

Nothing to Quack about....

Dear Grand Lakes Neighbors,

We are moving into the time of year when the Muscovy ducks start making nests and laying eggs.

The immediate concern in our community is the abundance of ducks in our recreation areas (pools, parks), and the rapid proliferation rate of this invasive species. so we are asking for your help to address this concern.

First, feeding the ducks is absolutely the WORST thing we can do as well as not being in accordance with our Grand Lakes Governing Documents. Read the accompanying flyer from a nearby neighborhood.

Second, we need your help to act now to try and control the



number of ducks. This is the egg laying season, and many of the nests are found not only in common areas but private yards as well. Unlike Mallards that reproduce once a year between 8-13 eggs¹, the Muscovy ducks reproduce up to three times a year laying 8-16 eggs².

If you see a duck egg nest, we are asking you to discard all but one or two of the eggs from the nest. The duck will not immediately re-nest if two eggs remain in the nest; else, if all eggs are removed, she will lay another batch of eggs.

If the nest is in your yard, and you are not comfortable dealing with the situation, please feel free to contact a member of the wildlife committee (through the management company), and with your permission and presence, we will come and remove the eggs. If the nest is in a common area, please do not hesitate to advise a committee member of the nest location.

This simple action will help to prevent an abundance of Muscovy ducks this year and is the second step (Remember, the first is DO NOT FEED the ducks) in restoring a balance to our community.

This will be an ongoing endeavor in our neighborhood for years to come, and the sooner we educate ourselves on proper wildlife practices, the sooner we strike a balance with nature.

We really appreciate your help with this!

The Wildlife Committee of Grand Lakes

¹ Retrieved from Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mallard>

² Retrieved from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muscovy_duck



A fed duck is a dead duck.

It's so hard to resist ducks begging for attention, and it would seem that providing food for ducks would make them healthy and happy, but it doesn't. So many animal lovers grew up with great memories of feeding bread to ducks at parks. We never dreamed it was bad for them. But it is.

**If you love me,
please don't feed me!**



When wild ducks are fed human food (especially bread or crackers) their organs become engorged and fatty, which can cause them to suffer from heart disease, liver problems and other health complications. Bread also has very few nutrients, and can get compacted in a bird's crop. A diet of bread, corn, crackers, chips and popcorn can lead to many problems:

Duckling Malnutrition: Ducklings fed bread miss out in vital nutrients during their critical first few weeks, which can cause splayed legs and deformed wings. These conditions lead to an early death.

Diseases: Feeding ducks can increase the spread of diseases in two ways. First, a carbohydrate-rich diet leads to greater defecation, and bird feces easily harbor bacteria responsible for numerous diseases, including avian botulism. Second, moldy bread can cause aspergillosis, a fatal lung infection that can decimate entire duck and waterfowl flocks. Avian diseases generally not transmissible in the wild will flourish in overcrowded and unsanitary conditions.

Pollution & Pests: When large amounts of bread are offered to ducks, not all of it will be eaten. The soggy, rotting bread is unsightly and can create noxious odors as well as lead to greater algae growth that can clog waterways. This concentrates the pollution and can eventually kill fish and other aquatic life. Leftover bread and corn also attract unwelcome pests such as rats, mice and roaches.

Loss of Natural Behavior: If they become accustomed to handouts, ducks don't learn to forage for natural sources of food such as insects and aquatic plants. Also, hand-fed ducks lose their natural fear of humans and can become aggressive. "Nuisance waterfowl" often are euthanized en mass after complaints from citizens.

**For a positive way to interact with wildlife,
consider volunteering at the Wildlife Center of Texas.**

For info about volunteer opportunities, please visit www.wildlifecenteroftexas.org



Material above sourced from Cinco Ranch Website

Please rethink purchases of ducks or baby chicks as Easter gifts. After the novelty has worn off, these animals often face an unhappy end, and it is against federal law to release animals purchased in this manner to the wild.