

# Did you know?

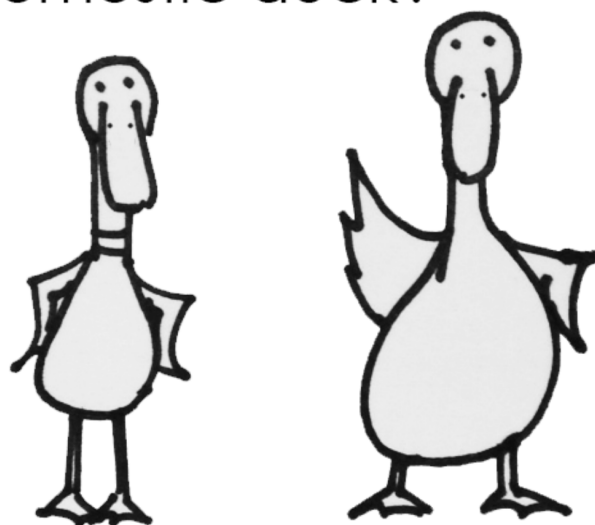
Bread is bad for ducks.

Bread lacks the nutrients ducks need for strong bones and good health. Ducklings are especially vulnerable to poor nutrition because they grow so fast. So now that you know bread is bad, here are a few alternatives you can feed instead:

- Cheerios (vitamin-fortified cereals)
- Cracked corn
- Barley, oats or other grains
- Bird seed
- Dry cat food
- Duck feed pellets from a farm supply store

The best idea is to not feed wild ducks at all. Domestic ducks are sometimes dumped at parks, and they can benefit from food support. But as a rule, ducks do best when they eat their natural food sources, like seeds, small plants and bugs. Over-feeding ducks can lead to over-population, pond pollution and disease.

Can you tell the difference between a wild duck and a domestic duck?



Wild ducks are small and compact. They fly really well and often visit several ponds in a day. Some wild ducks migrate South to warmer areas for the winter. Most wild park ducks are mallards. The males have green heads and the females are mostly brown. You will never see a wild white duck.

Dumped domestic ducks are larger than wild ducks and come in many colors. They are bred for pets, eggs or meat, and are too fat to fly well. NOTE: You should never raise and release ducks to a park. It is illegal and may result in animal cruelty charges. Domestic ducks are not able to avoid predators, don't have instincts to migrate when it gets too cold and icy, and often require food support to survive.

## Cool duck facts!

Male ducks and female ducks quack differently. Female ducks are much louder whereas male ducks have a deeper, quieter quack.

Male ducks have a curly feather on the top of their tail. It's called a "drake feather."

Ducks have a specialized circulatory system in their legs and feet that helps them stay warm even when they're swimming in ice-cold waters.

Ducks are extremely social and emotional, just like cats and dogs. It takes a lot of smarts to be part of a flock!

## Be a good wildlife steward!

Keep dogs on leash at parks—it's the law!

Never, ever chase ducks or geese. Never hatch and release ducks to a park.

Feed only nutritious snacks to ducks, or don't feed at all.

Tell others "Bread is bad for ducks." Never disturb a nesting duck or goose.

Give nesting geese extra space. Pick up any trash you see at the park, especially fishing line or string.

