

Route 99 Silkies

Quick Start Guide to Hatching Eggs

Thank you for choosing Route 99 to be your trusted silkie breeder! We are excited to welcome you to the Route 99 family! With a little patience, care, and attention to detail, you'll soon be welcoming fluffy bundles of joy into the world —let's get cracking! .

Your Quick Start Guide to Hatching Eggs

Transporting and Shipping Eggs: What to do and What to Expect	<p>Transporting eggs locally: Use an insulated, cushioned container to keep eggs stable and protect them from temperature changes during car rides.</p> <p>Inspect packaging and eggs: Carefully unpack each egg if shipped, ensuring eggs are well-packed and intact, with no cracks or damage.</p> <p>Rest shipped eggs: Let shipped and transported eggs settle at room temperature, large end up, for 12–24 hours before incubation.</p> <p>Store eggs properly: If not incubating immediately, keep eggs cool (50–60°F), slightly humid, and upright. Avoid refrigeration.</p> <p>Mark for turning: Use a pencil to mark eggs with “X” and “O” for tracking during incubation. This will allow you to make sure they are being turned adequately.</p>
Setting Up Your Incubator: Creating the Ideal Environment	<p>Cleanliness First: Begin by thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting the incubator to remove any bacteria or contaminants. This reduces the risk of infection to the eggs.</p> <p>Preheating: Set the incubator to 99.5°F (37.5°C) and let it stabilize for several hours or overnight to ensure consistent temperature.</p> <p>Humidity Setup: Maintain humidity levels between 40%–50% for the initial stages of incubation. Use a hygrometer to monitor levels and add water trays or adjust ventilation to regulate humidity.</p> <p>Placing the Eggs: Lay the eggs on their sides or place them with the pointed end slightly downward. This positioning ensures proper embryo orientation and development. Keep some space between the eggs to allow for air circulation and even temperature distribution.</p>
Temperature, Humidity, and Turning: The Essentials for Healthy Development	<p>Stable Temperature: For forced-air incubators, keep the temperature at 99.5°F, and for still-air incubators, aim for 101°F at the top of the eggs to compensate for uneven air circulation.</p> <p>Humidity Levels: Maintain humidity at 40%–50% for the first 18 days, then increase to 65%–75% during the final three days (lockdown period) to support hatching.</p> <p>Egg Turning: If your incubator does not have an automatic turning system, turn the eggs by hand 3–5 times daily to prevent the embryo from sticking to the shell, and stop turning three days before hatch day to allow the chicks to position themselves for hatching. If your incubator has an automatic turning system, this will be done for you. Follow the directions for your specific incubator.</p>

Candling Eggs: Monitoring Progress Like a Pro	<p>Candling Schedule: Candle the eggs around days 7, 14, and 18 to check for proper embryo development.</p> <p>What to Look For: At day 7, look for visible veins and a dark spot indicating the embryo; at day 14, check for increased development and movement; and at day 18, observe a well-defined air cell and reduced light penetration due to the chick's growth.</p> <p>Removing Eggs: Discard any eggs that show no signs of development, such as being clear with no veins, or that are damaged, to prevent contamination of healthy eggs.</p>
Hatch Day: What to Expect	<p>Avoid Interruptions: 3 days before hatching, put your eggs in 'lockdown'. In these last 3 crucial days, turning of the eggs stops. Do not open the incubator once hatching begins to ensure stable temperature and humidity conditions.</p> <p>Patience is Key: Be patient, as hatching can take 24–48 hours from the first pip (the small crack in the shell).</p> <p>Drying the Chicks: Allow the chicks to dry completely in the incubator before transferring them to a warm brooder with food and water.</p>

Disclaimer

This quick start guide is intended to provide general information and recommendations for successful hatching. While we have made every effort to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information provided, it is not a substitute for professional veterinary advice. Always consult with a qualified veterinarian or poultry specialist for specific guidance.

Hatching rates can vary widely depending on numerous factors such as the quality and fertility of the eggs, incubator conditions, and handling practices. While this guide provides best practices for incubation and hatching, we cannot guarantee specific hatching outcomes and bear no responsibility for the success or failure of hatching rates.

Thank you for choosing us as your hatching egg supplier. We wish you the best of luck on this rewarding journey!

Questions? Contact Us!

	Route 99 Silkies www.route99silkie.com
	530-514-7427 (call or text - text for best response time)
	route99silkie@gmail.com