

A Duckling's Basic Needs

Ducklings need their Mom.

A lone duckling cannot survive without its mother. She protects her ducklings and brings them to a food source. She also tells them when to get in and out of the water. This is important because they are not yet waterproof and can get waterlogged and drown if they are in the water too long.

Ducklings need a natural pond or river with food.

Ducklings get their food by dabbling in the water. They eat aquatic vegetation, insect larvae, and worms, all of which they find in the natural water sources. They can't survive in swimming pools or fountains because pools and fountains don't have food in them.

Ducklings need a ramp to get out of the water.

Ducklings often get trapped in pools and fountains because the curbs are too high for them to get out. If you see ducklings in a pool or fountain, please provide a ramp with a non-slip surface so they can get out. (A wet towel on the ramp will provide a non-slip surface.)



This curb is too high for the ducklings. They can only jump about 4 inches.

A lone duckling needs help!

If you see one or two ducklings all alone without their mother, they need help. Put the ducklings in a ventilated box on a towel and don't feed them anything. Call City Wildlife at (202) 882-1000, or DC Animal Care and Control at (202) 576-6664 immediately. We can help you!