

GENERAL INFORMATION ON WATERFOWL FOR JUNIOR FAIR EXHIBITORS

by Larry Lokai- Junior Fair Poultry Judge

Ducks- male- drake
female- duck
young duck- duckling

Geese- male- gander
female- goose
young geese- gosling

Incubation periods

28 days- most ducks
35 days- Muscovy duck

28-30 days- most geese (depends on reference)
35 days- Canada and Egyptian geese

GENERAL INFORMATION HELPFUL IN SHOWMANSHIP

1. 90-95 degrees- ideal starting brooding temperature- 3 “ above the litter
2. 5-10 degrees lower each week of age until it reaches 70 degrees in brooder
3. Market meat ducks 7-8 weeks of age
4. Market meat geese 12-14 weeks of age
5. Waterfowl that swim in a pond or water pool will be cleaner.
6. Feed market ducks and market geese rations similar to market chickens.
7. Preen gland located on the back by the tail, produces oil that waterfowl spread on feathers.
8. Green ducks are ducklings rapidly grown in 7-8 weeks old for meat production.
9. Raise waterfowl on the floor with soft wood shavings or straw, not on a roost.
10. By 8 weeks age give each market duck 3 square foot of floor space.
11. Possible questions to answer:
 - a) What is the breed of your bird?
 - b) What is the age of your bird?
 - c) What is your bird's weight? (if bird is weighed by your fair committee at check-in)
 - d) How can you determine the sex of your bird?
 - e) Name some of the waterfowl parts on your bird?
 - f) Can you show me the preen gland?

PROCEDURE TO SHOW IN THE RING FOR SHOWMANSHIP CLASSES ONLY

1. Can be shown in the cage or on the table as requested by the judge.
2. When removed from cage or from table examine the head, wings, body plumage and the shanks and feet while carefully holding the bird with one hand and displaying bird with other hand.
3. When removing waterfowl from cage, always remove head first with one hand over back.
4. When you return waterfowl to the cage, always return head first with one hand on back.
5. If setting up waterfowl on a table pose your bird with a training stick or your finger under the neck and do not allow the bird to sit down while in showmanship, keep the bird on alert.
6. Waterfowl shown in the cage should be turned 180 degrees to see both sides of the waterfowl..
7. When waterfowl are shown in the cage or on the table keep legs spread wide and straight, not bunched together.
8. Junior fair exhibitors should comply with fair dress code and not wear hats unless fair permits.

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