

PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE GEESE



TOP 10 REASONS NOT TO FEED GEESE (or Ducks)

Source: <http://hardeybordercollies.com/id91.html>

- 1) **Malnutrition** - hand feeding, which is physically harmful to birds, is one of the primary causes of malnutrition.
- 2) **Dependency** - hand feeding leads to birds loss of natural fear of humans, which creates aggressive behavior; causes overpopulation; leads to a delay or halting of migration to natural nesting sites.
- 3) **Disease** - Lowered nutrition and overpopulation allow disease to spread more quickly.
- 4) **Environmental Degradation** - When hand feeding occurs, the overconcentration of birds may ultimately cause overgrazing and degradation to the landscape. Feeding attracts birds in unnatural numbers, beyond natural food and water supplies.
- 5) **Water Pollution** – contributes significantly to water pollution in the form of fecal coliform bacteria.
- 6) **Increased Hybridization** - At many feeding sites, domestic geese have interbred with Canada geese, further compromising the wild population.
- 7) **Delayed Migration** - Feeding alters normal migration patterns of waterfowl by shortening or even eliminating them. Ducks & geese, reluctant to leave in the winter, may not survive sudden cold.
- 8) **Overcrowding in Unnatural Sites** - Artificial feeding often attracts birds to human habitats such as parking lots, fast food restaurants, and retention ponds where they are more subject to accidental death. Natural cover, which can provide protection from bad weather and predators, is often lacking at these feeding sites.
- 9) **Costly Management Efforts** - Many damage avoidance techniques such as chemical repellents, fencing, or noise makers are costly and may even be useless once animals lose their fear of humans. At times, it is necessary to destroy nuisance waterfowl because of the damage they cause.
- 10) **Devaluation** - From treasure to nuisance... wildlife managers recognize that the public's perception of the value of wildlife is often reduced when numbers swell. When any wildlife population exceeds the number that can be naturally supported by available habitat, this can polarize the public and exaggerate *conflicts between landowners who suffer damage and those who visit the site to feed the geese and ducks.*