

VIDEO TRANSCRIPT

**BROILER
CHICKENS**

How are Chickens Raised for Meat in Australia?
Chicken Welfare in the Meat Industry.

HOW ARE CHICKENS RAISED FOR MEAT IN AUSTRALIA?



SUMMARY

This 2-minute animated educational video invites students to consider the animal welfare issues associated with the production of chicken meat in Australia.

It provides a brief introduction to chicken biology/behaviour, and an overview of the chicken meat production process, and the key welfare issues experienced by broiler chickens.

Through reflection, students are encouraged to critically think about the use of broiler chickens for meat production in Australia.

Contains no graphic footage. Suitable for use in high school classrooms for Years 7 and above.

Music & Sound Effects by South Walk Sounds
southwalksounds.com

Animation & Design by Room3 Film and Animation for Not For Profits
room3.com.au

Voice Over by Bronwen Logan
bronwenlogan.com

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How are Chickens Raised for Meat in Australia?
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Over 600 million chickens are slaughtered in Australia every year. That's over 24 times the number of humans in Australia.

Chickens are **intelligent** animals. They can count to five and learn faster than human toddlers.

They're very sociable and have a pecking order.

In a natural environment, they prefer to live in small flocks and sleep in tree branches, perch on bushes, forage for insects, make nests, bathe in dust and do all the things that chickens enjoy doing.

In intensive farming systems, most meat chickens live out their lives in windowless sheds until they're taken to the **slaughterhouse**.

The stocking density within these sheds is high, with typical sheds housing approximately 40,000 chickens in a space only slightly larger than 5 basketball courts.

This can cause suffering and stress, as it's harder for them to express their natural behaviour.

Due to **selective breeding** & feed, they grow at a very fast rate.

They can grow from chick to slaughter age in just 35 days – a much shorter lifespan than the at least 7-year lifespan of their relations in the wild.

It can be difficult for their young bodies to support this sudden weight gain. Fast growth makes the process quicker and more profitable.

Some chickens are farmed differently, in **free-range** or organic systems. However, there can still be welfare issues in these farms as well.

Like all **sentient** animals, chickens deserve to be treated with respect and compassion and live free from suffering.

Words in **bold font** are defined on the [Voiceless Animal Protection Encyclopedia](#) on the Voiceless website.