

Pet Birds

GENERAL CARE SHEET



AMC
Schwarzman
Animal Medical Center
SINCE 1910

Pet Birds General Care Sheet

Birds are very social animals that typically do well in pairs or groups. They require frequent interaction with their owners and should be a member of the household. Many bird species can learn to mimic sounds/words and are considered to be intelligent animals.

Diet

Recommended Diet

- Pellets
 - Should be 70-80% of their diet.
 - Recommended brands include ZuPreem, Roudybush, and Harrison's.
- Lafeber's Nutriberries/Avicakes
 - Give in addition to pellets to increase variety.
- Vegetables and Fruits
 - Typically, we recommend lots of vegetables for birds.
 - Spinach, carrots, broccoli, peas, squash, sweet potato, edamame, etc.
- The amount of fruit that should be given varies by species but should be in moderation.
 - Avoid high sugar fruits such as bananas and grapes.

Not Recommended

- Carbohydrates, such as bread products
- Dairy
- Meat
- Eggs (especially egg yolk)
- Loose seeds, including sunflower seeds
- Avocado – TOXIC

Environment

- The larger the cage, the better.
- Various perches including natural wood branches and rope perches.
- Toys – paper shredding toys are a favorite; avoid toys with beads or string.
- Many birds enjoy being sprayed/misted with a water bottle or hanging out in the bathroom when the shower is running.
- Sunlight is very important. Try and take the bird outside in a well-ventilated cage when the weather is warm.

Recommended Veterinary Care

Yearly Physical Exams

- Body condition
- Nail/beak trim (if necessary)
- Review diet
- Baseline bloodwork in large parrots every 2-3 years

Signs of Illness:

- Decreased or loss of appetite
- Decreased, watery, or odorous stool
- Discharge from eyes or nares
- Lameness
- Difficulty breathing
- Episode of collapse / Sitting on the bottom of the cage
- Regurgitation/vomiting

**Please call the Animal Medical Center at (212) 838-8100
to schedule an appointment with the Exotics Service.**

Note: Our Emergency Room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year and is equipped to see Exotics patients.