

Ruddy Outrageous!

'Ruddy Outrageous!' is how the the *Mail on Sunday* described the Government's planned slaughter of all the British ruddy ducks.

Animal Aid has fought back on behalf of the ducks and obtained press coverage at the start of March in the *Sunday Times*, *Sunday Telegraph*, and eight other national newspapers. In addition, our Director, Andrew Tyler, and other campaign staff were interviewed by the main national television news programmes and on dozens of local and national radio stations, including Radio 4. Once they know what is going on, most people agree with us that this 'genetic cleansing' is wrong. Tony Banks MP has tabled a supportive Early Day Motion (No. 823), and if we can carry on developing public opposition, we believe that the Government will be forced to change its mind. We have already forced a delay in the slaughter plans and the Government is now talking about 'non-lethal methods of control', such as egg destruction.

The British and Spanish Governments say that it is necessary to kill all the ruddy ducks, because they are interbreeding with the Spanish white-headed duck, allegedly putting that species at risk.

Our message is simple:

- When the white-headed and ruddy ducks interbreed, they produce healthy, fertile offspring, showing just how genetically close they are. If more hybrids are born, then this will not cause any ecological problems.
- The real problem for white-headed ducks is that the Spanish have hunted them and destroyed their habitats, taking them to the brink of extinction.
- This planned 'cull' is a waste of money and will cause a great deal of suffering. In a trial shooting of thousands of ruddys, many birds took hours to die, with some being shot several times. Others were injured and never retrieved, so no-one knows how long they suffered.



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Animal Aid's campaign to save the ruddy ducks will continue until the Government changes its mind. You can help:

1. Sponsor Richard and Mark to help pay for the campaign. A Freepost envelope is enclosed with this edition of *Outrage*.
2. Write to your local and to national newspapers about the issue. You can get more information by sending for our Ruddy Duck Factfile and by visiting www.animalaid.org.uk
3. Phone Animal Aid on 01732 364546 for a Ruddy Duck Action Pack.
4. Write to your MP asking him or her to sign Early Day Motion number 823.