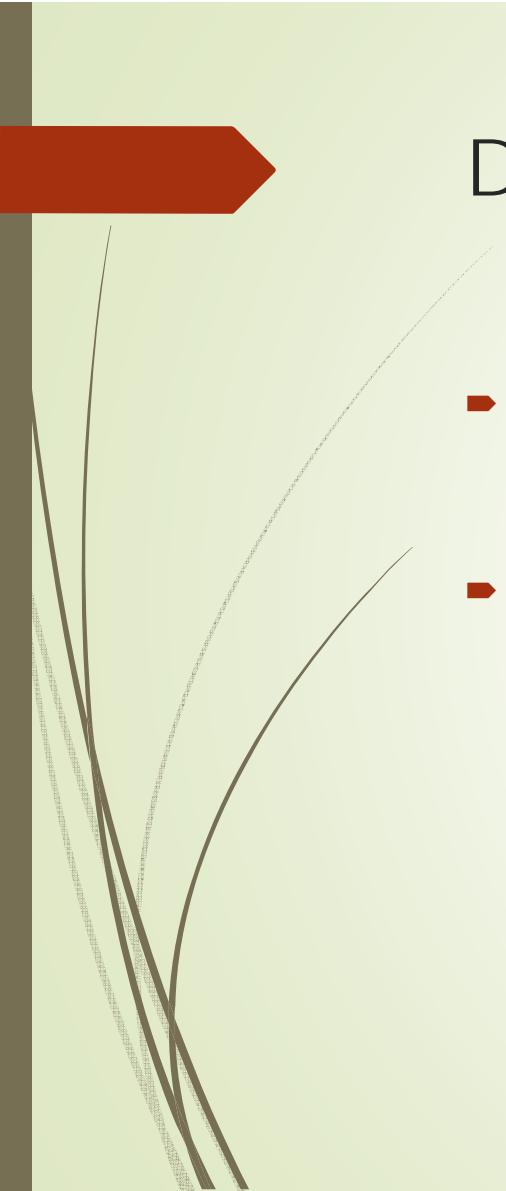
## Curassow and Pheasant hand-rearing

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- ▶ The chick is still offered three diets a day to make sure food does not sour in the warm brooder.
  - ▶ Depending on the weather outside the chick will be moved out into a gravel pen after a few days of breaking hatch weight.
  - ▶ This move is done slowly with the chick being brought outside at its morning weigh in and then brought back inside to the brooder for the 4pm weigh in. if the chick gains while outside the 4pm weigh in is discontinued and the chick will stay outside permanently.



## Argus Pheasant Day 3





## Downside of hand-rearing

- ▶ Even with the greatest precautions generally the chick is imprinted to some degree.
- ▶ Weight gain is lower than “buddy” rearing or foster rearing because the chick does not have any competition or continual guidance on eating.



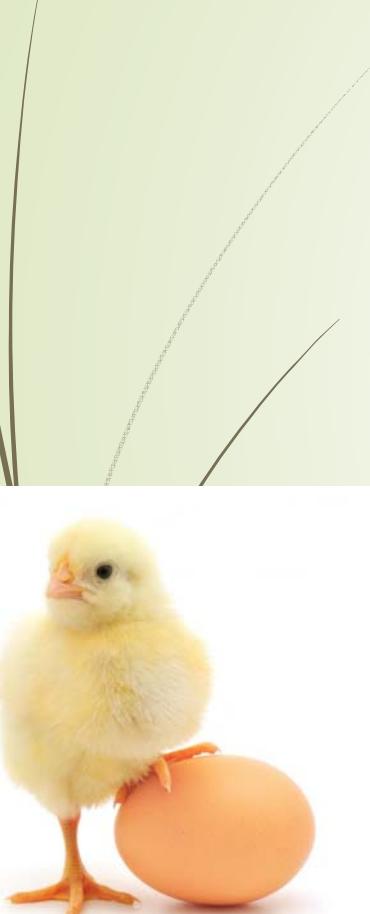
## Options besides Hand-rearing.

- ▶ "Buddy" rearing with another species.
- ▶ Foster-rearing with a broody hen.

## “Buddy” rearing



- ▶ If you do not have a broody hen that is sitting and you want to decrease the risk of imprinting “buddy” rearing is a good option.
- ▶ Generally a day 0 chicken chick is introduced to the collection Galliformes chick when it is 2 days old.
- ▶ If introduced younger than this the chicken chick can sometimes harass the collection bird because it thinks it's toes are mealworms.



## Buddy rearing how to's

- ▶ Sometimes the two chicks do not get along for the first couple of days. Either the Collection Galliformes chick harasses the Chicken chick or vice versa. Negative interactions are generally food related.
- ▶ If the two just wont get along you can divide the brooder with a wire partition and introduce the two chicks slowly until they become bonded. Very very rarely the two chicks just wont get along. But keeping them side by side is beneficial to your collection animal as by watching the chicken chick they learn to self feed.
- ▶ One of the pluses when the two chicks get along is the competition the chicken chick provides for the collection animal and the excitement they generate about new food being offered.



## Buddy rearing how to's continued

- ▶ As with hand-rearing. Weigh the collection chick twice a day at 7am and 4pm. Make sure to weigh the chicken chick as well to ensure it is not eating everything.
- ▶ The same introduction to the outside occurs as hand-rearing after the two chicks break hatch weight a few days after this they are moved outside into a gravel pen. They will go back and forth from outside during the day till being back in the brooder at night for a few days.
- ▶ Generally collection chicks are more sensitive to change than the chicken chick. The chicken chick will adapt fast to the change but it will take the collection chick a few days. After weight gain is continuous the chicks stay outside permanently and the 4 pm weight is discontinued.



## Buddy time length

- ▶ This all depends on the sex of the chicken and the species that is being reared.
- ▶ Generally roosters want to be away from their buddy after two months and will start displacing the chick.
- ▶ If the chicken chick is a hen there is generally no aggression problems and they are happy to stay with their buddy for months.
- ▶ It all depends on the species that is being reared and the sex of the chicken chick.

## Broody hen Foster-rearing



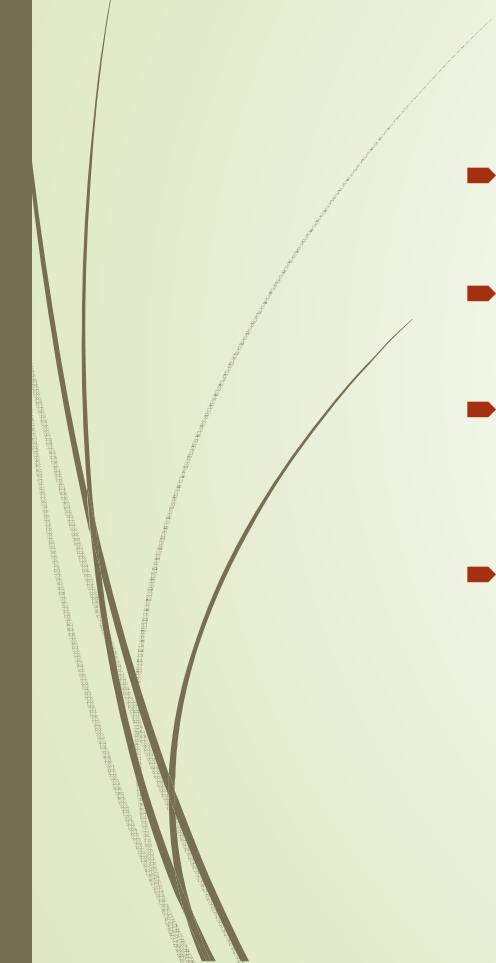
## Foster Rearing set up



- ▶ Wooden incubation area for the broody hen. 15" Length X 24" Width X 22" Height.
- ▶ Wire area for chicks 36" Length X 24" Width X 22" Height.
- ▶ Both sides open from the top for cleaning and there is a shift door that locks the hen or chicks on either side for cleaning.



## Wooden Broody Box next steps.

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- ▶ Generally we try to hatch the egg under the chicken hen. Broody hen management can be intensive and is another presentation in itself.
  - ▶ The same procedure is followed as the hand-reared chick. Umbilicus swabbed with iodine, weight twice a day, fresh diets through-out the day.
  - ▶ One of the major differences with this rearing method is the amount of food being feed! Your hen will enjoy the treats just as much as the collection chick.
  - ▶ This is one of the easiest forms of rearing once you have an established broody hen flock. The chicks gain weight faster and tend to be less imprinted than the other rearing options.

## Broody rearing



- ▶ One of the downsides to this rearing method is domestic hens are messy and cleaning will need to occur more frequently.
- ▶ More live food will need to be offered than the other rearing methods.
- ▶ This method is very dependent on how your broody hens behave so it will need to be very carefully monitored for the first days to weeks.

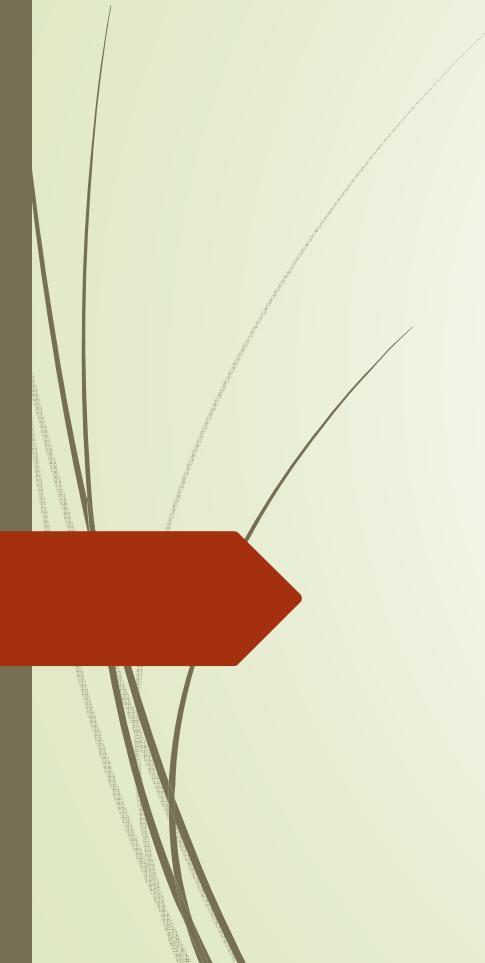
## Broody rearing

- ▶ After the chick breaks hatch weight and is noted to be acting well.
- ▶ The chick and the chicken chick are moved into a gravel enclosure. Soft introductions are not done.
- ▶ The chick as in the other rearing methods stops being weighed at 4pm.
- ▶ Hens sometimes start displacing chicks when they start to cycle again. Just watch carefully for displacement.





Any Questions?



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