

Bochon



The Red Rooster

Let me tell you a story about a red rooster named **Bochon**, which means fat in Spanish. **Bochon** lives in the city and is king of the **Chick-Chick Kingdom**.

In the **Chick-Chick Kingdom** there are 6 red hens, 1 white hen and **Bochon** the king. All live together happily except the one white hen. You could say she has an attitude problem but really I think she is number one in the **pecking order**. She does not like to share the nice juicy worms in the yard. She gets the first and best of everything or she pecks the other hens.



Bochon is such a great leader, he awakes early each morning and begins to crow: cock-a-doole-do to let everyone know it is time to wake up. They want to get started early because they say,

“the early bird gets the worm”.



Sometimes chickens live in very large flocks in chicken houses and never get to go out doors, but the **Chick-Chick Kingdom** can stay in or go out doors. When there was snow on the ground they stayed in doors because they had no shoes. When spring came they were able to go out **forging**. This means searching and eating natural things from the yard such as worms, crickets and green grass.



There is a fence to keep them out of the garden but many times the hens will stick their head through the fence because they say,

“the grass is greener on the other side the fence”.



Bochon is always looking out for predators, that is other animals that will eat the chickens. If he sees a big bird fly over head or any other animal near he clucks to warn the hens. He also helps them find food. He clucks to call the hens and lets them eat first. He picks up a piece of food and drops it for the hens to eat.



Now the hens have a job to do also: each day they lay a brown egg in the nesting boxes in the chicken house. Some hens lay their egg early before going out doors forging and others come back later in the day to lay their egg. The nesting boxes have hay to make a soft nest for the eggs so they do not break.



Most of the eggs are laid in one or two nest that's because hens like to lay where there is already an egg. Sometimes a hen will wait for the nest if there is another hen in the box even though there are other empty boxes. When they finish laying they cackle loudly to announce they are done. Maybe they are saying look, look what I got.



The hens love to take a bath every day but it isn't what you think. Their bath is in the dirt. They scratch in the dirt, make holes, lay in the dirt and fluff their feathers making the dirt fly. You might think that is not a very good bath but it helps keep the mites and other insects away.





Now when the day is done and the sun goes down they go into the chicken house to roost. In the chicken house there are poles from one side to the other side for roosting. The Chick-Chick Kingdom all climb up a ladder and get on the poles for the night. Why do you think they would sleep standing on a pole ? They feel safer up high and ready for a quick take off if a predator tries to sneak up on them. If you had to stand on a pole all night you would fall off when you went to sleep but the chickens do not. The tendons or muscles in their legs lock their toes around the pole so they do not fall.



This has been a day in the **Chick-Chick Kingdom** with **Bochon** the ruler.