

# Easy Reference Sheet

## Emergency Care of Native Ducklings and Waterbirds

### Duck and Duckling Identification



Australian Wood Duckling



Pacific Black Duckling



Plumed Whistling Duckling



Wandering Whistling Duckling



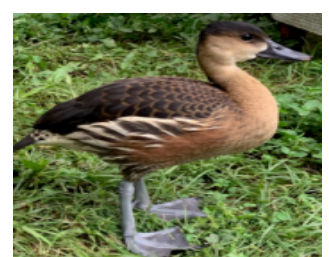
Australian Wood Duck



Pacific Black Duck



Plumed Whistling Duck



Wandering Whistling Duck

### Other Waterbird Identification



Magpie Gosling



Australasian Grebe Chick



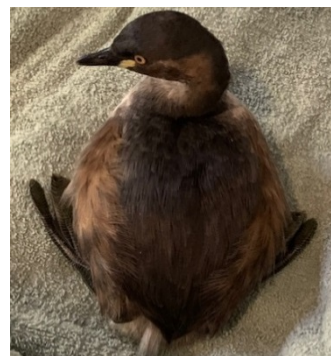
Buff Banded Rail Chick



Purple Swamp Hen Chick



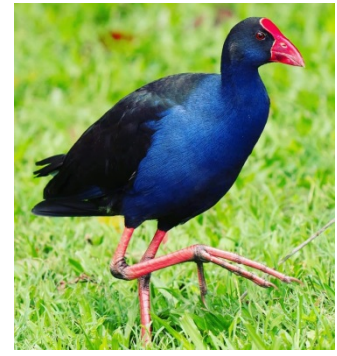
Magpie Goose



Australasian Grebe



Buff Banded Rail



Purple Swamp Hen

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## Easy Reference Sheet

### Emergency Care of Native Ducklings and Waterbirds (continued)

#### Tips for Short Term Care of Native Ducklings and Waterbirds

- **Heat Source** - Ducklings **MUST** be kept very warm to ensure survival (28-31°C). Heat Sources can include: ICU, Snugglesafe, heat lamp, hot water bottle, electric heat mat or instant heat pack. Use a probe thermometer or infrared/laser temperature gauge to check temperature.
- **Housing** - Ducklings can escape easily and are capable jumpers. ICUs, plastic tubs with ventilated lids or soft pet carriers make acceptable short-term housing
- **Flooring** - It is essential to place towels or a toggle bath mat on bottom of tub/carrier/ICU.
- **Comfort** - Ducklings are highly social and require a teddy or soft toy for comfort, even if they have siblings. To prevent entanglement, ensure teddies have no bows, loops or loose strings
- **Feeding** - Despite being waterbirds, ducklings and small waterbirds face a drowning risk so only use very shallow dishes for food and water.

#### Tub Set Up for Ducklings and Waterbird Chicks

- Place heat source under toggle mat/towel on base at end with teddy so they can snuggle on heat under teddy
- Probe Thermometer to check temp
- Shallow dishes – 1 with diluted First Aid or Spark, 1 with Crumble, Greens and First Aid
- Cover tub/carrier with breathable lid and towel
- ICU setup same, without towel on side. Set ICU temperature at 30°C



#### Feeding

- Only Feed ducklings or waterbirds once they have warmed up (30-45 minutes on heat)
- Once warm, offer duckling a small, shallow bowl of Wombaroo First Aid mixed with water (1 teaspoon Wombaroo First Aid, 20ml warm water) plus dish of duckling crumble and finely sliced greens (lettuce, kale, Asian greens). If no Wombaroo First Aid is available, Vetafarm Spark mixed as per bottle directions with a small amount of duckling crumble/chick starter or Wombaroo Insectivore is acceptable as an emergency diet. For Grebes, Rails or Swamp Hens, substitute crumble and greens with cool, boiled egg yolk and mealworms.
- Do not crop-feed ducklings or waterbirds as they do not have crops.



Wombaroo First Aid



Laucke Duckling Starter



Finely sliced greens



Prepared Emergency Diet

#### Additional Information

Keep in quiet location, away from dogs/cats/children/radio etc. Do not cuddle or handle unnecessarily. Contact WILDCARE or a Duckling/Waterbird carer immediately. Ducklings are highly anxious and despite not always showing traditional signs of stress, being orphaned or injured are highly stressful incidents for a duckling, so it is important the above guidelines are followed promptly.