

Geese

Anser anser domesticus · Dual-purpose/guard breed

DIFFICULTY Easy-moderate

TYPE Poultry, kept for meat and as guard animals

PRODUCTIVE LIFE Lays from 1 year, productive many years



SPACE

1m² shelter, large grazing area



DIET

Mostly grass/pasture + grain supplement



WATER

Constant access, bathing water appreciated



TEMPERAMENT

Alert, can be territorial

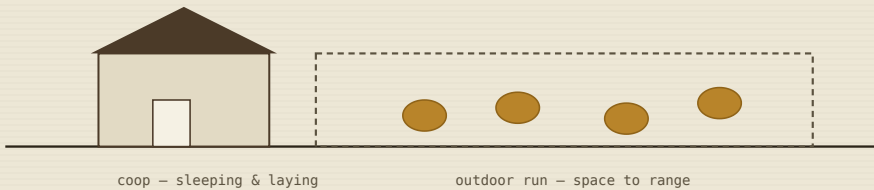


LIFESPAN

15-20+ years

01 Grazers more than foragers

Geese get much of their diet from grazing pasture directly, more like a small ruminant than typical poultry — a decent grassed area matters more for geese than grain feed.



02 Housing & setup

SHELTER	Simple, weatherproof shelter; geese are very cold-hardy.
FENCING	Sturdy fencing — geese are strong and can push through weak sections.
BEDDING	Straw, changed regularly.

03 Daily care

- Provide access to good grazing pasture as the main feed source.
- Supplement with grain, especially over winter or before breeding season.
- Provide bathing water if possible — supports healthy feathers.
- Handle regularly from a young age if a calm, approachable adult is wanted.

04 Health & problems

- **Aggression toward people** — more common than in ducks or chickens; regular handling helps.
- **Overgrazing** — geese can strip pasture bare; rotate grazing areas.
- **Predator loss to goslings** — young birds need secure housing.
- **Parasites** — worm periodically as part of routine care.

05 Production & harvest

YIELD	Meat birds typically processed at 10-20 weeks depending on breed and size target.
EGGS	Fewer, larger eggs than ducks — good for baking, not a high-volume layer.
GUARD ROLE	Geese are famously alert and vocal, useful as an early warning for the property.
STORAGE	Meat: fridge a few days, freezes well. Eggs: several weeks unwashed.

06 Compatibility & considerations

GOOD WITH	AVOID KEEPING WITH	NOTE
Open pasture areas	Small children unfamiliar with geese	Their territorial nature makes geese a genuinely useful low-cost alarm system around a homestead.
Orchards (light grazing, pest patrol)	Very small enclosures	