

# MEET OUR ANIMALS

## Introducing: Our Plymouth Rock Chickens



At Diamond Forest Farm Stay we have two types of chickens. The larger type of chickens that we have here are Plymouth Rocks. Plymouth Rocks are large, long lived birds and we initially brought them to Diamond Forest Farm Stay because we thought they would be great to have free range wandering the farm. We thought, because they are such a large bird, that they wouldn't be so easily taken by foxes. Unfortunately, because Plymouth Rocks are bigger they can be a bit bossy and they weren't particularly friendly so now we keep them in their own special pen. There are lots of different varieties of Plymouth Rocks but we have what is called the Barred Plymouth Rock (because of the colours of their feathers) and I think you will agree they are quite a pretty looking chicken.

### Did you know?

- We have both roosters and hens in our pen. Can you tell the difference?
- A rooster has a bigger and brighter comb (The comb is the tuft of flesh that you see on the head of a chicken. The reason for the bright comb is for the rooster to be able to attract the hen's attention.
- The wattle (the flesh that is hanging from under the chin) is larger and brighter on a rooster than it is on a hen, also.
- A rooster has brighter colours than a hen and is much larger. The feathers of a rooster are also longer, especially the tails, but those of a hen are thicker.
- A rooster's tail and neck feathers are longer and brighter than those of hens.
- Roosters are the only ones that crow. Hens make a clucking sound.
- Roosters can be very bossy birds. They rule the roost while the hens lay the eggs.

### Our Secret

We have one Plymouth Rock chicken that is very friendly. Her name is Elsie. Elsie was born with a deformed leg so she is not able to mingle with the other Plymouth Rock chickens. To keep her safe we keep her in with friendly Cochin Bantam Chickens in the other pen. Here she has her own cage to make sure she doesn't miss out on food and water. During the day she gets around quite well amongst the other chickens and at night we put her to roost in her own cage so the other chickens don't bother her.