

Caring for your Bird



common pet birds

Finches, pigeons & doves, parrots, canary, cockatoo, conure, macaw, and parakeet

life span

Can range from 12 years old (parakeets) to 70 years old (parrots)

diet

An all seed diet is **deficient** in vitamins, minerals, and amino acids.

Healthy foods include:

- A high-quality formulated food
- Fresh vegetables and greens daily; yellow and orange vegetables as well as dark, leafy greens are a good source of vitamin A.
- Hard boiled eggs and dark, leafy greens are an excellent source of calcium.
- Foods that may be offered in small amounts: whole-grain products, such as bread and pasta, nutrient-dense fruits, such as berries, mango, and papaya, and nuts, such as palm nuts and walnuts.
- Some birds require **grit** in their diets, such as songbirds, pigeons, and doves; this aids in proper digestion.
- Some species require specialized diets, such as nectar eaters, lorries and lorikeets, and softbills.
- Fresh water should be provided at all times.

Diet changes must be performed gradually!

If you are unsure as to what food your avian friend needs, consult your veterinarian.

***Poor diet is a common cause of health problems!**



housing

Five things to consider when purchasing housing for your bird:

1. **Safe:** bar spacing should be narrow enough to prevent escape or injury; the environment around the cage should be free of wires and cords.
2. **Durable:** birds may spend hours 'testing' the quality of the cage; trying to find a way to escape or get into trouble.
3. **Secure:** birds may learn to open the latch of the cage to escape to freedom.
4. **Spacious:** it is recommended to purchase the largest cage you can so that your bird has room to spread its wings and move freely throughout the cage.
5. **Attractive:** ONLY after following the first four considerations should you think about this step. The bird you choose may have a long life span, and you need a cage that you will like and that the bird will be able to live comfortably in.

- No soldering.
- Stainless Steel is a gold standard.



toys & treats

- Birds need a variety of toys to keep them occupied. It's best to have a couple of toys in the cage at a time, and then rotate them out so the bird can get a wide variety.
- Different birds like different things-choosing a toy is a matter of experimentation to see what your bird likes to play with.
- Treats, when not given to provide extra nutrients in the diet, should be given sparingly so as not to give your bird a chance to become obese.

handling your bird

It is important to handle your bird daily to tame them. Also important is knowing your bird's body type so that you know the proper way to handle them without causing injury and stress.

1. Remove any obstacles from the cage
2. Your palm should be to the back of the bird, with your first two fingers on either side of the neck
3. The thumb and last two fingers form a cage around the body, holding all of the extremities firmly together

**Do not compress the chest!*

healthcare

If you notice any of the following symptoms, you need to get your bird looked at by a veterinarian right away:

- Unusual droppings
- Ruffled feathers
- Red, inflamed, or runny cere (nose area)
- Cloudy eyes
- Reduced appetite

A healthy bird with a healthy beak, given enough things to tear, peck or chew, rarely needs a beak trimmed. If the bird needs a beak trim it may be due to an underlying disease. Establish oneself with a knowledgeable bird veterinarian BEFORE it is needed.

