

YOUR NEW FRIENDS

CHICKENS



By Kai & Arianna Nakashima



Chickens have been domesticated for over 5,000 years, originally kept in India, and bred from their wild cousin, the Red Jungle Fowl.

Chickens have been kept for their eggs, meat, and feathers,
but some breeds were developed for their beauty alone.



Chickens can make good pets, some become very friendly -
but watch out for roosters - you don't want to get between
him and his family!



Roosters are the male counter parts of chickens.
They often have longer tails, and fancier wattles and combs.

Cock-a-
Doodle-Do!

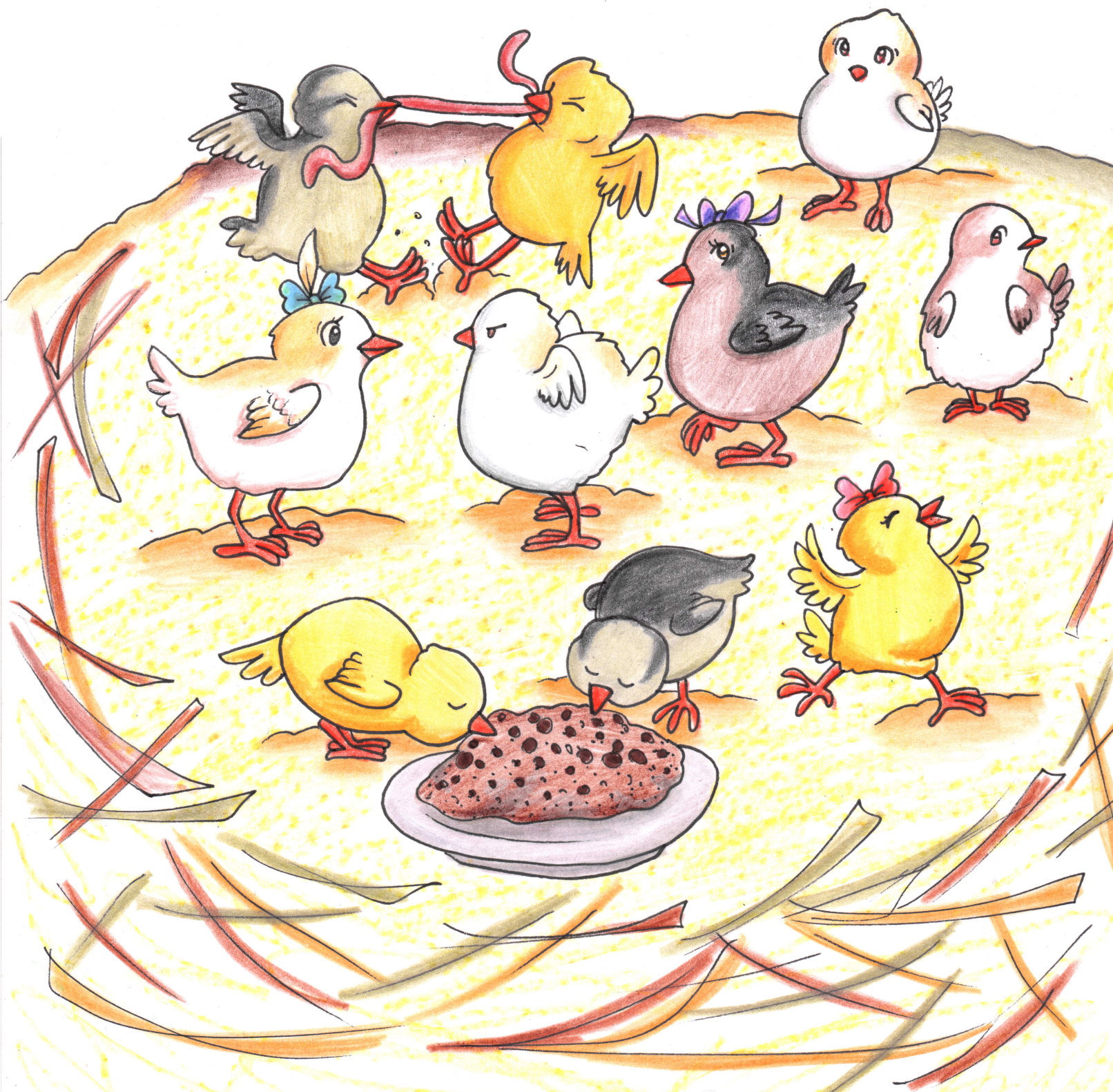


Roosters do not lay eggs. They protect their hens and territory from predators, and give crowing calls to let other roosters know the territory has been claimed. If they must fight, they have spurs on their legs which can be used like claws.

Hens are the female birds. They are called pullets when they are under a year old.

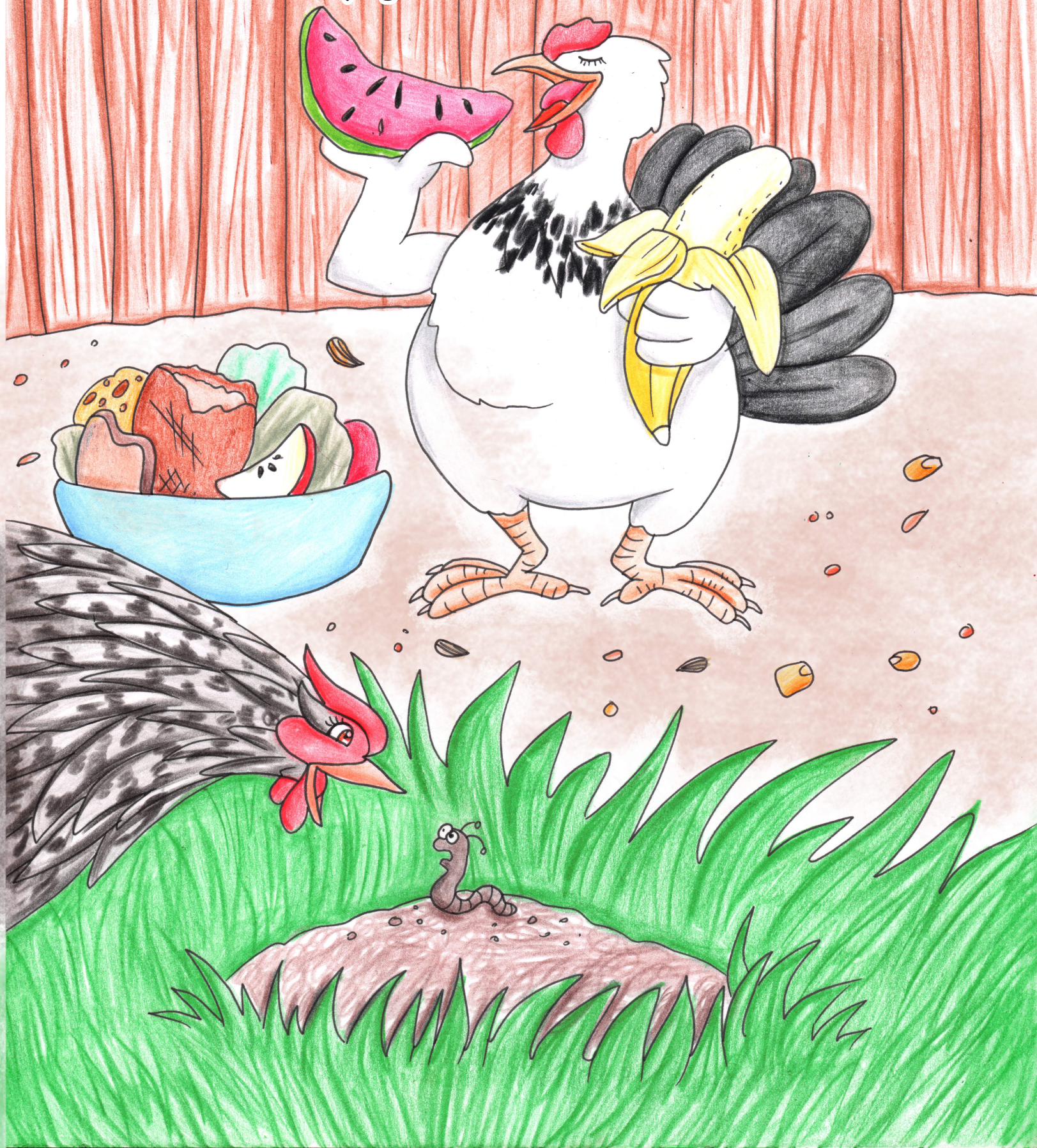


Hens lay the eggs. Some breeds lay white eggs, while others lay brown eggs. Easter Egger chickens can lay blue, pink, and green eggs!



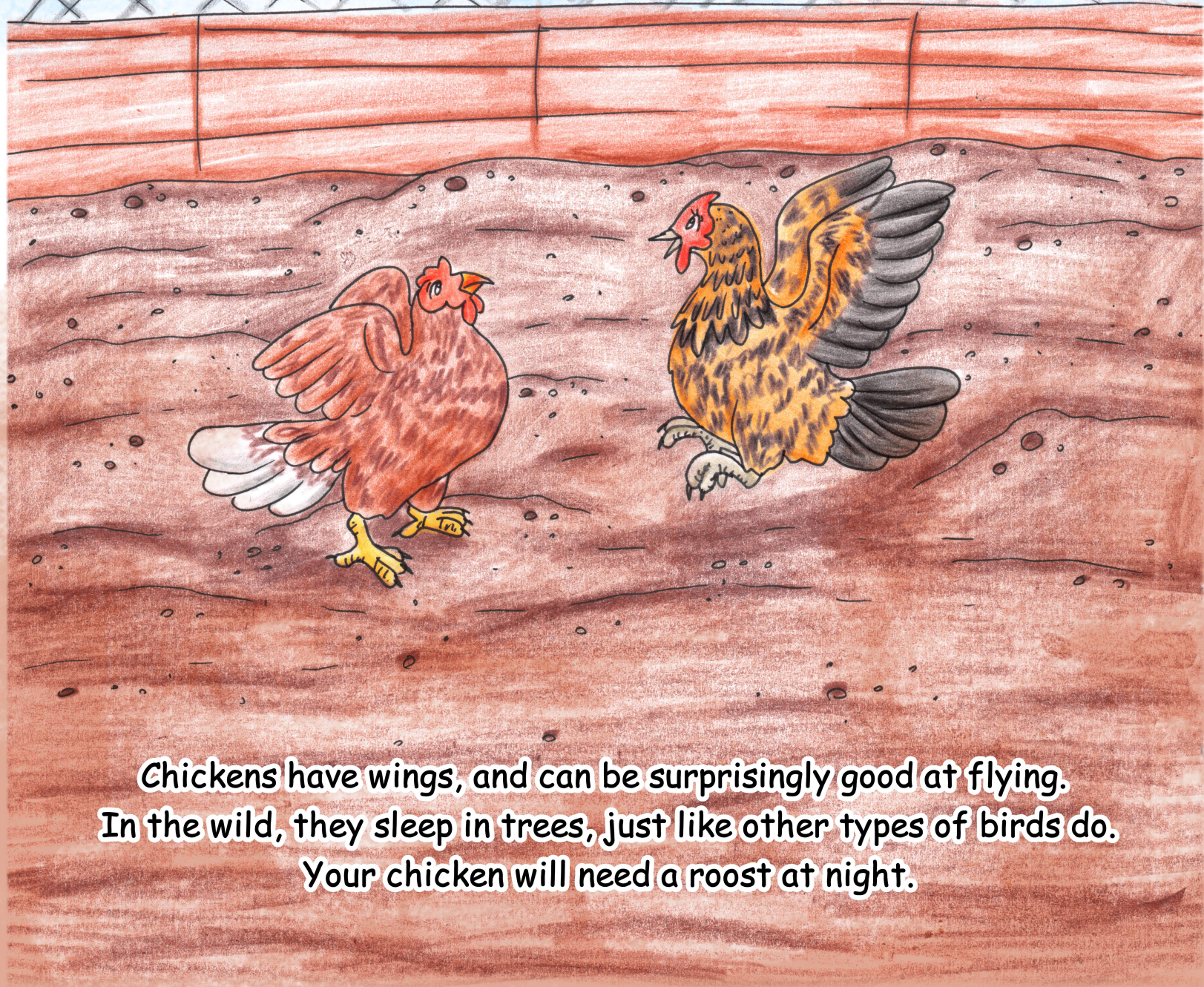
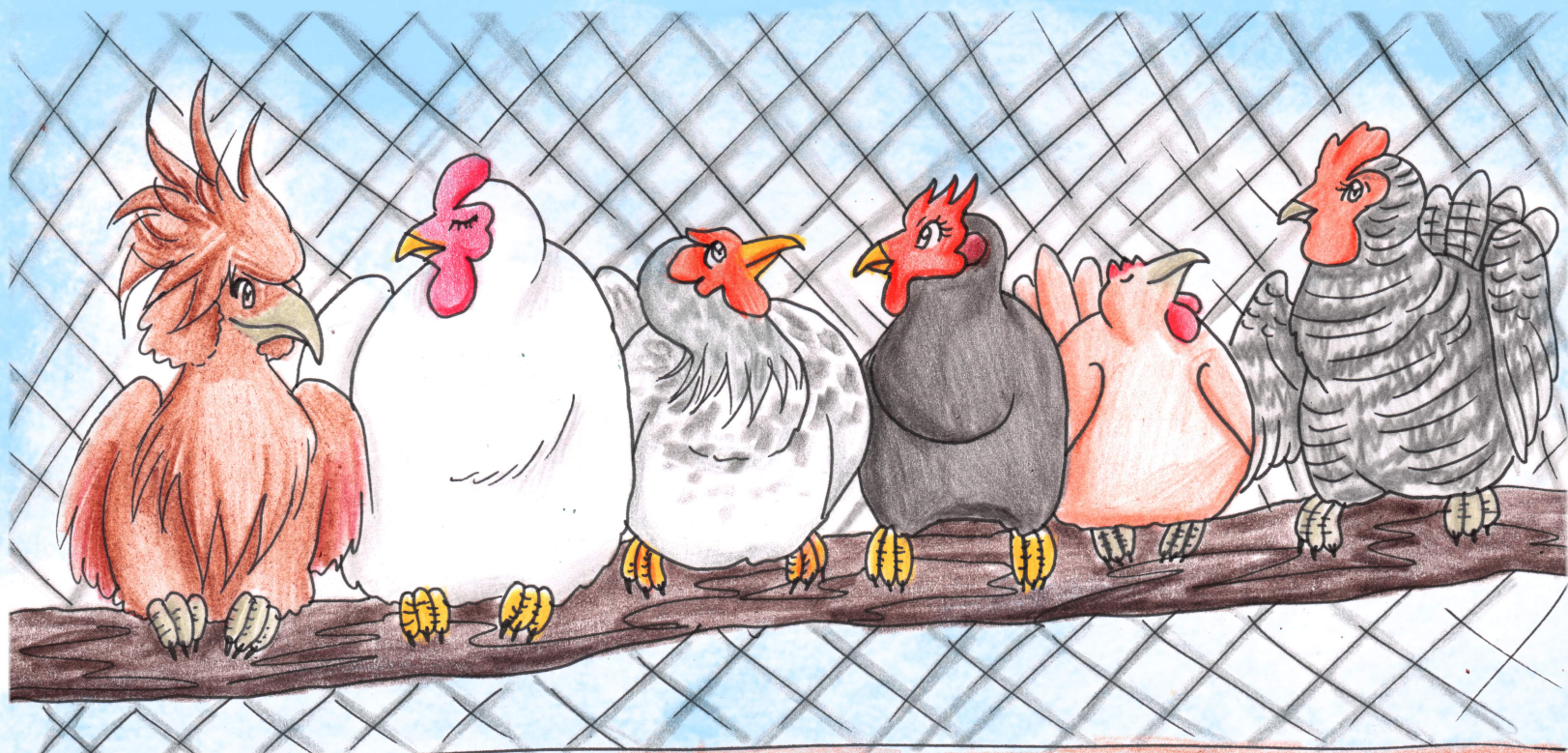
Baby chickens are called chicks. They are precocial, which means they can walk, eat, see, and hear upon hatching, though they still have to be kept warm, and shown where to find food and water.

Chickens eat a variety of foods, so they will love your table scraps!
They relish scratching around in the grass for bugs and worms.
They do eat seeds and grains, but too many can create a chubby chicken!
Laying hens need extra calcium.



Chickens love dust baths!





Chickens have wings, and can be surprisingly good at flying.
In the wild, they sleep in trees, just like other types of birds do.
Your chicken will need a roost at night.

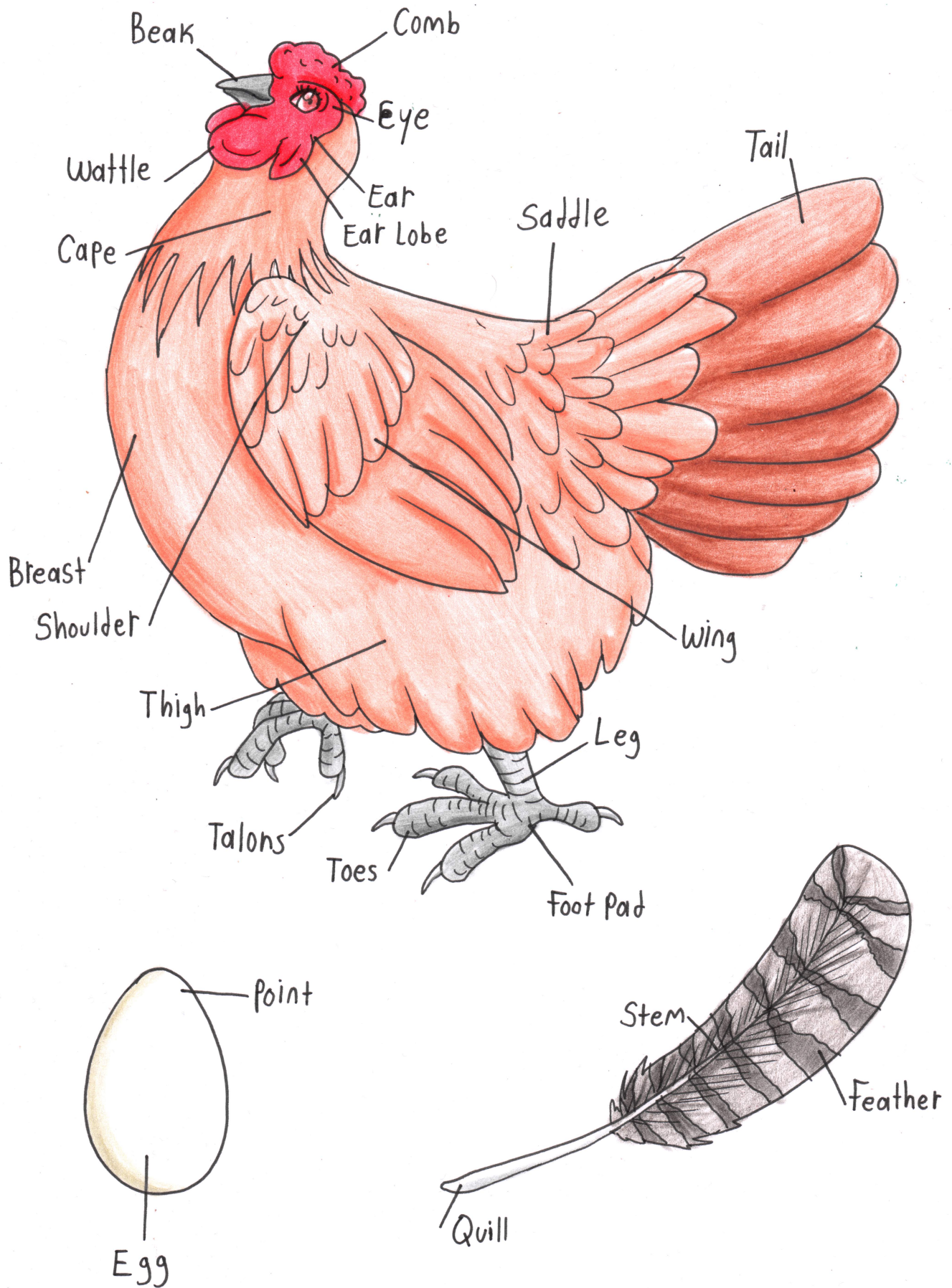


Most likely, your bird will live in a coop, which will keep them out of the elements, and safe from predators at night. Providing a nest box in the coop will make egg collecting easier.

Chicken behavior includes that of a pecking order. This means, that if a rooster is present, he is "alpha". If not, the biggest, oldest, or most secure hen takes on the alpha role, teaching the younger generations how to be a chicken.



Chicken anatomy



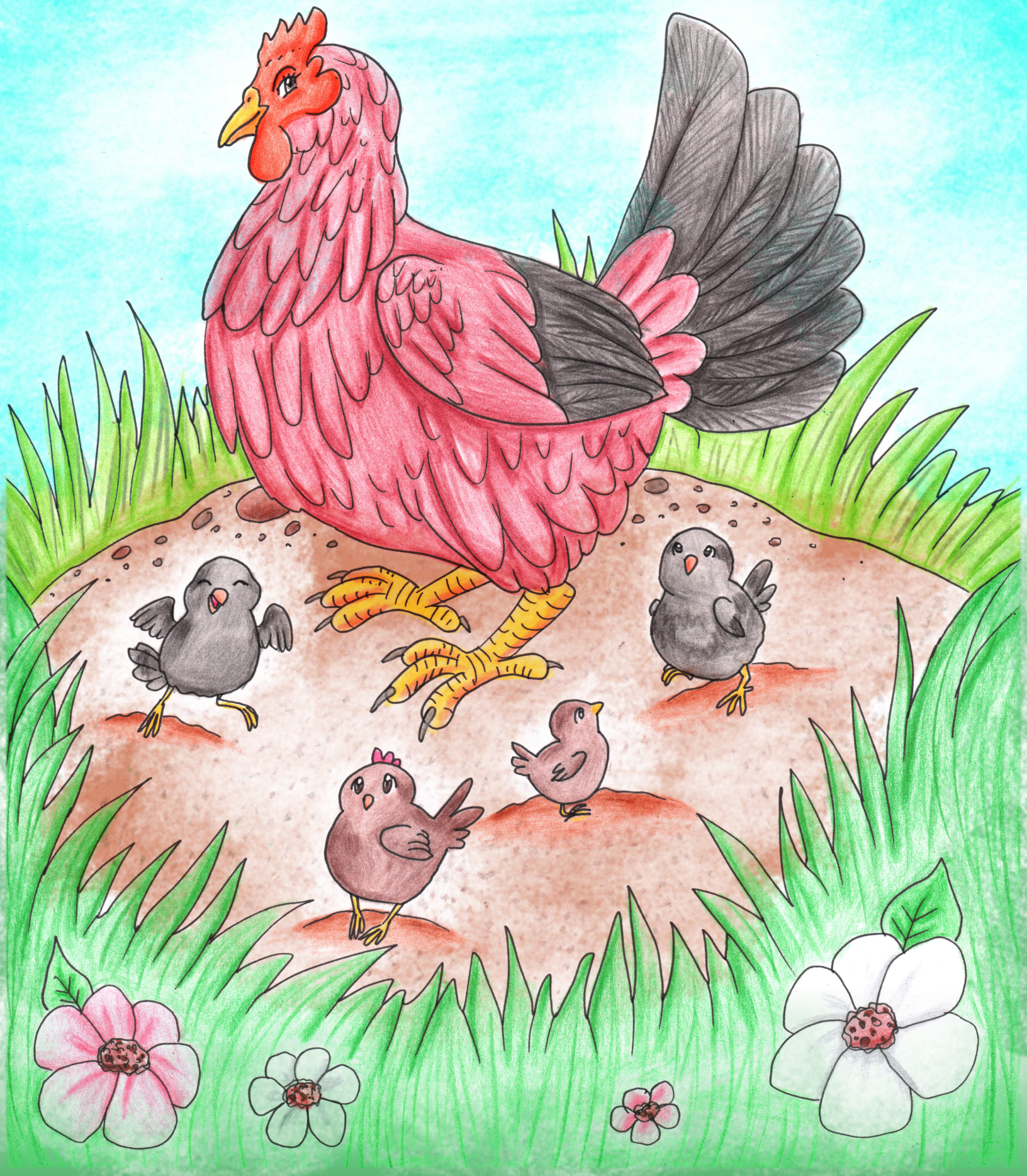
Chickens are very useful not only for their eggs, but also in helping your garden. They till the land with their scratching, fertilize plants with their manure, and eat pests in the garden.





They are also a lot of fun to watch! Some have big personalities!

Chickens are great!





For Zelda, Zofia, Tulip, and Treea.
And of course, the little rooster from across
the street (aka: Mr. Rooster),
whom came out of no where to delight us all.