



Mary Robinson shows off Hootie's bird diaper which keeps everything around him clean.

Bird Diaper Keeps Pet Chicken Clean

When Mary Robinson read a recent FARM SHOW story about diapers for birds, it had special meaning for her because she has a pet chicken living in her house.

"He's just like a member of the family," says Robinson who, with husband, Dick, has about 350 chickens on their farm near Princeton, Minn.

After "reviving" a cold, stiff and almost dead chick that is a cross between a Silkie and a Bantam, it ended up staying inside.

Houdini, or "Hootie" for short, is quite a character. Mary says he understands a lot of what they say. For example, if you ask him if he wants to go for a ride, he'll beat you to the door.

When Mary works on the computer, Hootie perches nearby, keeping her company. He also accompanies her to town, sitting on her lap in the car.

Mary has mixed feelings about her new bird diapers. Before she got them, she always carried a box of tissues with her to clean up the bird's messes, which are small because the bird is on the small side. The new diaper eliminates the need for tissues but Hootie doesn't like it. "If I ask him, 'Do you want your diaper?,' he runs the other way," she says, adding that she often just doesn't put it on.

Dick has his own ideas about having a chicken as a pet. "I don't recommend taking anything from the food chain and making it a pet," he jokes. "It's hard to eat chicken now. It's like a cannibal playing cards with his next meal."



Hootie perches on the front seat when riding in the car.



Diapers can be adjusted to fit any size bird.

Bird diapers are available at www.birddiaper.com (or ph. 888 412-7667).

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Mary and Dick Robinson, 3859 50th Ave., Princeton, Minn. 55371 (ph 763 389-2224).

Decoy Urns Hold Dog Remains

Steve Ree, of Jennings Decoy Company, has been making wood decoys for more than 20 years. When his brother's beloved hunting dog, Nellie, died, Ree suggested putting the dog's ashes inside a special decoy.

Nellie's ashes were actually put into three decoys. Two are waterproof for hunting and one is a mantle piece work of art for the home. "This fall we will use the hunting decoys for the first time and we expect Nellie to hunt with us for many years to come," Ree says.

He says it costs about \$120 to cremate a dog.

To create a decoy, Ree hollows out a piece of wood then seals it. After the ashes are put in, the decoy is put together with waterproof glue. Then, it's finished and painted. The decoys are designed to last 50 years or longer.

Ree's mantle piece urns can either be sealed or he can make a screw-together urn so you can put the ashes in yourself.

He says it takes about a month to create each decoy because everything is hand made. "We don't do anything until we get an order," he says.

The hunting decoys cost \$259 and both



Decoy urns can be used for hunting.

types of mantle decoys cost \$169 plus \$10 S&H. He makes Canvasback, Mallard and Bluebill decoys and other species upon request.

For \$35 extra, the duck decoys come with a three-tier wooden base with a plaque on it.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jennings Decoy Company, 601 Franklin Ave. NE, St. Cloud, Minn. 56301 (ph 800 331-5613 or 320 253-2253; website: www.jenningsdecoycompany.com).

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"Unihorned" Holstein is 4 years old and weighs 2,017 lbs.

Want To Buy A Unicorn?

"Yes, it's a real unicorn!"

That's the headline we spotted in a magazine recently over the photo of a Holstein steer with a single horn in the middle of its forehead. It's owned by Dale Sechen, a dairy farmer near Mason, Wis.

According to Sechen, the "uni-horned" Holstein was born with just the one horn. "Within six weeks of age, we noticed a bump on the forehead," he says.

Now, four years later, that bump is about

18 in. long and Sechen wants to sell the creature. "I figured there are people out there who could put him in a show and make money."

The 2,017-lb. Holstein is tame. "He'll approach you. He'll come right up to you and lick you," Sechen says.

Whoever comes up with \$25,000 will own the creature.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dale & Donna Sechen, 62910 Moonshine Alley Rd., Mason, Wis. 54856 (ph 715 746-2329).



David Ireys says his grandkids love his mini Mack, which is powered by a 3 1/2 hp gas engine.

1/4-Scale Mack Truck

David Ireys of Edina, Minn., built this 1/4-scale 1925 Mack Bulldog truck. The body is made entirely from wood.

"We built it for our two kids in the early 70's," says Ireys. "The kids in our neighborhood would come over and ask if the Little Red Truck could come over and play. They loved to go for rides in it. The truck was restored for our three grandkids in 1998 and we continue to drive it in parades today."

The truck is powered by a 3 1/2 hp gas

engine.

The frame is made from 1 1/4-in. sq. steel tubing. Four leaf springs provide suspension at all four corners. The front axle is made from 1 by 1/2-in. steel. A pie-shaped piece of a car flywheel and the gear from the car's starter provide a simple rack and pinion steering.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, David Ireys, 6348 Mildred, Edina, Minn. 55439 (ph 952 943-8357).