

How to care for a baby moscovy duckling.

For downy, unfeathered ducklings, go to a grocer's and purchase Gerber's Baby Rice Cereal. Make it into a wet gruel. You might have to dip the tip of the duckling's beak into it so he knows to eat it. Be sure not to put the beak in so deeply that you cover the two holes on the top which are his nostrils. The gruel, as well as the accompanying water bowl, should be shallow. You don't want them to get very wet. You can get a large Tupperware container. At one end put a light so they get some heat and under the light, a feather duster. The other end stays cool. Put food and water in the cool end.

After a few days when the duck is eating the gruel well, you can add some FINELY chopped romaine, tomatoes, strawberries or watermelon. After another couple of days, wild bird seed.

When the duck is feathered, you can buy cracked corn in a pet store. Put the cracked corn on the grass so the little guy learns to forage. He will also eat some of the grass and bugs. Again, constant water is needed.

You can make a little pen to let the duck hang out outside. You can also consider buying a little child's pool and allowing the duck to swim in it. While it is small you don't want to leave it unattended as it can be predated upon by hawks, cats and dogs. When unattended, keep the duck in an enclosure such as a dog carrier.

Note, ducks have nails on their feet so always pick them up from the back to avoid not only getting bitten, but scratched with the nails. Always make sure to wash real well after handling the duck.

Once it has all its feathers and can fly, it is ok to release them as he will now be able to fly away from predators. You can continue to put out some cracked corn, reducing the amount each day so they are weaned from it. This occurs around 3 months of age. Then no longer feed it.

Any questions or concerns, please give us a call.