

SAFE YOUTH

Kids' Voice 4 Animals



Issue 4 of the SAFE Youth newsletter – for kids who know that animals matter

Welcome to Issue Four of the SAFE Youth newsletter.

Ducks are the stars of this newsletter. Winter is a tough time for ducks – the beginning of May starts off with a bang, and not in a good way for ducks.

Duck-shooting season starts in May and ends either at the end of June (for Grey, Mallard and Shoveler ducks) or the beginning of August (for Paradise shelducks). Hunters are allowed to kill up to 12 Greys and Mallards and 25 Paradise shelducks per day during this time.

As an animal rights organisation SAFE would love to see an end to duck shooting. In this issue we will learn about how ducks are special and why they need our protection.



TIPS TO HELP ANIMALS

There are a lot of ways you can help ducks.

1. FEEDING THE DUCKS

Feeding bread to ducks at the local park or botanic gardens is a popular family event. Ducks seem to love it but experts have found that bread is not healthy food for ducks. Bread has no nutritional value for ducks and just fills them up without providing proper nourishment. Foods that are safe for ducks include: wheat, oats, rice, bird seed, frozen peas or corn, chopped lettuce or duck pellets. Remember: wild ducks need to be able to find their own food – so be careful not to make them reliant on humans for food.

2. BE KIND TO DUCKS, KEEP THEM OFF YOUR PLATE

It is not very common to eat duck meat, foie gras or duck eggs. Nevertheless, in New Zealand 2000 ducks are killed for their meat each week. Duck egg production is around 120,000 eggs per year.

You could write to any restaurants and cafés that sell foie gras and ask them to take it off their menu due to the extreme cruelty to ducks.

3. DUCK RESCUE

During spring-time it is quite common to come across ducklings in trouble. Mother ducks often unwittingly lead their young into dangerous situations. Ducklings have been known to fall into drains and become trapped in man-made water features or swimming pools from which they are too small to escape. Some ducklings just become separated from their families.

If you live near areas where duck shooting takes place you may even come across injured ducks.

If you need information about how to care for ducks, Craig Shepherd, New Zealand's own duck superhero (the Duckman), has a great website with information on how to care for ducks: www.duckman.co.nz



DUCK SENSES

EYESIGHT – like most birds, ducks have exceptional vision. Some birds' eyes are as large as their brains!

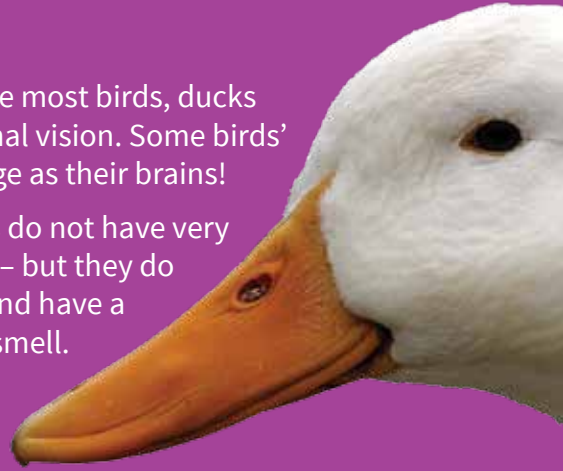
SMELL – ducks do not have very obvious noses – but they do have nostrils and have a keen sense of smell.

TASTE – ducks have about 400 taste buds on the outside of their bill (rather than inside their mouths). Most are on the upper bill.

HEARING – even before ducklings have hatched mother ducks call to them inside the egg so after they have hatched they can respond immediately to her warning call.

TOUCH – ducks have an amazing sense of touch, particularly in their bill. This helps them 'feel' food in the water and muddy stream bottoms.

AWARENESS – it has been discovered that ducks can sleep with one eye open. Half their brain sleeps while the other half is awake and looking out for danger.



DEFINITION OF A DUCK

Ducks belong to the family Anatidae. They are often referred to as waterfowl or waterbirds. They have a broad, blunt bill and short legs, and waddle when they walk. Geese and swans are also members of the duck family.

SPECIES OF DUCK

There are over one hundred of species of duck in the world. New Zealand has five species of native duck: the Blue duck (Whio); New Zealand scaup (Papango); Grey duck (Parera); Paradise shelduck (Putangitangi) and New Zealand shoveler (Kuruwhengi).

Three of these duck species (the Grey, Shoveler and Paradise shelduck) are not protected and can be hunted each year. The most common duck in New Zealand is the Mallard (a non-native).

There are a number of different types of ducks: dabbling ducks (Mallard); diving ducks (Blue duck); perching ducks (also Blue duck); stiff-tail ducks; sea ducks; shelducks (Paradise shelduck) and whistling ducks.

Source: Wildfowl Photography <http://tinyurl.com/p5h7233>



Blue duck (Whio)



New Zealand scaup (Papango)



Grey duck (Parera)



Paradise shelduck (Putangitangi)



New Zealand shoveler (Kuruwhengi)

DUCK CHARACTERISTICS

Feathers are waterproof – ducks have a special gland that produces oil at the base of their tail and spread the oil onto their feathers when preening.



Hatch fully independent, covered with down, can walk and have their eyes open. This is called 'precocial'.



Choose a mate and stay with that mate for up to a year. Paradise shelducks often mate for life.



Are omnivores and eat grass, aquatic plants, insects, seeds, fruit and small fish.



A person who studies birds is called an **ORNITHOLOGIST**.



Feet are webbed and designed for swimming. Ducks' feet do not have any nerves or blood vessels so their feet never feel the cold.



Males are more colourful than females. Females need to be camouflaged when they are sitting on the nest.



Bills (beaks) are different shapes depending on how the ducks search for food.



LIFESPAN

Ducks can live from seven to 10 years. At five weeks of age ducks reach adult size. Ducks on factory farms are killed when they are between six weeks and 16 months old (depending on whether they are farmed for eggs or meat).

CODE QUACKER CHALLENGE

Hidden inside this code is duck joke that is sure to 'quack' you up! Use your code 'quacking' skills to crack this code and work out the joke.

GET QUACKING!

Question:

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Answer:

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*NOTE: If you get stuck the code is on the bottom of page 6!

ANIMALS IN TROUBLE

When you see ducks peacefully floating in local rivers, lakes and wetlands you would never imagine they are in danger from humans. Unfortunately, ducks are hunted for sport, farmed for food and, even more horrifyingly, force-fed in order to produce the 'delicacy' foie gras.



FACTORY FARMING FOR MEAT AND EGGS

When people think of factory farming in New Zealand they tend to imagine chickens or pigs in cages and crates. Ducks are also farmed for their meat and eggs and New Zealand currently has around four commercial duck farms. The ducks are kept indoors in large barns. They have access to food and water to drink but are not able to swim or bathe. Ducks farmed for their meat are slaughtered when they are six weeks old. Ducks farmed for eggs are slaughtered at about sixteen months of age and replaced with new birds.



DUCK SHOOTING

Each year New Zealand hunters kill over one million ducks and injure tens of thousands. Over 40,000 hunters dress up in camouflage and hide in maimais (small shelters built on lakes or riversides usually covered in bush or scrub) in order to shoot ducks. The hunters use shotguns to kill ducks. These are guns that do not use bullets, but fire a package of shot (hundreds of tiny pellets) that spreads out like a fan in the air and can kill and injure several ducks at once.

FOIE GRAS

Foie gras is a French term and it means 'fatty liver'. Some restaurants and supermarkets sell foie gras as a delicacy. Foie gras is a duck's (or goose's) liver. In order to make the liver large and 'fatty' the ducks are force-fed extra food. This causes the liver to enlarge. Ducks are restrained in cages or small pens. Twice a day a feeding pipe is forced down their throats. The ducks are fed a kilo of food each day (this is about six to eight times more than they would normally eat). This cruel practice causes great suffering for ducks and geese whose throats are often injured during the process. Many birds vomit and choke and even end up with grain in their lungs. Many countries have banned the sale of foie gras due to the extreme cruelty to animals. Foie gras has not been banned in New Zealand.



KIND FOOD PINEAPPLE CAKE

One of the kindest things you can do for animals is not to eat them. There are lots of yummy recipes without animal ingredients. This Pineapple Cake is super-easy to make. It only has three ingredients!

Ingredients

- 2 cups of self-rising flour (sifted)
- 1 cup of caster sugar
- 1 can (440g) of crushed pineapple in syrup or juice (undrained)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 180°C.
2. Mix all ingredients together until well combined.
3. Pour into a lined loaf tin & bake for 55-60 minutes.

*If you want to make a healthy version you could use a sugar alternative and wholemeal flour.



SAFE KIDS FOR ANIMALS

This is where you can have your action for animals recognised.

NIKOLAI (9) CHRISTCHURCH

Nikolai and his family have been volunteering for SAFE in Christchurch for a while and are keen animal lovers. When Nikolai turned nine in April he had a birthday party with a special twist. Instead of his friends bringing a present for Nikolai he asked if they could bring a donation for SAFE. He managed to raise \$170 for animals. Such an incredibly generous act! We love your style Nikolai!

MAJA (11) AUCKLAND

Maja has started an animal rights group at her school with 45 members! She has her own blog called Animal Rights and Wrongs where she speaks out for animals and even did a Skype presentation about animal rights with a class in Thailand. Maja raised \$140 for SAFE and the animals by doing a bake sale with her friends. You are a star!! Thanks Maja!

LIVY (11) CHRISTCHURCH

Livy loves animals and wanted to fundraise to help them. She and her friends decided to do a sponsored run for animals and entered the Christchurch City to Surf run together in March. They ran 14 kilometres for animals! What an amazing effort! Together they raised a whopping \$445.90. Thanks Livy!

KALIKA (11) CHRISTCHURCH

Congratulations to Kalika, who was one of the winners of SAFE's 'Free to be me' colouring competition! Fantastic to see one of our SAFE Youth members with a winning entry. Well done Kalika!



SAFE MEMBER PROFILE

Auckland SAFE Youth member Maja is our SAFE YOUTH member profile this time.

Name: Maja Skilling

Age: 11

Hometown: Auckland

Favourite animal: I love all animals, but I especially like chickens and pigs.

What got you interested in wanting to help animals?

I went on the SAFE Stop Factory Farming march last year, and I got inspired to help animals. I also visited The Animal Sanctuary in March, and I learnt lots about animal feelings.

What animal issues upset you the most? Factory farming, animal testing, palm-oil and animals used for entertainment.

What is your favourite veg food? My mum's lentil spaghetti bolognese, dad's dairy-free strawberry sorbet, and my grandma's delicious rice sausages - yum!

Anything you want to share about animals? I have an animal rights blog to spread the word about animal-related issues. If you want to check it out, it's called www.animalrightsandwrongs.wordpress.com.



HOW TO JOIN THE SAFE YOUTH GROUP - KIDS' VOICE 4 ANIMALS

The SAFE YOUTH GROUP is open to children aged between 8 – 14 years. If you would like to join the SAFE YOUTH GROUP - KIDS' VOICE 4 Animals – fill out the form below and send to: Nichola Kriek – Education Officer, SAFE, PO Box 13366, Christchurch 8024. We will send you three newsletters per year and keep you up to date with any SAFE Youth events.

Name:	
Date of birth:	
Street:	
Suburb:	
City:	
Phone number:	
Email:	

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