

(October 2013)

Joplin's Sanctuary is now the new home for two Muscovy ducks that were rescued last week. They are both young females (6 months old) and they will be living here for the next couple of months to ensure that they are healthy and well adjusted. They are now enjoying one of our "Fowl" areas, grazing around their yard during the day and living in a heat lamp warmed shed at night.

We have recently been called out on a number of potential young duck rescues. The number of ducks and their situations differ in the amount of care they are currently receiving and the environments that they are living in... BUT there is one commonality. In each case, the young ducks had been purchased at or around Easter as ducklings and now that they have grown up the owners are no longer tending to them in a healthy manner.

Unfortunately we see this every year. Ducklings, baby chickens (chicks) and baby rabbits are purchased around Easter as gifts for children without any or little insight into the fact that the babies will soon grow up to be adults and will require daily care, feeding and cleaning up after.

Like any animal the cost of and time involvement is under estimated or not even considered in many cases at the time of purchase. The rescue of the FIRST three ducks here was typical. The owner was not a bad person. But the owner had grown tired of taking care of them and "was tired of her yard smelling like a farm yard". Also a concerned person knowledgeable about the situation reported the situation to us and stated she was going to call the health department unless we could help re-home them.

Fortunately we were able to work with the owner and the ducks are no enjoying a clean and healthy environment here at the sanctuary. Unfortunately we can't rescue all of the ducks, chickens and rabbits that are reported to us. Hopefully this rescue's overview helps prevent the purchase of young animals at Easter simply due to the fact that they are cute and/or adorable.