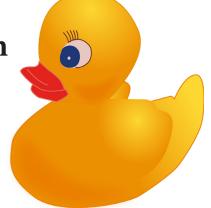


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## **DUCKS**

Ducks are a group of species of water birds – relatively small in size and with shorter necks than swans and geese. Ducks are birds. Ducks are also called 'waterfowl' because they are normally found in places where there is water like ponds, streams, and rivers. All ducks have highly waterproof feathers. A duck's feathers are so waterproof that even when the duck dives under water, the downy underlayer of feathers right next to the skin will stay completely dry.

Humans have had a long relationship with ducks by being economically and culturally important to us. Ducks have been domesticated as pets and farm animals for more than 500 years, and all domestic ducks are descended from either the mallard or the Muscovy duck. Ducks have been domesticated for their feathers, eggs and meat. The production of eggs is affected by daylight. When there is more daylight, the ducks will lay more eggs. The eggs will hatch within 28 days normally, except for the Muscovy duck which takes about 35 days to hatch.

Ducks are omnivorous and will eat grass, aquatic plants, insects, seeds, fruit, fish, crustaceans and other types of food.

Ducks are outgoing, social animals who feel most at ease when they're in a larger group of other ducks. Ducks can live up to 20 years, depending on the species. Ducks are often on the move, but their daily routine usually involve eating and resting. Ducks are most active just before sunrise through midmorning, and then again from late afternoon until well after sunset.

Female mallard ducks make the classic "quack" sound while males make a similar but raspier sound that is sometimes written as "breeeeze".

Most species of duck do not "quack"