

R

relaxed farming **our farm in your classroom**

Relaxed Diary + Talk Topic
Wednesday 29th October 2014



www.relaxedfarming.co.uk

Relaxed Diary

A bit off-colour

Wednesday 29th October 2014

Dear Victoria is moulting and as you can see she is looking rather scruffy and somewhat sorry for herself. She started to moult at the weekend and lost an awful lot of feathers very quickly and then, just as quickly, new ones started to grow. She has a massive bare patch on her shoulder which as the second photos shows is now full of those delightful 'pin' feathers: the start of the true feathers coming through where all you can really see are the nice thick quills from which the actual feathers will begin to emerge.

As explained in previous posts, moulting is a totally natural process and the bird's way of shedding old out-of-condition feathers and growing new and better ones. It usually happens in the autumn and it is also usual for a moulting bird to stop laying eggs, so that all their energies can go into re-growing the feathers. Victoria actually laid her last egg back on 11th October - turkeys don't tend to lay at all through the late autumn/winter, so Victoria now has a good few months to get back in condition and then be ready to start laying again in earlyspring!!

The weather is currently very wet and Victoria is spending most of her days inside - very sensible! It is actually quite warm as well mind you, so when she does venture out we are not worried she will get too cold. We could however, do with a bit of cold: the current wet, warm conditions are perfect for bugs and bacteria - not what we want at all!!

www.relaxedfarming.co.uk

Talk Topic

A bit off-colour

Wednesday 29th October 2014

Victoria (and a few other birds) are moulting at the moment. This is probably making them feel a bit 'off-colour' and sorry for themselves. Their afternoon treat of corn helps to give them extra energy and keep them warm. Can you think of any other ways we could look after them?

Think of a time when you were feeling poorly and a bit 'off-colour'. What was the matter with you? Who looked after you? How did you get better?

Were you given any extra special treats to help you feel better? What were they? Was this whilst you were ill or afterwards?

Some people make 'better' patients than others!!! What kind of a patient are you when you are poorly? Do you feel sorry for yourself; do you moan at all; do you do what you are told?

Does it make a difference to how quickly you recover??

