

CARING FOR YOUR

PARROT

Including: Parrakeets, Cockatoos
Macaws and Lories



We care about pet care

Parrots make interesting and enjoyable pets. There is a choice of home-bred, captive-bred and imported birds. You must remember that many parrots have a long lifespan and are therefore a long-term commitment.

If your parrot has come from abroad it should already be adjusted to feeding on readily available diets and should also be used to normal room temperature. It is unwise to keep a recently imported parrot in an outside aviary during the winter months unless you provide a heated shelter. When acclimatised most parrots are extremely hardy. If introduced in the spring or summer to an outdoor aviary they will winter outdoors with little or no artificial heat.

HOUSING

Although parrot cages make suitable homes for short-tailed parrots, long-tailed varieties should be kept in an outside aviary or an indoor flight cage with perches spaced sufficiently apart to allow flight between them. Untreated round wooden perches or fruit tree branches should be of such a thickness that the bird's claws do not meet around them. Perches should be changed regularly and a floor covering of sand, sawdust or newspaper should be changed daily. Outside aviaries must have a sheltered section to provide protection from wind, rain and strong sunlight. This is where you should position the roosting site (the highest perch and/or nest box) and the food containers. Indoors parrots should not be exposed to draughts.

FEEDING

It is important that you give your parrot a varied diet. Each day you should offer foods from the following categories.

Cereals Mixtures of sunflower, safflower, canary millet, hemp, wheat, oats, corn on the cob, peanuts, boiled dry maize.

Fruits Apples, bananas, oranges, grapes, pears, cherries.

Vegetables Celery, carrots, beetroot, lettuce,

cabbage, spinach, beet, fresh peas and beans. All fruit and vegetables must be thoroughly washed before feeding. Food dishes should not be overfilled otherwise food will be spilled and wasted. Never position food and water dishes directly under perches. Clean dishes regularly. **Supplements** Calcium (Cuttlefish) and vitamins (multivitamin drops added to the water). A combined calcium/vitamin preparation is available from your pet shop. Lories, lorikeets and hanging parrots also require an artificial nectar mixture.

WATER

This should be changed daily.

GENERAL CARE

Early signs of illness include loose droppings (except nectar feeders), discharge from the nostrils, laboured breathing, feathers raised to give a puffed-up appearance, resting with the head in the wing and both feet on the perch. Isolate the bird, keep warm (80-90F/27-32C) and give easily digested foods (baby or invalid foods). If there is no marked improvement within 24 hours you should consult your vet. You should also seek veterinary advice without delay if, in addition to the above signs, the bird has watery, slimy or bloody diarrhoea, discharge from the eyes or a prominent breast bone (more easily felt than seen).

SHOPPING LIST

Cage/Aviary/Perches, Seed and other food, Supplements, Cuttlefish, Food Pots and Water Pot.

This leaflet gives basic guidelines only. It is not intended to be a substitute for a good book on Parrots. Your pet shop will be pleased to show you their range.

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