



PETS To GO

A PET STORE YOU CAN TRUST



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Caring for your new bird

When choosing a bird whether it be a parakeet or a parrot, the most important aspect to consider is time. If you do not have time to spend socializing with a bird your best choice is a bird that does not require lots of human interaction. It is also important to consider the size of cage you can afford. If you need assistance choosing the proper pet bird please ask our pet care advisors. We can help you choose a bird that is appropriate for your lifestyle.

Diet and Nutrition:

This is the most important aspect of keeping a pet bird. New research has proven that there is a direct link between proper nutrition and life span. A high protein low fat and low sugar diet is best for your bird.

A seed only diet is NOT sufficient and will have negative long-term effects on your bird. Fruit and vegetables are an important aspect of a healthful diet. You can feed such common vegetables as apples, romaine lettuce, spinach and carrots. You can also feed more unusual things such as mango, endive and dandelion greens. You want to feed the most nutritionally rich fruits and vegetables. Stay away from iceberg lettuce and never feed avocado or chocolate. Fresh or frozen vegetables are the most nutritionally complete. Avoid canned. You should also feed your bird a variety of protein sources. Beans (kidney, pinto) and legumes are an excellent source. Make sure to cook or soak the beans so they are soft enough for consumption. Whole wheat bread and brown rice are also excellent diet supplements.

Pellet foods, which are more nutritionally balanced than seeds are also available. It is still important to supplement your bird's diet even when feeding pellets. Vitamins, in the form of powder, can be added to your bird's favorite food.

Your bird should have access to both a cuttlebone and mineral block at all times. High quality gravel should also be available. You should monitor consumption of the gravel as overeating of the gravel can cause crop impaction.

A varied diet is the most important aspect of pet bird care. If you have any questions regarding your bird's nutrition please call, as we are always available to help.

Toys: Birds are very social animals that require daily human interaction. Birds rely on toys to entertain themselves when their humans are not available. You will want to add new toys from time to time to keep your bird interested. Look for toys that have aspects that your bird enjoys, such as bells or shiny objects for cockatiels or leather toys for Amazons. The key is letting your bird enjoy itself with safe toys.

Cage Placement:

Place your birdcage in an area of your home that is busy. Birds enjoy the company. Be careful not to place the cage in areas that are drafty, near air or heat vents, open windows or doors, or near direct sunlight.

Cleaning:

The frequency of cage cleaning will vary depending on what type of cage substrate used. If you choose paper products, it will be necessary to clean the cage daily. If you use ground corn cob or walnut shell, cleaning once a week is usually sufficient. When cleaning, make sure to include the perches, feeding dishes and the bottom cage pan. Allow the perches to dry completely, as wet perches can cause serious foot and respiratory problems. It is also important to clean any toys within the cage to remove any debris from them. Your bird's water dish should be cleaned daily.

Veterinary Care:

Should your bird become ill, it is imperative that you seek veterinary care immediately. Bird medicine is a specialized field. Make sure to research the doctor you choose prior to your visit. Pets To Go recommends Dr. J. S. Purewal from Laguna Creek Veterinary Hospital (916-684-7300) or Dr. Lynda Zucca from All About Pets (916-722-0400). Another option is Dr. Joan Tietler from El Macero Vet Clinic (530-756-6764). If you feel more comfortable dealing with your own vet do make sure that they are accustomed to treating avian species. Bird care is a very specialized field and not all veterinarians treat birds. If you have any further questions or concerns please call us.

Enjoy your new bird! If there are any further questions or concerns please call us.