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How to Care for your Birds

Please read the following closely, it is important to the health of your new pet:

- Sulpha-aid should be placed in your bird's water for the first four days, to prevent diarrhoea and stress (essential for new birds). It should then be used once a month as a preventative. It is so important, that we guarantee the health of our birds for the first four days, for any customer who purchases and uses Sulpha-dim.
- Bird Wormer syrup is used every three months. Your bird should be left without water for 12 hours (not on a hot day and generally overnight), and then should be given only water treated with the bird wormer for another 12 hours.
- Mite and Lice Spray must be used because your bird gets mites like dogs get fleas. Spray the back of the bird (from about 30cm), the cage and wooden perches, every fortnight.
- Avi-vite is a great water-soluble vitamin supplement, used in the drinking water every few days. Excellent if no fruit and veg are provided regularly.
- Cage Cleaner Spray cleans, disinfects and deodorizes your cage, perches and equipment. We recommend a brief cage clean every week, and a total strip once a month. Keeping the cage clean, keeps the birds healthy. Most general purpose cleaners are harmful to birds.
- Wooden toys, plastic toys and rawhide are great to encourage chewing, and keep your bird entertained. Non-poisonous irregular shaped sticks from the back yard should be put in as perches, to help exercise feet.
- Use waterers and feeders so you do not have to fill up the water and seed every day.

- Sand paper perch covers keep your bird's claws and beak clean and trim.
- Birdbaths should be used to keep bird cool, clean and healthy, and stimulate feather growth.
- Tame birds should be handled as much as possible. Clipped wings will grow back after 3-6 months. Once tame, do not re-clip the wing yourself (you may draw blood or damage the wing). Bring the bird up to our shop and get an approved staff member do the re-clip for no charge.
- Make sure you position your bird's cage inside out of any drafts. If cold, lightly cover the cage at night. Do not move the cage from inside to outside too often, as temperature fluctuations are not good for your bird.

DIET:

- Because many birds will not dig for seed, the old seed and husks should be blown off or removed, and fresh seed added daily.
- An alternative to feeding a seed are bird pellets. This is a more complete diet than seed and also creates less mess.
- Variety is the key to a healthy bird's diet. Small amounts of: mouse muesli, millet sprays, carrots, apples, pears, rock melon, bok-choy, chicory, endive (both high in vitamins and minerals), pasta, tomato, apricot, peach, orange, celery, cos lettuce, butternut pumpkin, cucumber, peas, broccoli, beans, baked or mashed potato (not raw), corn, nuts, muesli, oats, rice, pasta, grass, dandelions, clover and crackers should be added. Bottle Brush, Grevillia and Wattle can be given, but do not leave in the cage for too long as they can ferment and birds can become intoxicated.
- Do not give iceberg lettuce (no nutritional value), avocado or rhubarb (they can kill birds). Seed bars and cans can be mixed with regular seed, or the bars simply hung in the cage. These are a tasty alternative to powdered vitamins.
- Cuttlefish and calcium bells are essential, as they are your bird's main source of calcium and are also used to file down the beak. Iodine bells are useful to avoid goiter.
- Shell grit and grit sheets are used to collect the droppings at the bottom of the cage, and are very important as an aid in digestion.

The above information is only meant as a guide, and you should not hesitate to contact our helpful staff if you have any problems or concerns. Birds are amazing pets so enjoy and look after your feathered friend.