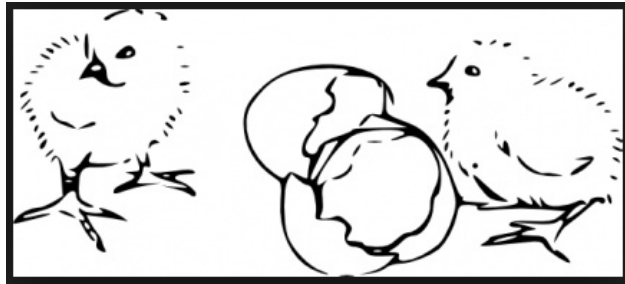


Hatching Quail Eggs



Bobwhite quails take about 21 days to hatch from their egg. Eggs are hatched naturally under a hen or by an **incubator**. An incubator is a safe place for eggs to hatch; it provides warmth, humidity and ventilation for a successful hatch. In an incubator, eggs are turned daily. A mother hen does the same thing in the nest.

During hatching the chick uses its beak to break open a lid on the eggshell. Chicks have a bump on the top of their beak called an **eggtooth**, to help them break free from their shell. The eggtooth falls off soon after they hatch. It takes a chick between one hour and one full day to hatch; breaking out of their shell is called **pipping**.

Once the quail chicks are fluffy and dry they can be taken out of the incubator and placed in the **brooder box**. A brooder box is a safe warm place for young quails to grow before they are able to care for themselves. A brooder box must have a heat light, water, ventilation, and feed.

Facts about quail chicks:

- Chicks can be heard chirping in their shells up to 24 hours before they hatch.
- Chicks do not need food or water for up to 2 days after they hatch.
- Chicks start to grow feathers in the first week.