



WILD BIRD CARE
CHARITABLE TRUST

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TIPS WHEN FEEDING AT THE POND

Everyone loves to visit the ducks at the local pond but there are a few things to remember when you do:

- First look for council signs and make sure you can feed the birds
- Definitely NO bread!! It has no nutritional value, is unhealthy and can pollute waterways
- Food should always be fresh. Our view is, if you won't eat it don't expect the birds too
- Take small amounts of food to feed
- Only visit with food occasionally
- Only feed out the food while it is being eaten – leftovers will rot, become unhealthy and encourage pests i.e. rats
- Feed on the grass, away from the water's edge – uneaten food in the water will pollute the pond
- If there are other people feeding the ducks, save your food for another visit. Too much food is unhealthy (just as it is for people) and you don't want food leftovers to rot or encourage pests
- Make sure the size of food you are feeding out is 'duck size'. They do not have teeth and do not chew their food
- Remember some waterfowl become used to being fed, they can also come to expect it. They can become aggressive if they feel they are missing out – take care!
- Keep pets under control – always!
- Don't allow children to disturb, chase or touch the ducks or ducklings – it can be frightening for the birds and the birds could injure themselves
- If there are ducklings in the water without their mother, step well away from the water's edge and allow them the opportunity to get out. They will get cold if they stay there too long
- Make sure what you brought with you, goes home with you and is disposed of properly

WHAT WE THINK IS HEALTHY FOOD FOR DUCKS

- o Maize – kibbled (cracked)
- o Poultry pellets
- o Wheat
- o Cooked rice
- o Grapes
- o Peas and corn (defrosted)
- o Cat biscuits (softened in water)

Remember 'variety' is key - it's important for our health, so it will be important for wildlife too!