

Moon Ridge Farm

Devon's Waterfowl, Pheasant & Poultry Farm

Find out about our Domestic Ducks

All our ducks are bred here at Moon Ridge. We find ducks to be delightful, trusting and loyal. They are easy to keep and depending on the bred are prolific egg layers. Ducks tend to be very hardy and suffer from far fewer diseases than other types of poultry. They are easy to keep with simple housing and protection from the fox they will give you much pleasure and enjoyment. Domestic ducks are as happy on land as they are on the water, a simple receptacle of water so they can wash and preen is all that is required (child's plastic sandpit is ideal) Ducks are excellent foragers and will Hoover up all your slugs and snails .



The Indian Runner is a very busy duck, great for the back yard; they love snails and slugs and are one of the best forms of organic pest control. We supply several garden centers for this purpose. This was their original use in the Far East where they were used to keep the rice fields free of nasties. They are predominantly kept for eggs: laying well over 200 per year. Laying an egg varying between white, off white and pale green. They cannot fly, the females quack and the males have a hoarse whisper. We love these ducks each having their own character they provide great amusement in the garden and never fail to entertain. They make great pets, a firm favorite with our children



The Silver Apple yard a beautiful placid duck, they look very stylish with their classical yellow beak and orange legs and feet. They are quiet and are well suited for back garden existence. Traditionally kept as a dual purpose bird, they lay lots of large white eggs and they grow quickly making a good table bird. They tend to be very friendly and sociable, trusting and gentle, 'a real looker'



The Khaki Campbell This breed has been mainly developed for egg laying they are extremely agile and average 320 eggs a year outlaying most types of chicken. A great duck for the back garden they are great foragers and extremely inquisitive and can be easy to tame with food and treats. They lay white eggs. Campbell's are just as comfortable on land as in water making them an excellent choice for back yard producers. Being excellent scavengers they are easy to keep and are extremely hardy.



The Rouen (essentially a large version of the mallard) An imposing and stately bird. They have a slight air of laziness about them, they are easy to tame and really are the gentle giants of the duck world. The Rouen has the reputation as a high quality roasting bird, which it is, but is not used commercially as it is regarded as a slow grower. A breed of duck that you are sure to fall in love with. They have an almost comical slow waddle and tend to stick together like glue. They seem to love human company and will often seek you out in the garden



The Cayuga was bred in North America and is used to harsh conditions. They are a hardy breed and both the drake and duck have a good temperament and are quiet. When they first lay the eggs can be completely black. The ducks do not remain black for all their life and often produce white feathers. A beautiful looking duck with iridescent sheen on their black feathers. They have a lovely soft quack and like most ducks tend to be very low maintenance. They have the reputation as being the tastiest of all the domestic ducks.



The Call duck is a lively charming little bird with a small body and a short bill. They have a high –pitched call which travels over long distances. They were originally used by hunters to attract wild ducks. They are very chatty so if you have close neighbors beware!! . They are clean tidy birds which are easily tamed with a few treats. As they are small and quite light weight they can fly so you need to ensure their wings are clipped. Great to watch as they are an active gregarious character, quite addictive!!

Domestic Ducks & Geese

Here at Moon Ridge, we breed and sell a great variety of Domestic Ducks & Geese from day old, through to point of lay. The following is a very simple fact sheet on how to raise your ducks and geese from day olds

From Day Old

Heat - From hatch they will need an artificial source of heat .A heat/brooder lamp is the most common method with bulb and lamp hung on a chain at a level just above the ducklings(approx. 10cm) from the inside of a garage or shed roof. Make sure the area is enclosed , draught free and rodent proof . Alternatively though simply keeping the day olds in a box near a heat source i.e. light bulb / radiator, Aga will suffice, reduce the heat so at about three weeks they are able to go outside and face the elements. The temperature should be around 35 degrees centigrade to begin with.

Food – They are best on a high protein diet to start with. Feed a Duck Starter Crumb or a chick crumb for the first 3 weeks.

Avoid any feeds containing a medication for coccidiosis.

You can add a little boiled egg to chick crumb for extra protein with a few salad trimmings.

Water - Provide drinking water at all times. Put some marbles or small pebbles in the trough of a chick drinker to stop them getting wet but allow enough room for them to drink.

From 3 Weeks

Heat - At 3 weeks they will be off heat and hardy enough to endure the outdoors. They will still be vulnerable to a wide range of predators and extremes in weather changes from which they will need protecting. A simple type run attached to their house is an ideal environment to grow them on in. Shut them away safely in the house at night and move the run regularly to provide fresh ground.

Food - Introduce a pellet (growers) to their crumb over 2 or 3 days to allow them to get used to bigger morsels of food. Protein levels of around 16% is ideal for them from 3 weeks up to point of lay Salad trimmings, fresh greens and a little corn or wheat can be fed as treats.

Water - Fresh water must be provided in a container deep enough to allow them to wash out eyes and nostrils and have a splash- wash in order to keep their plumage in good condition.

Grit - Poultry and Waterfowl need access to mixed poultry grit to keep their digestive system healthy

From 6 weeks

Housing - A covered run can be dispensed with and the young ducks allowed to forage and explore their surroundings. Predators must always be guarded against and ensure ducks are always locked away safely and securely at night or kept behind a fox proof enclosure. Housing requirements are much simpler than for other types of poultry. Ducks do not readily use nest boxes or return to the house to lay, they will tend to lay on the floor of the duck house. To ensure you can locate the eggs let the ducks out of their house around nine in the morning when they should have already laid. There is no need to provide perches, (except for the Muscovy) and use straw or shavings for bedding. **Food** - Continue to feed pellets as above until just before point of lay.

Whole wheat can be mixed with growers 50/50 and fed dry.

Water and Grit continue as above.

At around 6 weeks females will start to quack whilst drakes will have a muted raspy call.

Although ducks (females) and drakes (males) will happily live in any number for a little while yet it is best to start thinking about flock ratio. A trio (two ducks to one drake) is the minimum ratio we would recommend, as a duck can easily become exhausted if too many drakes are paying her attention. Throughout the breeding season one good drake will happily keep eight to ten females eggs fertile with the exception of the Rouen and the light weight call ducks whose drakes are less active and are better at ratios of one drake to two or three ducks.

We recommend you worm your birds every three to four months

