



All Creatures Animal Hospital

1894 Ohio Pike
Amelia, OH 45102
513-797-7387

8451 Beechmont Ave
Anderson, OH 45255
513-474-5700

5194 Beechmont Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45230
513-231-2345

Waterfowl As Pets

Ducks, geese, teals, wigeon, and swans

Average Lifespan: 5-10 years

Diet

- A pellet mash should be the main diet for your waterfowl.
- Fresh fruits, vegetables and even hard-boiled eggs must be given as supplements.
- Live worms can be fed as a treat to your waterfowl.
- Avoid commercial duck or goose foods as these are made to “beef up” birds in meat production and have added substances.
- Do NOT feed your waterfowl cookies or crackers.

Grooming/Bathing

- Wing clipping is not recommended for water fowl.
- Molting, a shedding of feathers, will occur about every six months.

Housing Recommendations

- Water fowl are typically kept as outdoor pets so a shelter must be provided that is protected from predators and insulated with straw bedding.
- Waterfowl need a lot of space to roam so enclosures need to be large: for example your entire yard.
- Access to a shallow pond or small pool of water is recommended.

Annual Exam Recommendations

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet. We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for internal parasites.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian are needed.

Senior Screening

- Blood work may be recommended for your older bird if it appears ill.

Common Medical Conditions

- Malnutrition can easily result so diet should be discussed with the veterinarian.
- Internal parasites can occur causing diarrhea and loss of appetite.
- Wing and leg injuries can occur as your waterfowl roams so be sure to keep an eye for any signs of pain or avoidance in using a certain limb.
- It is important to get your bird to the veterinarian as soon as any signs of illness present. Watch for any changes such as excrement color changes, a puffed up appearance, loss of appetite, and lethargy.