

## **Falconry FAQ - Daybreak Community Association**

### **Q: Why are we trying to keep ducks away from Oquirrh Lake?**

A: Having a body of water with an overpopulation of waterfowl not only impacts the quality of life for the ducks, but it can cause health and environmental issues if not mitigated properly.

Potential health and environmental issues of an overpopulated lake, include:

- Swimmer's itch
- Algal blooms
- Avian flu

The increased risk of diseases in the lake can be harmful to other wildlife, pets and residents. The goal of the Daybreak Community Association is to keep the surrounding open spaces and amenities clean and usable for residents and their pets. While preserving and protecting the fragile ecosystem of Oquirrh Lake.

### **Q: How does reducing the number of ducks help the ecosystem of Oquirrh Lake?**

A: Bodies of water are only capable of supporting a certain number of waterfowl, and Oquirrh Lake is currently well beyond that threshold. Deterring additional ducks and waterfowl from nesting in the area will increase the quality of life for the remaining ducks and reduce the potential for diseases and bacteria in the lake. These diseases can create issues for the fish, other birds and the wildlife that call the lake home. They can also be harmful to humans and pets who visit the lake.

### **Q: Won't the hawks or falcons hunt or try to harm the ducks and other birds?**

A: The hawks or falcons will be kept from hunting ducks or other wildlife while they are patrolling the overpopulated sections of the lake. Typically, the trained birds will never need to fly to be an effective deterrent for ducks nesting in residential areas. The mere presence of a bird of prey can encourage ducks to move to a safer location. The hawks or falcons will also be accompanied by a professional handler.

### **Q: What can residents do to help reduce the number of ducks in the area?**

A: The easiest way is not to feed the ducks or dump domestic ducks into Oquirrh Lake. While it may seem like a fun activity, feeding them only does them harm, as it keeps them from utilizing their natural instincts to forage and feed themselves. It also creates

issues with duck waste and safety problems near busy roads and paths for the ducks, humans and pets. For these reasons, we do not allow residents or guests to feed the birds at Oquirrh Lake, regardless of the type of food they use.

Additionally, dumping domestic ducks at Oquirrh Lake or any other body of water is against state law and could result in fines. Domestic ducks are reliant on humans for care and will not be able to survive on their own.

**Q: Were other mitigation options considered instead of falconry?**

A: Yes. Other mitigation options were considered, including the use of lights and acoustics to deter ducks from settling at the lake and nesting. However, these methods can be very intrusive to those living in the area and are not as effective as using falconry.

**Q: Does the DWR approve of this tactic?**

A: Yes. The Association has consulted closely with experts to determine the best solutions for mitigating this issue and implementing an ongoing waterfowl management plan.