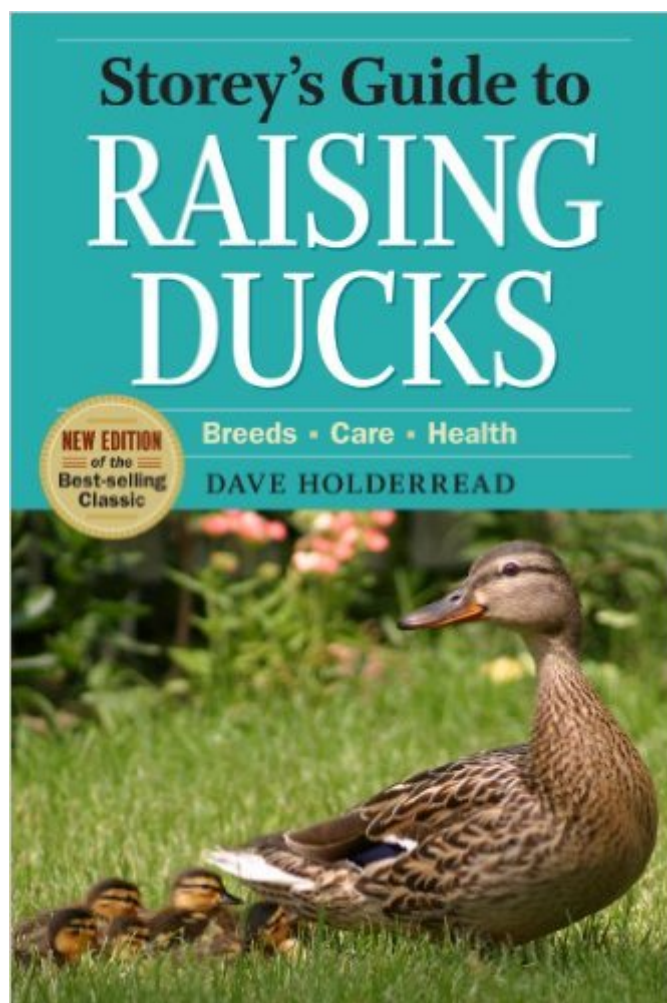


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# Storey's Guide To Raising Ducks, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

Storey's Guide to Raising Ducks provides vital information for anyone wanting to keep ducks. It covers everything - choosing the right breed, including rare breeds and hybrid ducks; breeding and rearing practices; feeding; butchering; and, a comprehensive resource section for both the novice and the veteran farmer. New and Expanded features include: expanded breed section; more information on facilities for ducklings, health, and disease treatment; a compendium on marketing and record keeping; section on colour genetics; and, new information on rarer breed conservation.

## Book Information

Series: Storey's Guide to Raising

Hardcover: 336 pages

Publisher: Storey Publishing, LLC; 2 edition (February 19, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1603426930

ISBN-13: 978-1603426930

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (114 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,620,293 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #229 in [Books > Medical Books > Veterinary Medicine > Bovine Medicine](#) #244 in [Books > Medical Books > Veterinary Medicine > Food Animals](#) #738 in [Books > Business & Money > Industries > Agriculture](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book is an EXCELLENT starter for when you're contemplating a flock of ducks but haven't made the move to buy them yet. Holderread bred most of the important duck breeds himself, so I trust his information completely. Unfortunately, because this is a basic, overall guide, he makes the information far too general and commercial. This book is decidedly aimed at the large, commercially breeding or laying flock and neglects details that a novice or hobby farmer might want to know (such as what human foods are acceptable duck foods and which ones are dangerous--he mentions only canola oil as toxic--and what ducks respond well to as treats, training and overall human interaction). If you plan to have a flock of a hundred ducks and set things up for minimal contact, then putting in wire floors and such as he recommends may be appropriate. If you care about the quality of life of your ducks, then don't listen to him when he claims ducks don't need to swim and that the only benefit of swimming is feather quality. Essentially, I recommend reading this through,

but then finding books such as *The Resilient Gardener* to expand in detail on how to really care for ducks if you're not a big-time farmer.

I love the "Storey's Guide to Raising..." books. They are just packed with great information. I'm getting ready to start my backyard ranch and these books will be indispensable. I'll list all of the chapter headings for each of the books I got to give you an idea of the information you'll be getting. Here's the list for Ducks: Why Ducks External Features and Behavior Choosing the Right Duck Bantam Breeds Lightweight Breeds Mediumweight Breeds Heavyweight Breeds The Importance of Preserving Rare Breeds Hybrid Ducks Understanding Duck Colors Acquiring Stock Incubation Rearing Ducklings Managing Adult Ducks Understanding Feeds Butchering Health and Physical Problems Showtime This book also contains Acknowledgements, a Foreword, Glossary, and Appendix which includes; Mixing Duck Rations, Symptoms of Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies in Ducks, Predators, Duck Recipes, Using Feathers and Down, Duck Breekers and Hatchery Guide, Sources of Supplies and Equipment, and Organizations and Publications. Like I said, packed with great information.

I already had the ducklings on order from the hatchery when I put this book in my 10-year-old daughter's Easter basket. She had been begging me for ducks, and the babies were due to arrive a few weeks before her birthday. Instead of realizing why I had given her a book on raising ducks, she used it to try to convince me to get ducks. As she brought up facts, I just smiled and nodded. "Mom," she said, "did you know that ducks get fewer diseases than chickens?" "Mom, most ducks only need a 3-foot fence to keep them in. Chickens need a lot more than that!" I told her to keep researching how to raise ducks, and if she educated herself well enough, I'd consider it. Well, the ducklings arrived, and she already knew exactly what to feed them and care for them. They're doing very well, swimming in the pond outside, and much more fun than our chickens! We'll be keeping ducks as long as we have the land to put them on.

Nothing beats a Storey's guide for reliable and accurate information. I don't believe there is anyone west of the Mississippi who knows as much about ducks as Dave Holderread. Put the two together and you have one awesome resource for everything from choosing the right duck for your yard, personality, and purpose to how to handle an emergency. I couldn't quite bring myself to read the chapter on butchering my beloved pets, but everything else was interesting and helpful. The genetic chapter was over my head, but IF I were interested in breeding it would be a chapter I would study

at length. It was lovely to have someone write to me and not at me or down at me. Some books treat readers as if they are children, others are trying to convince readers not to have ducks as pets, some are only about how to make money. Holderread covers all these things, but also gives the pet owner the information needed to have healthy happy ducks. Whether you want three little girls to eat your slugs or 100 gals to produce an income, this is the best book to get--you can trust me, I've read 47 books on raising ducks.

If you only buy one book about raising ducks, this is the one you want. This book helped me choose a breed, design a predator-resistant duck house and duck yard, and create a healthy feeding/watering plan. With its help, I raised mail-order ducklings to a healthy laying flock--losing only 1 out of 9 ducklings. It is a VERY PRACTICAL guide written by a man who has tons of experience breeding, raising, and showing ducks of many different breeds. It has probably some of the best breed descriptions (although, of course, not lots of beautiful color photos) in any duck book I've read. His duck feeding, watering, and housing guides are in-depth and practical. I refer to them frequently as the needs of my flock change. I find if I'm running into trouble--it's usually because I disregarded one of his suggestions. His health section has tips to prevent illness in the first place, and treatment suggestions keeping in mind the real world value of your average duck. There is a short section on butchering/ recipes too, as well as showing.

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