MEET OUR ANIMALS

Introducing our Ducks

Here at Diamond Forest Cottages Farm Stay we have several different types of ducks: Pekins, Khaki Campbells, Appleyard and some that are a combination. This means we have some whiteducks, some brown ducks and some ducks that have quite pretty feathers that change colour in the sun.

In late August and early September we begin to collect eggs for our incubator to hatch baby ducklings. We collect them otherwise the ducks will lay them out in the waterweeds somewhere and nest there at night. Because the ducks are nesting outside of their pen they are not safe from foxes. Each year between October and February we often have ducklings in our petting pen for our guests to see and feed on our Daily Animal Feed Run.

Did you know?

- It takes 28 days for an egg to hatch once it has gone in the incubator. Once it has hatched, though, the ducklings grow very quickly.

- Within 48 hours they are on their feet and ready to start a special food called a grower crumble. This is a crumbly mix that is full of vitamins to give the ducklings all they need to grow into healthy ducks.

- Ducklings love water from a very early age and, unlike baby chicks, we need to put in large water containers next to their food because they not only drink it they will hop into their water bowl and swim in it- sometimes all of them at once!

The ducks here at Diamond Forest Cottages Farm Stay are free range. Once we let them out in the morning on the Daily Animal Feed Run they are free to roam wherever they want on the farm. Sometimes they visit our guests staying in our cottages. Sometimes they even go over to our neighbour's farms! As it gets dark they always come home. They know where they are safe and where they get fed.

Our Secret

When you are familiar with the colours of the drake (boys) and the duck (girls) you can quite easily tell them apart. However during breeding season it becomes easier to tell which ones are the drakes because a single tail feather begins to curl and their colours become much brighter almost iridescent.