

# Social Media Silkie Style



Social media has found its way into the silkie world. For better... Or for worse, we must all come to terms

with the new found freedom of voice Social Media has allowed us to discover.

The biggest social media site we all know and love, Facebook, has given us an endless outlet to make our own personal page full of pictures of fluff butts and silkie stories that make even our chicken-less friends laugh. For the sad losses that we suffer through... our Facebook friends are there for us and support us through the grief. Facebook has also allowed us to meet people all over the world who share the love of silkies. I call some of my "Chicken Facebook Friends" the best friends I have. Have I met them in person? Nope, not all of them, however I share my heart and soul with them.

Not only do we have our own personal page, Facebook has also given us a platform to create our very own farm page to advertise our birds or hatching eggs, and show off those feathers! I know a lot of folks who use their farm pages to keep the chickens off of their personal page. Either way, it is a fun way to "have a website" so to speak, for your silkies, and update all your friends and fans on the daily happenings down on the farm. I like to have fun giveaways on my farm page just to see people interacting! In fact, if you did not already know, the American Silkie Bantam Club has our own Facebook page. If you have not liked it yet, I will insert link at the end of this.

One last facets of Facebook I must not leave out is the group feature. I am fairly certain everyone reading this article is in at least one chicken Facebook group or another. The "groups" factor has been an on again and off again joy of mine. I am an administrator for at least

3 groups, 2 of them being fairly large; and while I love sharing with others, and watching them share, I also gain by learning from the other members. While the groups function of Facebook has put like minded people together, it has taken me personally, a good 2 years to find the groups I am comfortable in, to learn what I am comfortable sharing in a such a public setting and what I feel should be kept on my private page.

While Facebook and the Silkie community have come together quite nicely in most aspects, and social media has been a positive attribute to sharing our passion for silkies, there are plenty of drawbacks to this never ending source of personalities. While I do not have a degree in sociology, I do know we are all different, we all handle situations differently, and each and every one of us has a unique personality that will not always mesh with one another. When it comes to interacting with other silkie peeps on Facebook I have learned a few good personal rules I try to abide by. Some were definitely learned the hard way. I am sure I am not telling you anything you do not know by now, but a reminder never hurts. :)

It is so important to remember that we cannot hear inflection in the typed word. Now, someone can throw an "all caps" paragraph at you... yes, and then you know they are angry. Sometimes the way I may interpret your typed word is completely different than how you meant it. Or vice-versa. Never hurts to be upfront and direct and ask how it was meant to be taken.

Be honest, be private, and don't gossip. The very best thing about being honest is you don't have to remember who you lied to about what! When it comes to being private, I mean this in the simplest form. Do not divulge your past negative silkie dealings and drop names via Facebook Chat or in groups. I have a motto I always tell my employees: "Whoever you gossip about to someone... that person will hear about it eventually. Including myself and what you say about me." And that is the gosh darn truth. There is no way around it.

Most have realized by now via social

media and the internet, that there are conflicting diagnosis and treatments on the web. We all have ways we treat our feathered babies when they're ill. Please remember that just because it's online, doesn't make it true or reliable. Seek the advice of a true professional, or at least a reliable website such as [www.MerckVeterinary](http://www.MerckVeterinary). It's is far better to treated by avian vet when possible, than to waste precious time guessing and treating with the wrong remedy. For this reason, I caution anyone who attempts to use "one size fits all" treatments for anything from parasites to respiratory infections and everything in between. 9 times out of 10, a fecal, or cultures should be done so you know you are treating the condition correctly.

Another lessoned learned: Do not pass judgment on someone so quickly. You heard a story, or saw a post in that group. Remember there are always 3 sides to every story: Yours, mine, and the truth. In these poultry review groups you are usually hearing one side of the story. Keep your mind and heart open to the fact that not everything you read is the gospel.

Last but not least... it is just Facebook. I will repeat. It is just Facebook. We all obviously have a seriously fun hobby outside of the Facebook world, or you would not be a part of this awesome club! So when dealing with an online Facebook aggravation, remember it is just that - *online*. Your real "offline" world is waiting for you as soon as you look away from the screen.

~ Gretchen



**"Joey" - Catching up on his Facebook Page**