



RVC Exotics Service
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DUCK CARE SHEET

Social structure

Ducks are highly social and need to be kept in groups for company. They are inquisitive and vocal, very active and they love to forage. Their average lifespan is 8-12 years in captivity. Pet ducks require human interaction and enrichment. Ducks may be kept in single sex or mixed groups. In mixed groups there should be a ratio of 4-6 females per male.

Duck Housing

Ducks are popular backyard pets and there are many choices for housing them. The ultimate decision on what type of housing you choose will be dictated by size of flock, space available, cost, disease control and predator proofing among other things. A secure and well-ventilated house or pen is required and should be predator proof. A 3-sided house is best to aid ventilation. Plenty of space should be provided: a minimum of 1.5-2m² per duck if they are housed during the day or a minimum of 0.5-1m² per duck (2) overnight accommodation. Shade should always be provided, alongside protection from wind and adverse weather conditions.

Ducks are messy and produce a lot of droppings, so housing should be easy to clean. The material on tBT06.6766.7061 o

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Parasite burdens

Fractures/ trauma from predators

If you have any concerns over you pet birds' health, please contact us to arrange a consultation with one of our exotics vets.

Compulsory Registration

It is compulsory for birds kept in Great Britain to be registered with APHA. More details can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-as-a-keeper-of-less-than-50-poultry-or-other-captive-birds>.