



Urban Ducks and Ducklings

Follow the leader!

Ducklings are often seen “following the leader”. Their leader who is also their teacher and protector is their mother. Their mother is their best teacher for learning to find food, water, and shelter. She also protects them from predators. At the Mission Viejo Animal Services Center we encourage people to leave ducklings and their mom alone. Let momma duck do her job. She is their best chance at a long, healthy life.

How You Can Help

Do not rescue ducklings unless you know that they are truly orphaned. Please call us if you’re unsure and we will help you determine this. In areas serviced by the Mission Viejo Animal Services Center, we will respond to and remove any duck that is injured, sick or deceased.

Orphan Ducklings

Ducklings are truly orphaned only if the mom is killed or has been very frightened and she abandons her ducklings. If frightened, most of the time she will return, if the ducklings are left alone where she can find them.

How to discourage ducks from making a backyard area a nesting site:

- Cover swimming pools during the nesting season.
- Allow beach or pool balls to float on the surface of pools, ponds or fountains.
- Clear away foliage from around water sources to eliminate a protected nesting area.
- Enclose above ground decks with skirting to eliminate a nesting site.



MISSION VIEJO
Animal Services Center

Serving the Cities of Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel,
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