

“The Impact of Humans On Chickens.”

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Abstract

When studying the impact of humans on chickens, the main goal is to understand how human activities and interventions affect their behavior, health, and overall well-being. Through experiments, researchers aim to identify the specific ways in which humans influence chickens and their environment. By measuring chicken behavior, health parameters, genetic diversity, and environmental conditions, researchers gain insight into the effects of human interventions on chickens and the overall ecosystem. This knowledge helps in developing strategies for promoting ethical and sustainable practices in chicken husbandry and conservation.

BackGround

The experiment was aimed to understand how human activities impact chickens and their environment. By studying behavior, health, genetics, and environment, I have identified ways humans influence chickens. The goal was to develop ethical and sustainable practices in chicken care, promoting their well-being and the ecosystem. Over the years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of promoting ethical and sustainable practices in animal husbandry. This research aims to contribute to that effort by shedding light on how human interventions affect chickens and their environment.

Impact On The Environment

- Animals help with pollination, pest control, and climate control
- Chicken species play an important role in maintaining insect populations and helping control pest populations
- **Chickens can eat dozens of insects in an hour**
- Overcrowding, poor sanitation, and improper waste management = Pollution, disease transmission, and reduced welfare for chickens
- Without humans, there would be less pollution in the environment
- The removal of just one animal species can have a lasting irreversible change on the environment

Impact On The Ecosystem

- Plants need animals
- Reproduces pollen from plant-to-plant and spreading seeds
- Chickens control pests, weeds, provide fertilizer through their droppings, and help with soil aeration
- Wild animals feast on seeds found from various types of plants
- Chickens can control pests from plants from their foraging behavior
- They help with soil fertility by scratching and pecking, which helps to aerate the soil and distribute organic matter
- Chickens can also be apart of sustainable farming practices, such as regenerative agriculture, which focuses on soil health and biodiversity

Effects On Animal Behavior

- Humans inferring in wildlife can impact their behaviour -> animals may be more vigilant towards humans which can lead to decreased forage intake and reduced reproduction
- Humans trigger increase of vigilance and some species are much more likely to be disturbed by humans than by non-human predators
- Overcrowded or stressful environments can lead to aggressive behavior among chickens
- The type and quality of feed provided can affect their health and behavior
- The way humans handle and interact with chickens can influence their trust and socialization
- It's important for humans to provide a safe and enriching environment for chickens to thrive in

Effects On Social Structures

- Human presence can cause groups of herds to split up from their pact
- Humans can influence chicken social structures by determining the composition of their flock, their living conditions, and the interactions they have with other chickens
- Humans may choose to keep chickens in small or large groups, which can affect their social dynamics
- The way humans introduce new chickens to an existing flock can impact their social hierarchy and relationships
- Providing a positive and enriching environment can help promote healthy social interactions among chickens

Pollution

- Animals are exposed to having respiratory diseases like asthma
- Toxic fumes and smog damage the lungs of animals
- Polluted air can cause weak immune systems and other infectious diseases
- Wild animals can deal with liver conditions because they do not always have access to clean water
- Possibility of extinction - animals need fresh air to breathe in to survive and not having this increases the chances of wiping out a whole species
- Exposure to contaminants can lead to dying from poisoning or suffocation

Endangering Animal Populations

- Crop farming, livestock grazing, mining, and pesticide use have taken an extreme toll on endangering wildlife populations
- Decline of species diversity due to lack of access to food and other resources diminishing
- Habitat destruction and loss of natural habitats can negatively impact wild chicken populations
- Irresponsible breeding practices and genetic manipulation can lead to health issues and reduced genetic diversity in domestic chicken populations
- The use of pesticides and chemicals in agriculture can contaminate chicken feed and water resources, posing risks to their health
- It's important for humans to prioritize conservation efforts and responsible farming practices to protect chicken populations

Habitat Destruction

- Fast-growing human population and even faster development of land is wiping out habitats like never seen before
- Rapid expansion and fast use of resources destroyed and disconnected vital wildlife habitats
- Deforestation, urbanization, and land conversion for agriculture can destroy chickens habitats

➤ Actions result in the loss of natural vegetation and nesting sites for chickens

- Pollution from industrial activities and improper waste disposal can degrade the quality of their habitats
 - It's crucial for humans to be mindful of the impact of their actions on the environment and take steps to preserve and restore chicken habitats
 - According to a study by the *World Wildlife Fund*, deforestation alone has resulted in the loss of approximately 80% of the chicken's natural habitats worldwide
 - Loss of habitat threatens their survival and biodiversity
- It's important for humans to be aware of the consequences of habitat destruction and take measures to protect and restore chicken habitats

Impact On Animal Agriculture

- Animal agriculture is a leading cause of animal suffering and the most intensification of the industry
- Ex: Antibiotic misuse, animal abuse, and extreme confinement of farmed animals
- Farms keep animals in close confinement to save space and maximize the efficiency of the business (comes at a great cost to the animals well-being)
- Animals are fed low doses of antibiotics - Misuse of these medicines in animal agriculture can create drug-resistant bacteria
- Humans determine the housing conditions, diet, and breeding practices of chickens in commercial farms
- Humans influence the use of antibiotics and growth hormones, which can have both positive and negative effects on chicken health and welfare
- Humans are responsible for the transportation and slaughter of chickens for meat production
- It's important for humans to prioritize ethical and sustainable practices in animal agriculture to ensure the well-being of chickens

Impact On Animal Domestication

- Allowed human population to increase and which created densely populated areas
- Selectively breeding chickens for desired traits such as egg production, meat yield, and docile behavior
- Led to the development of various chicken breeds that serve different purposes
- Humans provide chickens shelter, food, and protection from predators, which allows them to thrive in human-dominated environments
- It's important for humans to ensure that the welfare and health of domesticated chickens are prioritized through responsible breeding practices and proper care

Possibility of New or Extinct Species Emerging

- Habitat destruction, pollution, the spread of invasive species, overharvesting from the wild, and climate change have pushed nature to the brink of extinction
- Humans impact the possibility of new or extinct species emerging for chickens through their selective breeding practices
- By selectively breeding chickens for specific traits, humans have created various breeds that may not naturally occur in the wild
- **This limits the potential for new species to emerge**
- Human activities such as habitat destruction and pollution can negatively impact wild chicken populations, increasing the risk of extinction
- It's important for humans to consider the long-term effects of their actions on chicken species and prioritize conservation efforts to protect their diversity

Effects of Human Activities On Migration Patterns

- Urban development can wreak havoc with birds migratory patterns especially when urban planners create cities with little concern for the local ecology
 - Migratory birds use changes in light to time their migratory patterns
 - Light pollution from nearby urban areas and unseasonably warm winter months can confuse birds and make them migrate involuntarily later
 - Affected migratory birds ability to reproduce and availability in food
 - Human activities such as habitat destruction and climate change can indirectly impact the availability of suitable habitats for wild chicken populations
- This can potentially disrupt their local movements and natural behaviors

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