## Who is the laying hen?

### She is a forest bird

Hens have an average lifespan of 7 to 8 years, whereas in commercial production they are slaughtered at around 1.5 years of age, after their egg production starts to drop



### How do laying hens spend their **dav**

## Sleeping and resting

### **Dust-bathing**

## Foraging, scratching and pecking

### Perching

## What does the laying hen want?

## 

A variety of comfortable places to perch Easy access to good feed and water

Shelter for protection

A safe, quiet, and high place to rest undisturbed

To interact with

other hens

To enjoy a good dust bath

### Sleeping and resting

Hens need at least 8 hours of continuous darkness to be able to have a good rest on a high perch

> Laying eggs Hens lay an average of one egg per day. They like a secluded, quiet nesting area

Perching Hens like to sleep, rest and perform vigilant behaviour on a high perch.

Hens love to dustbathe - it's comforting, refreshing, and keeps their feathers in good condition

Foraging, scratching and pecking Hens keep busy exploring their environment by foraging, pecking & scratching in suitable substrates

Socialising Hens form complex hierarchies and love spending time with each other

Eating and drinking

## Socialising

Laying eggs

Possibilities to forage, peck and scratch

To run and flap her wings

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**Opportunities to explore** their complex environment

> A safe and secluded place to nest

### Dust-bathing

# What do laying hens think?

### Hens are intelligent animals and social beasts!

They can recognise over 100 faces

They dream too!

They can produce over 30 different sounds to communicate with other hens

### How can we provide laying hens with a good quality of life?





