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Bird Housing, Enrichment, and Care

Getting Started:
Care & Health



Care & Health



<http://parrotcare.tropicalpets.com/>

Bird Care



<http://www.konabirdvet.com/>

Housing

- Bird room
- Separate quarantine
- Cages
- Cage placement
- Cage furnishings
- Social housing
- Environmental enrichment



<http://www.birdchannel.com/bird-housing/bird-toy-safety.aspx>

Bird Room

- Keep birds away from predators
- Out of high traffic areas
- Moderate temperature (60-80 degrees F)
- Draft free
- Full spectrum lighting (~ 5 hours) 12: 12 cycle
- Wash hands or use gel sanitizer between handling birds



<http://therealowner.com/birds/are-birds-good-pets/>

Quarantine

- New birds should be quarantined
- Minimum 30 days
- Recommended 60 days
- Contagious diseases
- Zoonotic diseases

Caging

- Cage type
- Placement
- Furniture



<http://www.midwesthomes4pets.com/category/default.aspx?maincatid=52&subcat=5&submenu=0&catid=96>

Social Housing

- Birds are social animals
- If can't be housed together, should be able to see others
- If come as a pair or group, every attempt should be made to maintain social stability
- Exercise caution in creating new pairs or groups

Environmental Enrichment

- Social housing
- Toys
- Interactions
- Training



<http://www.birdchannel.com/bird-housing/cockatiels-and-toys.aspx>

Feeding

- Recommended diets
- Diet modification
- Water
- Feeding schedules
- Harmful plants and foods



<http://www.birdchannel.com/bird-diet-and-health/default.aspx>

Harmful Plants and Foods

- Many common foods and plants can be harmful
- If not SURE, don't give
- Resources available with lists of acceptable foods and plants
- Be aware of the possibility of insecticides

Cleanliness and Sanitation

- Cleaning
- Environmental toxins



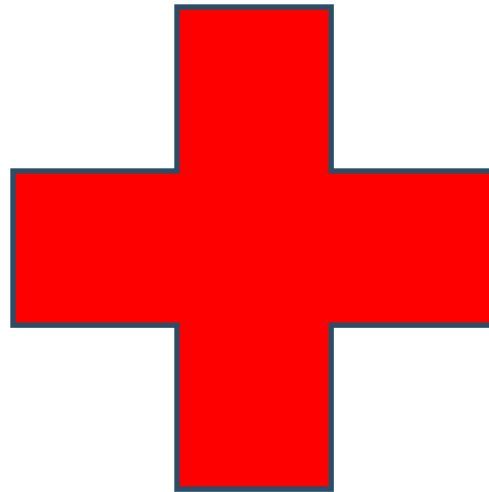
Bird Health



<http://brook-falls.com/services/birds.shtml>

Bird Health

- Quarantine
- Signs of illness
- Weight ranges
- Grooming
- Emergency care
- First aid supplies



Signs of Illness



<http://parrotcarebasics.com/parrot-disease>

Weight Ranges

- Ideally weight established at admission
- Weekly weights
- Charts available for normals
- Best way to track health, but may be impractical or too stressful

Grooming

- Wings
- Nails
- Misting



<http://www.windycityparrot.com/Bird-Shower-Perch-Pollys-Pet-Products-Large.html>

Emergency Care

- Hide signs of illness
- Rocking boat breathing
- Blood
- Not perching
- Not eating

How to restrain a bird

<http://video.about.com/birds/How-to-Safely-Handle-a-Bird.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fF8-dW42ipM>



Toweling: use a towel (NOT gloves)
to capture and restrain parrots

<http://www.hari.ca/first-aid-practice-makes-perfect-when-it-comes-to-towel-restraint>

Approach bird from front



Wrap towel around the parrot



Raise towel to level of neck



Gently swaddle parrot



Place collar behind bird's head



Wrap towel around bird's body



Towel can be repositioned for access





Bird Burrito-beginning of wrap

http://www.happybirdy.com/mainforum_happybirdy_com/showthread.php?t=4791



Bird Burrito-towel must be snug
but not too tight



Macaw restrained using the burrito technique



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Avian Care Webinar Series

aspcapro.org/webinars

Overview of Avian Care for Shelters

Recorded

Upcoming:

Normal Avian Behavior

Tuesday, February 19, 3-4pm ET

Managing Behavior Issues in Pet Birds

Tuesday, March 5, 3-4pm ET