

# Story of the Broody Rooster



*The Broody Rooster  
Guesthouse and Gallery*

Many folks have asked us – so what is a broody rooster? For those who don't know chickens, this may just sound like a funky name – but to those that do – you are probably thinking there is no such thing!

Broody refers to the behavior of a hen when she wants to have little chicks – she sits on her eggs and broods for 21 days until they hatch. Roosters don't usually play this role so a broody rooster is sort of an oxymoron.

But...we have one. When we bought this farm in 2003, the former owners the Elliot's left some of their chickens behind. One of these is a Blue Silky rooster who we call "the old man". He is now at least 9 years old and maybe older and blind in one eye. As he has aged, we became quite fond of his sheer survival instinct and smarts. Last year, we put him into his own little barn to keep the other roosters from picking on him – he became lonely so we put a hen in there for company. She of course, was laying eggs. One morning when I went to retrieve the eggs, I found the old man setting on them. Next day, same thing. I googled "broody rooster" to see if he was undergoing some later life sex change. It appears that Google had not heard of it either.

We decided to incubate some eggs and put the new chicks in with him and low and behold, he raised 24 little chicks. He clucked and taught them just the way a hen would and they ran to his calls in response.

This story seemed to say a lot about life to me. We don't have to lock into our roles in life. The old man transformed, quite successfully so maybe I could too. Maybe it is possible for me to transform from my role as an academic into that of an artist. For those that know me – they probably see other parallels to the broody rooster. I can be a bit cocky and like to strut my stuff like a rooster. But I have another side to me that is quite domesticated or broody– I garden, do canning, sewing, painting and furniture refinishing.

Transformation is now a theme for everything at the Broody Rooster. Our cottage transformed into a gallery and guesthouse. It contains restored antique windows and old wood flooring from three different heritage homes in Nanaimo. The kitchen was repurposed from friends of ours who remodeled their home. Many of the crafts I make and sell are created from other items and transformed into works of art. The cabin itself will transform from a gallery in the winter months to a guesthouse in the summer.

Maybe the Broody Rooster's magic will rub off on you too and you can find power to transform yourself into whatever it is you want to do next in life.

*Nicole Vaugeois,*

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Guesthouse and Gallery