

# The Bisley Birds Guide to Happy, Healthy Ducks

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Welcome to the quacky side of life! Ducks make wonderful additions to gardens and smallholdings – they're curious, comical, and lay the most beautiful, rich eggs. This guide covers what you need to know to keep your ducks healthy, safe, and living their best splashy lives.

## 1. Is Duck Keeping Right for You?

- Ducks are sociable animals – always keep at least two or more.
- They love water, but don't need a pond – a sturdy paddling pool or tub is often plenty!
- Ducks are messier than chickens. Expect splashing, mud and LOTS of poos.
- They need daily care – clean water, safe housing, and regular health checks.
- Ducks are brilliant layers (depending on breed), hardy, and full of character.

## 2. Bringing Your Ducks Home

- Transport calmly in a dog crate or carrier – never loose in a car.
- Go straight home – ducks don't like detours.
- Provide clean water immediately – ducks stress easily without it.
- Settle them into their housing/run gently and let them explore in their own time.
- Keep a rehydration solution in their water for the first 7 days.

## 3. The Golden Rules for Duck Health & Happiness

### Clean Water is EVERYTHING

- Ducks must have water deep enough to submerge their heads – it keeps their eyes and nostrils clean.
- Change water daily. Ducks muck it up fast!
- Add apple cider vinegar or rehydration tonic now and then for a boost.

### A Balanced Diet

- Good quality waterfowl or layers pellets are ideal.
- Supplement with grains, greens, peas, and treats (not bread!).
- Ducks need grit to help them digest their food properly.

### Comfy Housing

- Ducks don't roost – they sleep on the ground, so keep bedding thick and dry.
- Use straw or hemp, and change regularly.

- • Housing must be fox-proof and draft-free, with plenty of airflow.

### **Keep Them Clean & Safe**

- • Check feet regularly – ducks are prone to bumblefoot.
- • Parasite check and worm as needed (ask us if unsure!).
- • Give access to dry ground too – too much wet = health issues.
- • Provide shade in summer and warm bedding in winter.

### **Ducks Will Be Ducks!**

- • Give them space to splash, dabble, forage and preen.
- • They love rain and mud – embrace it!
- • Add enrichments like floating treats, shallow pans with peas, or mirrors.

## **4. Day-to-Day Duck Life**

- Ducks are early risers – open their coop/run in the morning and lock them in securely at dusk.
- They lay eggs in the early hours – check nests daily.
- Eggs often get a bit muddy – it's normal!
- Weekly cleanouts of bedding and daily fresh water are a must.
- Keep feed and bedding in sealed containers – ducks attract rats like magnets.

## **5. Need Help?**

We're here with advice, supplies and quacking good support. Pop into the Flock Shop or message us anytime.