



# SILICON VALLEY TOUR DE COOP

## Coop Owner Reminders and Suggestions

Thank you again for inviting the community to visit  
your coop as part of the Silicon Valley 2022 Tour De Coop

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Here are some very important tips and suggestions that we have obtained from the Davis Tour De Cluck tour and from our own Silicon Valley Tour De Coop last year.

### **SAFETY FOR Coop Tour Visitors:**

We need to make sure that our yards, garden and passage ways do not contain tripping hazards or sharp tools or items. Please secure tools and other items that could be hazardous for curious kids and adults.

If there are areas you do not want people to go, rope off the area and put up a barrier or post a sign so it is clear they should not go there. We have created an [DO NOT ENTER Tour De Coop signs PDF](#) document that you can print and post. We will provide you with one of these signs in the coopster kit at the coopster meeting. If you have bees, clearly label that area to avoid accidents between the bees and tourists.

Tour participants will be told that public restrooms will **not** be available at the coop stops. Please refrain from offering to do so. Public restrooms will be marked on the coop route at public parks and shopping districts as well as water and public parks for picnics. Feel free to offer water and food items for free or for sale at your coop stop or setup a farm stand / neighborhood lemonade stand if you wish.

### **SECURITY:**

For the security of your home, we encourage you to lock your doors and windows into your home and garage and secure anything of value you are concerned about walking away.

Please contain non feathered pets during the tour hours. Dogs and cats need to be kept indoors or perhaps this is the time for them to visit a helpful neighbor. Please do not allow any visitors to bring any pets into your backyard. Dogs and chickens typically do not mingle well. Tourists have been told not to bring their dogs on the tour.

### **BICYCLE PARKING and VISTORS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD:**

It is extremely important that your neighbors know that the Tour De Coop will be passing through your neighborhood and stopping at your house. Plan and mark and designate an area for parking

bicycles in a way that is safe for neighborhoods and the street traffic. There will be some that attend the event by car, but we try to discourage visiting the coops by car and the suggested routes are meant to be bicycle friendly and not the best route for cars. If you have some traffic cones or signs to help direct coop tourists to your house and warn other motorists of cycling coming in and out of your driveway.

### **ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS:**

Each coop stop typically requires at least 2-3 extra volunteers in addition to coop owners. These volunteers are:

**Front Yard Volunteer** – Greet and meet visitors and help park bicycles, answer questions and watch for safety of traffic and bicycles and also help tourists navigate to the next stop. Having a local street map available is very helpful.

**Front Yard Volunteer #2** – Spray Lysol spray onto bottoms of the shoes for sanitation plan, and assist with greeting and answering questions about the ride

**Back yard Docent** – Help coop owners with keeping an eye on property and visitors and filling in when the primary volunteer needs a break.

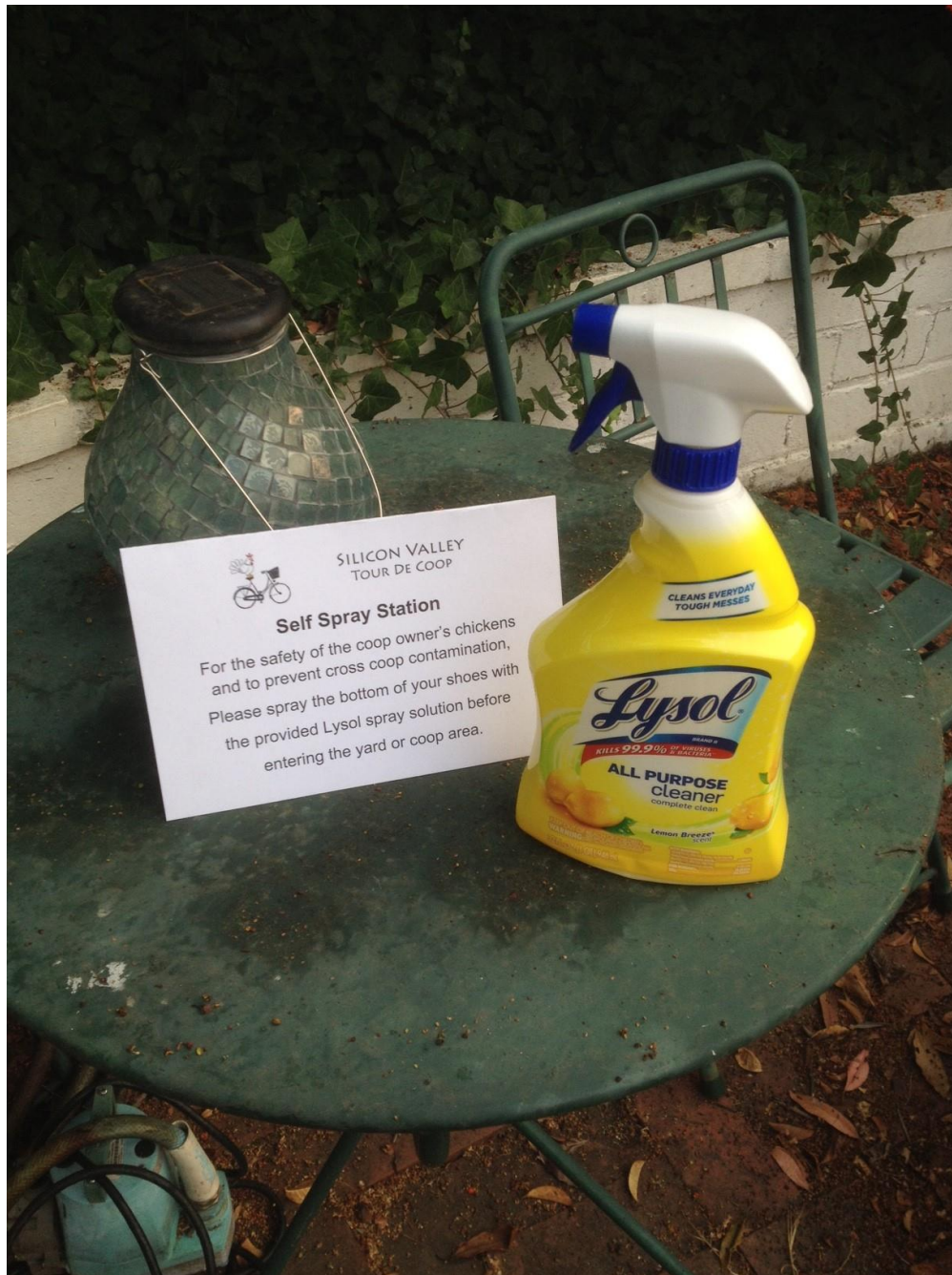
### **SIGNAGE AND EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AND PRINTING**

Each of the materials are available on-line for Coopsters to download and print for your coop stop. You can also hand craft you own signs with cardboard and markers.

- (1) Tour de Coop – COOP STOP – Mount this on cardboard and raised up visible from the street so tourists can easily identify your coop stop.
- (1) DO NOT ENTER Signs - More available on the website to download and print yourself

### **SELF SPRAY STATION**

Each coop stop should offer a simple SELF SPRAY STATION This consists of the printed page with the information about the spray station (see coopster resources) and a spray bottle of Lysol all purpose cleaner. Optional ways to can be shoe booties. This should be out on a table near the front before you go into the coop/chicken areas.



- a Lysol concentrate bottle and 1 or 2 spray bottles with instructions in this document.
- This document and a sample Coop Story form that you write on to answer questions about your coop so you don't have to repeat your story 200 times! This will also come to you electronic so you can type it and print it and post it at your coop stop for everybody to read.
- A waiver that must be signed by the coopster for the event.

**COOP QUESTIONS:** In preparation for your display of your coop, many visitors will have similar questions so it is best to research some of these items ahead of time. These questions include how you

address water, feed, perches, predator control, clean-up and sanitation, supply storage, nesting boxing, egg gathering. They will be interested in how you built your coop and how much it cost. This can all be listed on your COOP story document that you create and print in larger font so visitors can read about your coop story.

**CLEAN COOPS:** You are the model coop owners for Silicon Valley and you should be setting a high bar for future coopsters by showing clean and efficient coops. Please clean your coop shortly before the event and have clean water and food available.

**COOP VISITORS:** Plan the best route for people to enter and exit your coop and garden areas effectively and inform your coop docents on how to direct coop visitors. If you have an IN and OUT pathways, clearly mark with signs and string, ropes, etc to make a good flow of persons coming in and exiting.

**COOP CROSS CONTAMINATION:** Probably the most important safety item for the Tour de Coop event is the health of all of the chickens at all of the coops. To prevent cross coop contamination, we have developed the Tour De Coop Health and Safety policy (see handout) which is based on research and experience from Tour De Cluck tour. **Before any coop visitor is allowed to enter the garden or coop area, a volunteer docent should spray the bottom of their shoes before they enter the coop and garden area.** It is helpful to have this volunteer sitting in a chair.

**DO NOT LET VISITORS IN SAME AREA AS CHICKENS DURING THE COOP TOUR HOURS:** Your chickens must be contained in their coop or secure visitor free pen during the tour. This request is for the health of your birds, helping to prevent cross coop contamination. It will also prevent your birds from getting out.

**HEALTHY BIRDS:** Make sure your birds look healthy. If a bird gets sick, please isolate it elsewhere during the tour.

**HAVE FUN!** Please enlist your family and friends and neighbors to help share in this fabulous experience to share your local bit of urban homesteading to the community. Please take the necessary precaution to make the visit enjoyable for the visitors and less stressful for you as the coop owner.

## Coop sanitation

Although it may seem unnecessary for this extra precaution of this Lysol spray at the coop stops, it is in the best interest of your chickens and coops of the tour to prevent cross coop contamination. Chickens are very susceptible to diseases from other coops and chickens so to avoid potential issues with this multiple coop stop and so many tourists, we are using this recommended safety precaution highly recommended by the Davis Tour De Cluck coop tour and other tours too. The 2019 Tour De Coop was completely cancelled due to a chicken virus called New Castle. (Pre covid). Another chicken virus exists on the east coast of USA today and these steps help to prevent any potential spread and make the tour look safer and more organized.

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We can easily create a sanitation solution we can spray onto the bottoms of coop tourists shoes with dilution of *2 teaspoons of Lysol concentrate with 32 ounces of water*. This solution goes into a spray bottle.

**Apply a light spray to each visitors shoe soles BEFORE entering the yard. Have two spray bottles filled at the beginning of the day in case one fails or is empty early.**

