

Possible Signs of Illness, Neglect, or Intentional Cruelty

Appearance of Animal

Feathers fluffed up (indicates fever, illness, or that room temperature is too low.); hard to tell if emaciated, but best indicator is to feel the bird's breast bone to determine if it is too prominent.

Housing Conditions

Overcrowding (weaker birds bullied and pecked by dominant ones); filthy cage; no fresh water or food.

Behavior

Dull, minimally responsive, not interested in surroundings, depressed; drooping; "hunched" with feathers fluffed.



Reporting Cruelty

Animal cruelty should be reported to the police department of the town in which the animal lives. Please leave your name and contact information so that a follow-up response may be made.

Additional Resources

Parrots as Pets

www.parrots-as-pets.com

Pet Birds

www.humanesociety.org/animals/pet_birds

General Bird Care

www.aspc.org/pet-care/small-pet-care/bird-care.aspx



For more information about animal cruelty, visit
www.humane.nh.gov
Be sure to view the **Interactive Presentation** on the **Welcome Page.**

CARING FOR PET BIRDS



Recommendations

Sponsored by

The Governor's
Commission
on the
Humane
Treatment
of
Animals



Template Courtesy of Vermont Humane Federation

Basic Bird Care

Smaller parrots can live to 30 years or more, while larger ones (Amazons, African Grey, cockatoos, macaws) can live beyond 60 years. So, commitment to these extraordinary pets is now put into perspective. Providing for these birds in a will is highly recommended. Quality time should be spent with the bird every single day! Their day starts at dawn and usually ends at dusk.

Prospective owners should research to find the species of bird that will best fit their lifestyle. Each species has their own personalities.

Diet

Most pet birds fall into two categories: hard-bills (seed eaters) and hook-bills (with parrot-like beaks)

Hard-bills: Canaries, finches have small bills and need a small seed mix. They should also have available green leafy veggies, as well as apples or oranges.

Discarded seed hulls should not be mistaken for seed that isn't eaten. Seed should be changed daily or hulls should be blown out from bowl.

Hook-bills: Hook-bills eat seed often to the exclusion of healthier food. Seed alone is deficient in many nutrients such as vitamin A, and calcium, and they are also too high in fat.

Fruits and veggies are appropriate. An occasional shelled, unsalted nut is good. For large parrots, unshelled almonds, walnuts are good. Pelleted/formulated diets are available and recommended. These tend to be source of well-balanced

nutrition. However, many birds that have started out on a seed diet are reluctant to switch to pellets. The bird should have pellets as the "base" diet of at least 50-60%. Many pellet manufactures publish a feeding schedule on the bag/container, for making the switch.

Calcium is *essential*. Cuttlebone or mineral block should be available at all times. A well balanced diet would work as well, but not all birds eat what you want them too.

DO NOT FEED BIRDS CHOCOLATE, ONIONS, APPLE SEEDS, OR AVOCADO as they are TOXIC!



Housing

Birds should be housed indoors. Appropriate temperature is 60-80 degrees. they should be placed in a location for interaction; Cage should be as large as afforded by space and finances. Length is crucial as the bird should be able to fly perch to perch- especially for hard-bills.

Bar spacing and orientation:

Appropriate spacing is critical to prevent injury. For larger parrots the bars should have a horizontal orientation since they do a lot of climbing. Perches should be of variable circumference

to allow for more comfort and choice of where to sleep and as high off the floor of cage as possible.

For fun birds should have plenty to do. Toys should be available that they can manipulate, climb on, chew up, or hide in.

Precautions

TEFLON OR NON-STICK COOKWARE OF ANY TYPE CAN BE FATAL TO PARROTS. FUMES, SCENTED CANDLES, AIR FRESHENERS, SCENTED OILS ARE A DEFINITE HEALTH HAZARD AS IS CIGARETTE SMOKE.

PARROTS, AND MOST OTHER BIRDS ARE ATTRACTED TO SHINEY OBJECTS SUCH AS JEWELRY. PARROTS CAN BITE THROUGH FINGERS.

Behavior

To avoid behavioral problems:
Do not isolate birds
Interact with them often
Appropriate cage size, and diet are critical.

Veterinary Care

An avian specialist should be selected. Birds need a yearly physical to include claw trimming.

