



Keeping Ducks

The Secret to Successfully Raising & Keeping Ducks

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Table of Contents

<u>Introduction.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Choosing A Breed.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Duck Breeds.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Buying Ducks.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Duck Essentials.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Hatching And Nesting.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>How To Take Care Of Ducklings.....</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>How To Take Care Of Adult Ducks.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Duck Maintenance Tips.....</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Duck Diseases.....</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Behaviors of Ducks.....</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>Taking Care Of Ducks In Different Kinds Of Weather.....</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>Tips On How To Prevent Duck Diseases.....</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Conclusion.....</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Resources.....</u>	<u>24</u>

Introduction

During the initial weeks that ducklings come into the world, they look so cute and people can't stand not to look at them. In the beginning, they don't do much of anything except eat, sleep and poop, just like human infants do.

As they get older, their feathers start to appear and they don't look too much like the adorable darlings that first came on the scene. They grow very quickly and within a matter of weeks, it's time for them to have larger housing.

Since a duck is very delicate, they can are not to be tossed around like a toy. They cannot be pushed to the side just because you don't feel like spending time with them. If that's the case, then don't get one.

They cannot be sent out in the wild where they can roam free. Domestic ducks are raised in captivity and have been for a long time. Therefore, they cannot fly because their legs are not strong enough.

They cannot fly to food elsewhere when food for the winter is not available. If they don't have anyone to take care of them, they will not survive. Some people who don't know what they're doing, will feed them the wrong foods, such as nuts and chocolate. Doing this will help them to leave this earth quicker.

If you have children, it can be a complicated situation to take care of ducks too. If you can, keep the children and ducks separate. On the other hand, both raising children and ducks are time consuming.

You may want to wait until the children can fend for themselves and you can devote more time to the animals. By that time, the children will be able to assist you in taking care of them.

If you have a dog or a cat, it might not be a good idea to have a duck. They both look at ducks as food to eat. They are not very happy about an innocent animal being in your home. They feel that the duck is a threat and trying to invade their space. So you will have to make a decision as to what you want to do.

Since ducks require attention, you should not try to raise one if you are not going to be able to devote the time and care that they need. It's not like trying to find a baby sitter for your children, which can also be difficult. Having someone to sit for your duck is not something that many people would be willing to do.

Make sure that you will be able to afford paying vet expenses when you need your duck(s) need medical treatment. Ducks are considered exotic, so you will have to take

them to a special vet that specializes in exotic animals. Because of the specialty, it will cost you more for maintenance and medical treatment. If you can't afford it, then don't get a duck.

People have to remember that ducks are special pets and that they cannot be left anywhere. Many ducks are dumped every year because people find it difficult to take care of them. Yes, they are more difficult to take care of than dogs and cats.

There are so many things that you have to do in order to keep them healthy and thriving. The best thing to do is to read about the proper care of ducks before you decide to get one or more.

Choosing A Breed

For first time duck owners, it cannot be stressed enough to make sure that you are ready to raise and take care of a duck or a whole slew of them.

Choosing a breed will depend on the purpose that you want the duck for. If you want a pet, you must know that some breeds will not connect to humans. They would rather be with their own.

The best breed of duck that would interact with humans is the Pekin duck. They like people and they are outgoing. They also like to play and they are very friendly with others. This breed of duck would make one of the best kinds to raise.

If you are looking for one to show off, there are some that have beautiful colors. The Khaki Campbell has a bronze hue. The Cayuga is lovely with its green color. Either of those breeds can make a house feel warm and decorative.

If you want eggs from the ducks, think about the runner duck breed. They can provide some of the best eggs among the domestic ducks. They are easy to locate and some of them are great as pets. If you are able to interact, spend time and properly take care of them, they can be a wonderful addition to your family.

Duck Breeds

When you are breeding and raising ducks, it's important to know what kind of breed you are working with. Each breed is different and has their own personality. There are many breeds of ducks and some of them will be discussed here.

Call Duck Breed – This breed is used for ornamental reasons. This duck is smaller than most of the other duck breeds.

Cayuga Duck Breed – This duck is of a black color, but does have some green in it. It is an American duck breed and they are larger than the Call Ducks. The females weigh around seven pounds and the males weigh around eight.

Crested Duck Breed – They come from a mixture of two other breeds of ducks, the Pekin and the Aylesbury duck breeds. Like the call duck, the crested duck breed is used for ornamental purposes. On their heads, you will see feather tufts.

Khaki Campbell Duck Breed – This is an English duck breed and they are one of the breeds that is good for raising ducks for eggs. These ducks produce around 300 duck eggs every year. However, since they are lightweight, they are not recommended for meat. They are also ornamental in nature.

Muscovy Duck – This duck breed is considered to be unattractive. It has feathers that are a mixture of grey and white, while their crest is pink and red. You can also find this duck in other colors, such as blue and purple. The female ducks can weigh up to 10 pounds and the male ducks can weigh up to 15 pounds. This is a breed that is not known for swimming.

Buff Duck – This is an English duck breed that is used for ornamental reasons. They can weigh up to around nine pounds whether they are a male or female.

Pekin Duck – This breed is the most popular one in North America. These white ducks are prime property for making good meat. As far as laying eggs is concerned, they are not primed up for that. The female Pekin can weigh as much as eight pounds, while they male can weigh as much as nine pounds.

Pomeranian Duck – This is not a very popular breed and it is rarely seen. You won't find too many breeders for this one and may become extinct.

Rouen Duck – This breed is similar to the Mallard duck and some people will get them confused with the former. This is a very popular breed and for those who are into backyard poultry, they love the Rouen duck. They are good for the meat market. They are one of the more easier breeds to raise and are able to take care of themselves.

Runner Duck – This breed is known for being good egg layers. However, this is one that the meat market would not want. They are popular and people do use them for laying eggs. Female and males can weigh up to four pounds.

Buying Ducks

You may be wondering where you can buy a duck. There are various places where ducks are sold. Some people think that because a duck can be considered a pet, you can easily get them at pet stores.

You can do that, however, a pet store is not the best place to purchase one. Some stores do not get the sex of the duck correct or because the store has so many, some of them end up getting sick or contracting a disease. You can also get them from farms or online retailers.

Wherever you get them from, make sure that it is a reputable resource for selling ducks. You'll want to check them out first. If they have a website, go and look to see what they have. Read their policies and guarantees. Keep in mind that the more you purchase, the less the prices will be for each one. They usually post a bulk price to entice you to purchase more.

You want to go to a retailer that knows what they have and they should also have photos of the ducks on their site so you can at least see what they look like. It's better to purchase from a site that knows what the sex of their ducks are. You don't want to purchase one that you may think is a male, but ends up being a female.

If you decide to purchase online, you can get the animals delivered to your place of residence. You can also try eBay and other online retailers that have ducks for sale.

Duck Essentials

In order to properly take care of your ducks, you will need basic essentials. This will ensure that the ducks will be healthy.

In order to feed and water your ducks, you will need equipment specifically made for them. You can use chicken feeders and waters that are used for chickens. If you have a lot of ducks, these items will come in handy.

If you have baby ducks, keep the waterer on a special stand. Otherwise, the young ones may make a mess of the waterer, causing the litter to get wet and turn into mold.

Starting out, you can keep the baby ducks in a small kennel. If you have at least ten of the young ones, have an allowance of five square feet. You will have to add more space for them to be housed as they continue to grow and get older.

Get something that is sturdy and will protect them from getting wet. For ducks that are older, they can be on the pasture.

When you have young ducks, make sure that they stay dry and comfortable with litter made from straw material. They need to stay dry so that they won't have to deal with mold, which can harm them. You'll want to change their litter either every day or when it needs to be changed.

Ducks need to eat and drink just like humans. Provide them with a waterer so that they can place their head in the water. However, the water should only be enough for them to do only that. They can be fed chicken feed. Place the food in a hanging tube feeder. This can help them not to waste the food and have some for the next time.

If it is really cold, adult ducks will need heat. Baby ducks will need heat while they are still young. You can get a brooding lamp with a 250-watt bulb for the young ducks. As they grow and acquire more feathers, they won't need that much heat.

Hatching And Nesting

If you decide to get your ducks from scratch (a mother duck), there are some things that you need to know about the hatching and nesting process.

Don't get nervous when your duck is about to lay eggs or they are nesting. The mother duck will do the majority of the work. You just need to know what to expect with the process. Eventually, you will get the hang of everything that you need to do.

If you don't plan on keeping all of the ducklings that the mother duck has, they should not all be hatched. As the mother duck lays the eggs, you can remove them. However, if you do have room and the money to take care of them, then by all means you can do so.

The best place to do that is on a farm or somewhere where you have a lot of space. If you live amongst others, you'll probably have to check with your local government to see if you can even take care of ducks.

As far as nesting is concerned, the mother duck should be housed in a safe area, away from other animals. A full nest is considered to be 12 eggs. She will probably want soft bedding, such as hay to rest on along with the eggs. Do not build a nest because she won't use it. While she is nesting, everyone else should be kept away, especially young children.

The hatching process requires at least 30 days for all of the eggs to come out. When the process starts, the first ones hatch in 24 hours. If there are eggs that are forcefully pushed out of the nest, they are no longer alive. The mother is aware of this and pushes those eggs away from the other ones. If there are cracked or broken eggs, there may be an interference with the nest.

If the mother is nesting, she should be left alone. She doesn't like people to bother her when she's at that stage. She can get irritable and agitated. Also, she may show an aggressive side that you may regret later. Even though they know who you are by now, they still don't want to be bothered. If they see anyone that they do not know, she may leave her nest.

If she is not close to water, provide a reservoir with water in it. She should also have food, but don't leave it out for a long period of time. Definitely don't leave it out overnight. There is a great danger of pests and other uninvited guests that can come by.

To keep her food from being disturbed, you can place a few worms or some food next to the water and leave it there for a few hours.

There may be other times that the mother will leave the nest:

- She stepped away to get water and food for nourishment.
- She got scared about something and abandoned the nest. Give her a few days to return; if not, then remove the eggs.
- The weather is too hot or too cold.
- The incubation process can move forward without her because of the warm weather.
- If the mother cannot hatch eggs, they will decide to give up and leave the nest.

Keep in mind that all of the eggs from the mother may not hatch. Those that did not hatch should be removed after two days. Take them out carefully so that they will not break. Otherwise, you can smell like rotten eggs.

The father duck should be separated from the mother and the baby ducks immediately. Considering the captivity factor and because there are more in the family now, it's possible that the male duck can hurt or kill the little ones.

The mother duck should be allowed to spend some time with her ducklings. They will keep warm and she can teach them a few things. Give it about a week and then place the ducklings in a brooder.

How To Take Care Of Ducklings

Caring for ducks is not a difficult task. When you have a passion for that, you will do a good job. As you watch them grow, they will turn into adult ducks eventually. You must make sure that they are raised and taken care of properly.

Baby ducks will live in a brooding area. You can choose a small facility or house them in the corner of a barn. It's important that they are protected so the brooding area must be enclosed. They must be protected against animals that could harm or even kill them.

Animals that would fit the mold include foxes, raccoons, dogs and cats. Since the ducks are so small, they are defenseless and need to be kept away from the larger animals. In order to keep out germs, the brooding area must always stay clean, dry, lighted and always ventilated.

The ducks must have proper bedding in their living quarters. You can use straw or hay for the bedding. Don't use chips or wood shavings because the small ducks could become ill. Change their bedding daily, especially if it's wet or moldy.

To provide them with adequate heat, use a heat lamp with an infrared bulb. Generally, regular light bulbs do not provide enough heat from them. Depending on how many ducklings you are caring for will determine the wattage that you will need.

For the initial 10 days that the ducks are house, keep the temperature at 98 Fahrenheit. The temperature will decrease 5 Fahrenheit every week as you raise the lamp. Keep doing this until you get the temperature at 70 Fahrenheit. It can take up to a month and a half to get to this temperature level.

Do not provide direct light contact with the ducklings. Place the heat away from them. You will know if they are comfortable with the temperature if they are active and they eat and drink. They will be uncomfortable if they go away from the heat. You will know that they are too cold if they make a lot of noise and gather together in a group.

Ducklings need to have a duck starter while you are feeding them. This is a device that helps you feed the duck. Some of the best foods for them are finely chopped fruits and vegetables. They have to consume food that can go down easily because they don't have teeth.

They can also eat worms and other small insects. What they cannot eat includes onions, dry bread, grains and birdseed. The bread is especially dangerous because it can mold and the ducklings can die.

How To Take Care Of Adult Ducks

Ducks grow quickly, and within a matter of time, they will have grown into adults. Even as they get older, they still need to be taken care of like the ducklings. They are still growing and will need to be nourished.

The feeder should be clean and dry. If there are any areas of the feeder that are sharp, use duct tape to cover them up. Keep the feeder in a secure area within their dwelling space.

They should eat pellet food that contains enough protein for them. If they are laying eggs, they should consume no more than 18 percent in their food. If they are not laying eggs, the maximum amount should be 16 percent.

It's dangerous to provide older ducks with excessive amounts of protein because it can affect their wings. Angel wing is a condition that makes their wings sit up instead of laying down. On the other hand, if they don't get an adequate amount of protein, they will not be able to lay eggs properly.

Older ducks can eat green vegetables. Allow them to eat grass and weeds if they live outside. Vegetables or at least green vegetables should always be part of their daily diet. You can also feed them hard boiled eggs.

The eggs should be chopped up. Along with that, they can eat small insects, including worms. Any treats that the ducks get should be rationed to about two weekly servings. You cannot allow the ducks to overeat the treats or they can die.

Do not feed them whole corn because it could mess with their digestive system. They can consume cracked corn. Cracked corn is more beneficial for them during the winter season. Cracked corn has quite a bit of protein.

Make sure that the older ducks have water. It helps the food digest and the water can be used for them to clean their beaks. They should always have water or else they could choke while they are eating. Change out their water every day.

The food should never be stale and out of date. Don't leave food in the feeder. It can quickly contract bacteria. Change out the food if the ducks are not consuming it in a timely manner.

Make sure that the feeder always has food that is good for their health. Don't give them seeds or it could mess with their digestive system. They will not get any benefit from eating food that humans eat. Definitely refrain from giving them chocolate. Chocolate is not good for them and they could die.

Duck Maintenance Tips

Ducks that live domestically do not require clipping of their wings. However, if they do, the feathers need to be clipped properly, otherwise, they could be injured, contract an infection and bleed to death. If their wings need to be clipped, take them to a vet to get professional treatment.

Like other animals, ducks can get injured. One thing that can prevent this is for you to provide them with enough room so that they can move around.

Ducks go through a stage called molting. About every six months, they will start to lose a lot of feathers. During the regrowing process, the wings will be sensitive. Avoid making contact with their wings until they have grown back.

In order to prevent ducks from injuring their legs, have a wide ramp so that they can get in and out of the water safely. Also, it is not a good idea to put them in a wire cage because that can cause injury as well.

If the duck's feet or toes are sore, it should be of concern to you. Contact a vet and have the duck checked out.

Prevent your duck from being exposed to toxic items or areas. Copper, lead and zinc are the items that ducks encounter the most. Nails, pesticides, chemicals, coins, screws and other small object can be poisonous if they come in contact with them. If you notice it early enough, the vet can administer treatment.

The vet would administer injections and laxatives to get rid of the infection. Please do not try to treat your duck at home. This is a very serious matter and should not be taken lightly. It could mean a matter of life or death for your animal.

There are some other foods that ducks should not eat. They can cause harm to their bodies. Any kind of nuts, seeds, chocolate should not be given to them. It could make them sick and possibly die.

Don't feed your duck too much protein. Too much of it can cause them to develop "Angel Wing" or "Slipped Wing". This is a condition when the main feathers are not growing the right way because of excessive protein in their system. Reduce the levels of protein that you are giving them. The duck's wings will grow back normally.

Mating Issues – You will know when the male and female ducks are mating because the female ducks will have spots on their head or their neck. You may also see these spots around the eyes.

Also, you may see a crust on top of the female's head that comes from the male spewing mucous. Make sure that you have clean water available for them to swim in. Without it, they will risk injury and infection due to uncomfortable mating.

Beak discolorations or spotting - If your duck shows signs of discolorations on their beak, contact your vet. There is no cause that has been pinpointed as to why that happens. However, it should still be an issue of concern.

If you see bumps on the duck's beak, it usually comes from them digging or pecking. If the bump looks like a blister, have the vet drain the fluid and apply ointment to get rid of the bacteria. Remove any sharp surfaces near the duck.

Breathing Problems - If your duck has the symptoms of a cold, contact your vet immediately. They can get pneumonia in a change of weather. If they are exposed to cool air or water for a prolonged period of time, they can catch a cold or related illness.

They should stay dry and warm after they have gone swimming. If you suspect that they may have a cold or pneumonia, contact your vet or a substitute vet immediately. The quicker you get treatment for your duck, the quicker they can recover.

In order for your duck to stay healthy, the surroundings must always be clean and free of anything that could harm them or make them sick. Keep chemicals and pesticides out of sight. Any bins that are used for food and water should be clean and free of pests.

For young ducks, change their linen twice a day; for adult ducks, you can change it once a day. If you want to go green, duck droppings can be used as fertilizer for plants and vegetables.

Ducks are like humans in so many ways. They need to be attended to, so make sure to provide them with love. They can also suffer from depression and feel lonely when you ignore them. Spend some time playing with them. They like stuffed animals, balls and toys that float in the water. It's amazing how they connect with the human experience.

Duck Diseases

Maggots – When the ducks do not have a sufficient supply of water to stay clean, they can attract maggots. If the vent is dirty, that is partly why the ducks get attacked with this disease. The maggots can be removed by using an ointment and fly spray.

The ducks should be monitored and checked out for several days consecutively. If they already have fly eggs, they will still hatch.

Mites – When the ducks are scratching excessively, it could be a sign that mites have come around. Other birds that have mites can transmit them to the healthy ones. If you have ducks and chickens together, there is a greater chance of the ducks to get mites.

The mites will gather on the duck's feathers and the feathers will turn gray in color. In order to get rid of them, you will have to use a pesticide. You can also use flea spray to get rid of the mites.

Treat the ducks with this for at least four days. To prevent another onset of mites from coming around, dust powder in the areas where mites congregate, in nesting areas and open cracks.

Botulism – When ducks have this disease, they are not able to swallow anything. Plus, they have lost control of their muscles in the areas of their neck, wings and legs. If ducks are near areas where there is animal and vegetable waste, they could come in contact with toxins that come from bacteria.

For treatment, they can drink fresh drinking water. Since they can't swallow, you may have to manually give it to them using a tube. You can also add Epsom salt to the drinking water. In order to prevent a recurrence, the ducks should not be in areas that are dirty and muddy.

If the weather is hot, it's even more crucial for them to avoid dirty, muddy and even water that has been stagnant for a while. When the ducks are in an area of hot temperatures, the bacteria accumulates quickly.

Lead poison – The symptoms of lead poisoning in ducks include weight loss and not much coordination. The poison can come from paint that is lead based. In order to prevent a recurrence, keep them away from paint and allow them to have grit in order for them to prevent being in contact with lead.

Respiratory issues – The duck has a difficult time breathing, so their tail will go up and down in order for them to get some air. They are also in a hunched up position. If the weather is wet, the ducks can contract a bacterial infection. To get rid of this, give the ducks an antibiotic.

Angel Wing or Slipped Wing – You will know that your duck is affected with this disease when their wings turn outwards. This is caused from the duck consuming too much protein in their system.

This makes them grow quicker than expected. The wings get heavy because of the excess blood in their quills. The remedy for this is to give them less protein while they are working to grow their primary feathers.

Sinus – When ducks have sinus, their cheeks will swell and get puffy. Also, their nostrils will be runny. Ducks can get sinus from bacteria that is floating around in the air. The treatment for this can be an injection of antibiotics.

It has to start right away in order for the healing to take effect. The vet will have to flush the duck's sinuses with antibiotics until the swelling goes down. Do not delay treatment as the duck's cheeks will get hard and the treatment will not be effective after that. There is no way that the hardening of the cheeks can be reversed.

Pasteurella – The ducks will not have an appetite. They will also be thirstier and will secrete droppings that are green in color. They will not be coordinated. This disease comes from bacteria in the air. The ducks must give quick treatment which includes antibiotics. Get rid of any carriers of this disease.

Coccidiosis – This disease attacks the stomach lining. The symptoms of this disease include droppings mixed with blood. When the stomach lining is attacked, the ducks cannot digest and absorb nutrients from food that they have consumed.

This disease may ravage them for several weeks. In order to treat this, put anticoccidial in their drinking water. Even though this is a rare disease for ducks, it's good to know about it so that you will know what to do in the event they catch it. Hopefully, they never will.

Enteritis – The ducks will secrete droppings that are pink in color. They will feel listless

and not have the energy to move the way they want to. This usually happens in the summertime when they experience hot spells.

This causes them to get bacteria in their stomach which can cause their stomach to be inflamed. They may also experience bleeding in that area. The vet can give the duck a vaccination. They must get the vaccine immediately.

They can also get antibiotics for treat the disease. It is suspected that this disease comes from wild birds. Keep the ducks in a clean area for a few days.

Lameness - The duck's ankle or hock will be swollen. Their legs will also feel hot. This disease can come from an infection due to bacteria. For treatment, the vet will administer injections with antibiotics.

Even if you know what disease your ducks are inflicted with, it's still a good idea to take them to the vet for confirmation and additional treatment.

Behaviors of Ducks

At the four week mark, ducks will incubate their eggs. There is a 24-hour period when the eggs hatch. The baby ducks that are born must have a place to cohabitate. Domestic ducks and wild ducks do not mix.

Ducks are not designed to be potty trained. Sometimes they let it out before they get to that area where they can dump it. As you watch them, you can pick up a pattern. From what they do and when they do it, you will be able to determine when they let it out and place them indoors for that time frame. If you want, you can use disposable diapers (preemies), baggies or a diaper harness.

With wild ducks, they can be free as a bird to do what they want. With domestic ducks, they are not as free. They have to learn to live a somewhat confined life. They can move around, but it's on a smaller scale that what you would see with wild ducks. Domestic ducks depend on humans to take care of them.

The male ducks can sometimes get aggressive at six months or older. They like to pinch and chase other ducks. You can't allow this to escalate; otherwise, it will get difficult to stop them as time goes by.

You must be persistent in order to help change their aggressive ways. One thing you can do to get them to stop pinching you is to gently tap your fingernail on the beak and tell them "no". You must be stern and firm, but calm.

Since ducks are so delicate, you have to be careful on the way you handle them. Don't be physically rough with them. Some people have said to hold their beak to get them to behave. However that may not be a good idea since they have to get air. Once you build that trust with your duck(s), they will learn that aggressive behavior is not the way to go.

You can get them a mate or provide them with an area large enough where they can run around. Make sure to show your duck(s) plenty of affection. It can take a while before they decide to bond with you.

Another way to build trust with your duck(s) is to feed them from your hand and spend some quiet time with them, like you would your spouse or your child. They will start to realize that you really do care for them a lot.

Do not allow young children to handle the ducks on their own. Either the child or the duck can be injured do to rough play or something similar.

Taking Care Of Ducks In Different Kinds Of Weather

During the winter season, ducks need ventilation as well as enough heat. An infrared or ceramic bulb or a 75-100 watt standard bulb can be used depending the climate that you reside in. If you are using bulbs for heat, keep them at a height where the ducks can't reach them.

Place them in an area where the duck(s) can go to another area if the light gets too hot. Also, keep it away from flammable items.

For inclement weather, create a shelter that has a roof that is waterproof, walls that are insulated and can hold up to wind, and an entry exit door with a rubber flap. The duck(s) will be protected from inclement weather as well as be able to go outside.

Other alternatives include using a basement in the evenings or a garage. They should have enough food and water and make sure that it is warm enough for them to stay there.

With the cold winter weather, some domestic ducks can deal with it more than other ducks can. If it is really cold, they will get close and create a huddle in order to keep warm. Ducks need to stay warm in extremely cold temperatures, especially if they fluctuate suddenly.

Otherwise, they can get sick. The shelter should be clean and make sure to keep it dry. If the shelter is damp, the duck(s) can get an infection. Do not allow mold or anything that is of a threat to them to fester in their shelter.

You can use rubber sheds to house them in the evening. Drill holes so that it will have ventilation. You should have a plan in place to create the shelter prior to the winter season setting in. When it comes, you just have to make the quick transition.

Have a pump or aerator available to keep small ponds thawed out. Or you can go to a retailer that sells products for de-icing ponds, such as a pond heater. When the pond is thawed, toxic gasses leave and oxygen comes in. Despite that, the best thing to use is the pond heater.

During the summer season, ducks don't need a lot of shelter. However, they should not be exposed to the sun a lot. Like humans, they can experience sunstroke if they stay in the sun too long. They should have fresh water to drink, shelter and shade.

Tips On How To Prevent Duck Diseases

Make sure that what they're eating is nutritional. Ducks should always have fresh drinking water. If the water doesn't look like it's safe to drink, throw it out and replace it with some water that is clean, cool and fresh for them to consume. The container that it's housed in should be cleaned at least once each day.

Provide ducks with a balanced meal. The food should be rationed; otherwise, the ducks can contract a disease.

The troughs are required to be clean and dry all the time. If the trough is wet, there is a greater chance that it can be infested with bacteria (harmful) and mold.

If you have ducks that are the same age, keep them together in the same dwelling and administer the same medication to each of them.

The area where the ducks roam and congregate should always be clean with dry litter and properly drained so it will stay dry.

The area where the ducks sleep at night should be protected from animals that are bigger than them, such as dogs, cats and large rodents. They can easily pass on different types of diseases.

Ducks should not be involved in a lot of action because they can get stressed. They would not be able to produce as much.

The area where the ducks are housed should have plenty of ventilation. Do not crowd up the dwelling. The ducks will still need room to move around.

In order to keep them healthy, provide your duck(s) with vitamin mineral supplement that contains antibiotics.

Do not feed the ducks any dead snails, fish or meat that may be spoiled. It could be toxic and harmful to them.

If you feed rice to the ducks, make sure they do not contain any harmful chemicals, such as insecticides.

Spray the ducks at least one time every year to keep away beetles, mice and anything else that may cause harm to them.

If you get new ducks, keep them away from the other ducks for at least fourteen days. You don't want your current brood to catch any diseases from mixing in with the new ducks.

Place footbaths at different locations. This can help to prevent foreign agents from coming on the property.

Conclusion

In conclusion, ducks can make great pets, but you have to be willing to invest the time it will take to raise and nurture them in the proper way. They need plenty of attention and if you are not able to give them what they need, then you should not have them as a pet.

In the first few weeks, they are very delicate creatures, and then they grow up to be a companion for humans. There are people who like to have ducks as pets and there are some people who think that they are nuts for doing that.

There is a lot of work involved in raising ducks. You have to be ready and prepare yourself for the adventures you will face with these animals.

Resources

<http://www.efowl.com/> (online retailer)

<http://www.metzerfarms.com/> (online retailer)

<http://metzerfarms.com/duck.htm>

http://www.efowl.com/Duck_for_Sale_s/3.htm

<http://www.liveducks.com/>

<http://www.liveducks.com/care.html>

<http://www.liveducks.com/breeds.html#buyaduck>

<http://www.liveducks.com/faqs.html#train>

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