

Please Don't Feed the Waterfowl!

Wildlife rehabilitators often receive calls from property owners and municipalities regarding the destruction and mess caused by large numbers of ducks and Canada geese. The main cause of this situation is very simply: PEOPLE FEEDING WATERFOWL!

Most people that feed waterfowl do so because they love animals and enjoy the interaction. They do not realize the danger in which they are actually placing the animal.

Nature balances itself very well. A particular habitat has only enough food for a certain number of animals. Once that food supply is gone, the animals will move to a new habitat. If left to nature, ducks and geese will eat the food supply in an area BEFORE the area becomes so contaminated with feces that it becomes unhealthy. Once the animals have left, the earth cleans itself through enzymes and micro activity and a new food supply grows. The newly rejuvenated habitat can once again support wildlife and the animals return, starting the cycle all over again.

The number of eggs laid by a pair of ducks or geese is in direct proportion to the amount of food available. When food is artificially added to an area by people feeding wildlife, the birds will over-populate an area very quickly. They also will remain in the area longer, contaminating the environment, making it unhealthy for people as well as wildlife.

Another good reason to avoid feeding geese is for their own protection - to ensure they retain their fear of humans. You may not pose a threat to their survival, but if they do not fear ALL humans, they are bound to run in to an unfriendly one sooner or later.

The best reason to refrain from feeding geese is that the foods commonly used, such as bread and french fries, are nutritionally inadequate and cause serious, potentially deadly impactions of the crop. Geese don't know when to stop eating, and the large quantity and the low quality of food combines to create disastrous results. Young birds often develop nutrition deficiencies resulting in crippling deformities. Most of the time they die or have to be euthanized because by the time we receive them the damage is irreversible.

Your Rehabilitator

