



The sexing of chicks has always been a difficult task. Professional chicken sexers perform an internal examination of the reproductive organs. This has to be done within 24 hours of hatching, as the organs then recede and cannot be seen. These sexers inspect up to 10 000 per day and have an accuracy of 95%.

There are, however, some breeds and strains of chicken where males and females display different characteristics at a young age. The chicks supplied with your programme can quite easily be sexed.

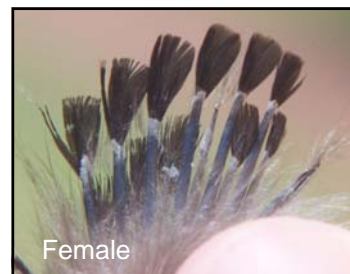
Your chicks are of two strains, **Black** and **Brown**. Both strains can be sexed at time of hatching and for several days after. However the methods are different for each type.

Black Strain

These are sexed by inspecting the wing feathers. At the end of the wing are two sets of feathers. The top row are the **Coverts** and the bottom row are the **Primaries**.



The **Male** has equal length Primaries and Coverts.



The **Female** has long Primaries and short Coverts

Exceptions.

Some chicks will have longer coverts than Primaries. These are Males.

(If in doubt assume they are Males)

Brown Strain

These are sexed by colour. The Females are brown and the Males are white.



Exceptions.

Some light coloured chicks will display two bold stripes down their back **and** have brown heads. These are females. Indistinct lines are Males.
(If in doubt, assume they are Males)

General Observations.

With many breeds wing feather growth is faster in females. At about 10 days old, some males will stand prouder and taller than the females, and may display a dominant attitude.