

## Ducks Saved from Decapitation

*By Laurelee Blanchard, Founder*

**Leilani Farm Sanctuary**

One quiet Sunday afternoon at Leilani Farm Sanctuary, we heard a loud knock on the door of our farmhouse. Standing on the porch was a man who was furious because his tenant had skipped out on his lease and left him with eight male Muscovy ducks, taking the egg-laying females. The man wanted to be rid of the male ducks and gave us an ultimatum: “Either you keep these ducks, or I’ll chop their heads off and eat them.”

The Sanctuary’s duck population was already at its maximum capacity, but those eight helpless ducks needed our mercy. We simply couldn’t turn our backs on them.



Alex



Boris

The decision was made, and a few minutes later the ducks were transferred from a dog kennel in the back of the man’s truck to our duck pasture, where they became acquainted with our existing flock of ducks. It was the first time in their lives that they were free from cages and able to roam around. They seemed to know they were safe with us. We watched these big friendly birds begin to spread their wings and enjoy their spacious new environment.



Muscovy ducks are native South American ducks, easily distinguished from other breeds by their faces, which are devoid of feathers. Their heads are bright red, flashy and carunculated (lumpy). They don’t quack like other ducks, but instead make hissing sounds. They have a lifespan of seven to eight years.

The ducks are now settled and happy with their flock-mates at Leilani Farm Sanctuary, but sponsors are needed to help us provide them feed and veterinary care. If you would like to sponsor a duck, please visit our duck sponsor page at <http://leilanifarmsanctuary.org/lfs-ducks.html>

Our expanded duck family also needs a place to swim. We're now raising funds to build a pond. To make a tax-deductible contribution toward this vital project, please visit us online at [www.leilanifarmsanctuary.org](http://www.leilanifarmsanctuary.org) , or mail a check to:

**Leilani Farm Sanctuary**  
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*Leilani Farm Sanctuary is an all volunteer, non-profit organization dedicate to providing care for rescued animal and humane education to the community. The sanctuary is located on 8-acres on the island of Maui, and is home to 200 rescued animals, including donkeys, pigs, chickens, cats, rabbits, guinea pigs, goats, geese, tortoises, deer, and turkeys.*