

FEEDING DUCKS- IS IT DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD?

PRESENTED BY RAFFAELE CATANZARITI – LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL

SHOULD I FEED DUCKS?

- OFFERING DUCKS FOOD IS NOT RECOMMENDED
- USUALLY CARRIED OUT AS A SOCIAL ACTIVITY WITH FAMILY
- LEADS TO NUTRITIONAL IMBALANCES, INCREASED RISK OF DISEASE AND LEADS TO ALTERED ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

NUTRITIONAL IMBALANCES

- **BREAD IS MOST COMMON CHOICE FOR FEEDING DUCKS**
- **BREAD HAS LITTLE NUTRITIONAL VALUE AND CAN MAKE DUCKS SICK**
- **EVEN SMALL PORTIONS OF HUMAN FOOD CAN BE VERY UNHEALTHY**

SPREAD OF DISEASE

- **LARGE PROPORTION OF BREAD IS NOT EATEN**
- **THIS CAN LEAD TO AVIAN BOTULISM DUE TO INCREASE IN SOIL BACTERIA**
- **DUCKS WITH BOTULISM BECOME PARALYSED, UNABLE TO EAT AND DROWN.**

DISRUPTS ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

- **FURTHER RESEARCH IS REQUIRED ON WHETHER FEEDING DUCKS CAN CAUSE DUCKS TO BECOME DEPENDENT ON HUMANS**
- **AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOUR HAS BEEN OBSERVED**

WHAT NOT TO FEED DUCKS?

- BREAD
- ONIONS AND AVOCADO ARE TOXIC
- SPINACH IS BAD REDUCES CALCIUM INTAKE
- NO CHERRY OR APPLE SEEDS AS THEY ARE TOXIC
- NO NUTS OR POPCORN

TYPICAL DIET OF DUCKS IN THE WILD

- **ALGAE**
- **INVERTEBRATES**
- **FISH**
- **SEEDS OF AQUATIC PLANTS**
- **MOLLUSCS**
- **AQUATIC INSECTS**

WHAT TO FEED DUCKS TO MINIMISE HARM

- **CHOPPED LETTUCE AND PEAS**
- **TOMATOES AND GRATED CARROT**
- **MOST FRUITS BUT NOT CANNED FRUIT**
- **CUT UP APPLE WITH NO SEEDS**
- **DICED WATER MELON**

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL



DON'T FEED THE DUCKS!
Don't kill us with Kindness!



Angel Wing

Causes Botulism in Ducks

A cruel & mostly fatal disease caused by the bread sinking in the water, removing oxygen as it breaks down and creating bacteria which the ducks are infected with. Ducks suffer a very slow and cruel death as they are paralysed and unable to swim or fly, or eventually breathe.



Fatal Botulism

Contributes to Deformities such as "Angel Wing"

It affects the growth of ducklings due to the complete lack of nutrients in bread. Angel Wing causes the wings to permanently droop and the duck is unable to fly = death.

Attracts Predators and Domestic Ducks

The lack of nutrients impairs a ducks immune system. This leaves them sickly and more likely to get ill, catch diseases and be preyed upon. Domestic Ducks are attracted to feeding lakes or ponds and then breed with our native ducks which contributes to overpopulation and therefore less wild food is available.

If you still INSIST on feeding the Ducks ONLY feed:



Chopped Lettuce, Tomato, Grated Carrot, Diced Watermelon
INTO THE WATER



Please Don't Feed Bread To The Ducks & Geese

Why not?

Regular feeding of bread (especially white)/cakes/biscuits etc. can cause.....

- Poor nutrition
- Spread of disease
- Unnatural behaviour
- Water pollution
- Overcrowding
- Delayed migration
- Rats (encouraged by uneaten bread)
- Uneaten bread floating around doesn't look very nice!



What should they eat?

The bird's natural diet can feature.....

- Grass
- Plants from the lake
- Seeds & berries
- Insects
- Shellfish
- Even small fish and frogs in some cases!

Specialist waterfowl feed or grains can be purchased from many pet shops, garden centres and online retailers.

Please help take care of ducks and geese by allowing them to enjoy their natural diet so we can enjoy seeing them for years to come!

EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL (CONT)

- PRODUCTION OF A FACT SHEET IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES
- PUBLISH INFORMATION ON LIVERPOOL COUNCILS WEBSITE

QUESTIONS

