



Having ducklings is a rewarding and wonderful experience. Listed below are some tips to help you start strong and healthy with your new ducklings.

- Brooder temp 90 degrees to start then drop 7 degrees per week. When fully-feathered (around 6 weeks, then can go outside (weather depending).
- Water at all times. Ducks need water when eating or they will choke.
- Feed first 3 weeks 19-21% protein. **NO MEDICATED FEED. CAN KILL THE DUCKS.** Then switch to a duck grower 18% protein till adult. We carry waterfowl feed [here](#).
- Supplements – Ducklings need 18 mg/lb of niacin. What is Niacin? Niacin is a crucial B vitamin and is essential for bone development, digestion, skin, and nervous system function for waterfowl. Our feed has this but most feeds don't have enough so you will need to supplement. Things that have niacin: brewers yeast, peas, oats, Vitamin B liquid drops. Recommend purchasing brewers yeast and add to feed daily or Vit B to water. Research dosages.
- Treats - Can put herbs in water and frozen peas. Favorite of ours is peppermint. This is not meant to replace food, an occasional treat. A balanced diet is critical.
- Outdoors – take them outside in a supervised and contained area. They will love exploring and eating the grass bugs and soil. It is healthy and fun!
- Swimming – ducklings can't swim unsupervised. **NEVER LEAVE ALONE.** By about a month old they can swim independently. Remember, they haven't developed the special oil on their feathers until a month old so they could potentially drown.
- Resources: We really like this information on housing by [Cornell University](#). [Storey's Guide to Raising Ducks](#).

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