

Feeding ducks in our parks

It's great that you like to feed the birds in our parks but please think about making a few simple changes -

- Bread's not great for a duck's health as it's nothing like their natural diet so don't overfeed them
- Try to vary what you give them and swap it for healthier more natural treats like oats, corn, or defrosted frozen peas
- And exercise portion control

A recent survey by the Canal and River Trust found nearly a quarter of English and Welsh people had together fed six million loaves of bread to ducks last year!

Uneaten bread causes algal blooms, allows bacteria to breed and attracts rats and other vermin to our rivers, lakes and ponds.

Apart from affecting water quality, large amounts of bread and other human food can be harmful to wildfowl, leading to potentially fatal or disabling health conditions.

The RSPB say making large quantities of bread easily available stops ducks from eating a natural, balanced diet.

“White bread in particular has no real nutritional value, so while birds may find it tasty, the danger is that they will fill up on it instead of other foods that could be more beneficial to them.”

There's also a risk that ducks and other water fowl could get an illness known as angel wing, which is caused by not getting the right nutrients in their diet. The illness causes a deformity in birds' wings which affects the way they fly or even stop them flying altogether, which could obviously be fatal.

