

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR DUCKS & GEESE HEALTHY

DO NOT FEED BREAD TO OUR WATERFOWL



- **BREAD IS BAD BECAUSE IT CAUSES DISEASE** – Ducks and geese who feed on scattered bread are at severe risk for disease. Bread becomes moldy and mingles with fowl waste material, which, when consumed, can lead to an outbreak of fatal diseases such as *Aspergillus* and *Avian Botulism*.
- **BREAD IS BAD BECAUSE IT CAUSES OVERCROWDING** – Feeding items such as bread to our ducks and geese attracts birds in unnatural numbers. The natural food and water supplies cannot support the growing number. When additional waterfowl lay more eggs, the situation of overcrowding becomes more severe, making it more and more difficult for our ducks and geese to seek out healthier, more natural food sources. The lack of a proper dietary supply from overcrowding can lead to territorial aggression.
- **BREAD IS BAD BECAUSE IT CAUSES MALNUTRITION** – Waterfowl need a wide variety of healthy, natural foods. Feeding bread to our ducks and geese puts them at a great risk of malnutrition. Ducklings may not receive the proper nutrients needed for healthy growth and development. Additionally, when waterfowl is hand fed, they do not learn or practice foraging and will not be able to seek out natural, diverse and healthier foods. Bread, with its lack of protein and high carbohydrate makeup provides a particular danger for malnutrition.
- **BREAD IS BAD BECAUSE IT CAUSES POLLUTION** – When our ducks and geese are presented with bread, much of it will not be consumed. The uneaten bread quickly rots, creating odors and algae growth that can clog natural water ways. This creates hazards for both our waterfowl and fish population.
- **BREAD IS BAD BECAUSE IT CAUSES PEST ATTRACTION** – Rotting foods and leftovers attracts unwelcome pests such as rats, mice and insects. In addition to harboring additional diseases, these pests can also be dangerous to humans.
- **BREAD IS BAD BECAUSE IT CAUSES DELAYED MIGRATION** – Feeding alters our waterfowl's normal migration patterns. Ducks who become reluctant to leave in the winter may not survive sudden cold.
- **BREAD IS BAD BECAUSE IT CAUSES UNNATURAL BEHAVIOR** – Our ducks and geese quickly become conditioned and dependent on handouts. Bread, in particular, creates an artificial dependency for an unnatural amount of concentrated carbohydrates that leads our ducks and geese to seek out these unhealthy food products from unnatural sites such as parking lot areas of restaurants, retention ponds, and other unnatural and inappropriate sites. These areas are dangerous to our ducks and geese and puts them at risk for sudden accidental death from harsh weather or predators (even dogs and cats).

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Each person who cares enough to become educated about the effects of artificial feeding can help to keep Luray's waterfowl safe and healthy.

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