






# Welfare of farmed ducks, geese and quail

EFSA has assessed the husbandry systems used in the European Union for ducks, geese and quail. For all species, our scientists identified hazards that are impacting negatively on the birds' welfare. The assessment provides the scientific basis to support the ongoing revision of the European Union's animal welfare legislation.

## Who is who?

				
<b>DOMESTIC DUCK</b>	<b>MUSCOVY DUCK</b>	<b>MULE DUCK</b>	<b>DOMESTIC GOOSE</b>	<b>JAPANESE QUAIL</b>
<i>Anas platyrhynchos domesticus</i>	<i>Cairina moschata domesticus</i>	Hybrid of female Domestic duck and male Muscovy duck	<i>Anser anser f. domesticus</i>	<i>Coturnix japonica</i>
Waterfowl reared as breeders and for the production of meat.	Waterfowl reared as breeders and for the production of meat and foie gras.	Waterfowl reared for the production of foie gras.	Waterfowl reared as breeders and for the production of meat and foie gras.	Small birds reared as breeders and for the production of eggs and meat.

## How can their welfare be improved?

### Waterfowl







Muscovy ducks need elevated structures

Waterfowl need a solid floor with litter and drainage areas around open water.

-  Access to **open water** to bathe or head dip.
-  **More spacious enclosures** and a height that allows humans to enter to inspect the birds if needed.
-  Adequate **enrichment and foraging material**.
-  Access to an **outdoor area** or, if not available, to a covered veranda.
-  Adequate **nest area and nesting material** to perform nesting behaviour.

### Japanese quail

			
<b>DUST-BATHING</b>	<b>SPACE</b>	<b>NESTING</b>	<b>SOLID FLOOR</b>
Should be provided with areas and fine material for dust-bathing.	More spacious enclosures and a total height that allows birds to jump or fly up without injury and for humans to inspect birds if needed.	Adequate nest area and nesting material to perform nesting behaviour.	Solid floor with friable litter and enrichment material that allows the birds to perform exploratory and foraging behaviour.

Good animal welfare practices lead to improved wellbeing and ensure animals are healthier as a result. This is a key element for the safety of the food chain, considering the close links between animal welfare, animal health and foodborne diseases, in line with the principles of One Health.