



## White Pekin Duck and its rearing practices



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### **Introduction:**

Pekin duck is an old dual purpose and most popular commercial duck breed. It was originated from Mallard in China but in the middle of 1800s, Pekin duck was brought to the western world and afterward it also known as American duck or Long Island duck. This duck is most popular for their egg laying ability and fine meat quality and resistant to all the climatic condition.

### **Characteristic:**

Pekin duck belong to heavy breed class. They have long bodies and quite long necks. They are very large breasted and have yellow skin. Their feathers are of white or creamy white in colour. Their legs are a reddish or orange-yellow, and the bill is yellow. They have short wings. They have a more vertical porture than dabbling ducks, and have an overturned rump. The eyes of the pekin duck boast grayish-blue coloured iris, when observed closely. But when observed far away, their eyes seem to be black in colour.

This duck is very intelligent bird. They will quack loudly for warning others about any predators near them. This duck grow very fast as compared to other meat duck breed, friendly in nature and good pet to the owner. On an average, adult pekin ducks weight

between 3.6 kg- 5 kg in captivity. It is a long life bird with a life span of 9-12 years.

### **Life cycle:**

**Incubation period:** Incubation period of mostly duck is 28 days higher than chicken. Disease free duckling should be purchased from reliable source or Govt. agency to start the newly duck farm.

**Brooding period:** Brooding period in duck is 1 days old to 4 week old. This stage is the most critical stage for duckling and higher mortality may be observed within this period, if proper care not taken. 1 sq meter area for 100 ducklings or 100 sq. centimeter per ducklings is sufficient for brooding. A temperature of 29<sup>0</sup> to 32<sup>0</sup> C (85 to 90<sup>0</sup>F) has to be maintained during the first week. It has to be reduced by about 3<sup>0</sup>C per week till it reaches 24<sup>0</sup>C (75<sup>0</sup>F) at the ends of fourth week. If the temperature is higher than the recommended level, air circulation should be increased. In case of winter, a 60W bulb at 1-1.5 meter height from the ground level is enough to maintain the required temperature.

**Housing:** Depending on the rearing system, intensive, semi-intensive or range system, a house can be made with locally available materials like bamboo etc. Under intensive system, a floor space of 2-2.5 sq. ft. area per bird is allowed as night shelter. Under

semi-intensive system, duckling should allow to access the field at the age of 4 weeks.

**Uses:**

Pekin duck are popular for producing quality meat as well as for their egg production. They are good layers and a duck will lay an average of 200 eggs per year. Sometimes, this breed is kept for fancy and showing.

**Feeding management**

Pekin duck is a breed of free choice feeding habit. They are usually fed as chicken, but proteinous feed is mostly recommended. Concentrated feed at pellet form is primarily given just after hatching to 2 weeks. Feed may be sprinkled or provided in the tray for encouraging the new born ducklings to pick up feed. From day two onwards, grower feed is provided in the feeder. Typically, 2 or 3 times grower feeds during the growing stage (after 2 weeks) is efficiency. Under semi intensive system, feed should be supplemented with concentrated feed at least half dose of recommended feed. Water in the drinkers should be offer frequently, 5-7.5 cm (2-3”) deep just sufficient to drink and not dip themselves. Always try to keep duckling dry.

**Disease management:**

**1. Plague:** Viral disease infected birds are sluggish, have ruffled feathers and greenish-yellow diarrhea that are sometimes strained with blood. Vaccination and disease free stock is only treatment for duck plague. Duckling should be vaccinated at 8 to 12 weeks age.

**2. Cholera:** The symptoms associated with diarrhea, mucus discharges and loss of appetite. Vaccination at 4 and 18 weeks of age and disease stock should be supplemented Neodox-forte powder along with liver tonic and vitamin mixture.

| Name of the vaccine           | Dose                            | Route        | Age   |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|---|
| Duck cholera (Pasteurellosis) | Duckling : 1 ml<br>Adult : 2 ml | Subcutaneous | 3-4 weeks.<br>After 1 month of last vaccination |
| Duck plague                   | Adults                          | Subcutaneous | 8-12 weeks                                      |

**Common medication:**

- Electral: 10g/lit water at the time of arrival
- Stresroak 20g/lit water at the time of arrival and one in every week
- Vimeral: 5ml/lit water 5 days continuously every month
- Anticoccidiostatate: 1 gm/lit water in normal bird start at 3 week of age continued 5-7 days and repeat every 2 month. In case of disease 2-5 g/lit water.

- Dewormer: 15g/100 birds, start at 3 weeks of age, continued 5-7 days and repeat every 2 month.
- Tetracycline: 5gm/lit water for 5-7 days in case of diarrhea.

**Source of available of pekin duckling in Manipur**

In Manipur, the sale points of White Pekin duckling are as follows:

- KVK- Imphal West, Lamphelpat, Imphal
- Poultry solution Centre, Thambalkhong, Imphal East, Manipur.
- M/s Ingoba Poultry Centre, Khurai Salamthong, Imphal East, Manipur.
- M/s Jin livestock Centre, Kathiko Karong, Senapati District, Manipur.

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