



Practice Limited to Birds, Reptiles and Exotics

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AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES
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AVIAN HEALTH CARE INFORMATION

Due to the vast variety of avian species kept as pets and breeding stock, there is a wide variety of behaviors and proper dietary recommendations. **Seek the help of recognized experts for diet and training needs.**

FEEDING: It has been documented that there are extensive nutritional deficiencies from feeding parrots “seed only” diets and excess table foods. Obesity is a common finding in Amazon Parrots, Cockatiels, and Quaker Parrots fed excess seeds and table foods with added vegetable oil, butter, or salt. All seed based diets contain a high level of cholesterol and triglycerides, which can lead to severe medical problems. Peanuts are also high in fat and may contain aflatoxins (a type of aspergillus fungi). The most important aspect to consider is: **“What does your parrot eat out of what you offer?”**

The recommended diets (**intake**) for most psittacines (***exceptions below***) are as follows:

- 1) Pelleted Diets - 80 %
Vegetables/Fruits - 20% (Broccoli, Sweet Potato, Carrots, Peas/Beans, Squash, Peppers, apples etc)
- 2) Non-sunflower seed based diets - 60%
Vegetables/Legumes - 30 to 40% (Broccoli, Sweet Potato, Carrots, Peas/Beans, Squash, Peppers etc)
Fruits/Nuts - 0 to 10% (Apples, Cantaloupe, Grapes, Oranges, Pears and Tree Nuts)
***Supplement with a multi-vitamin depending on quantity of mixed vegetable intake**

* Eclectus Parrots need a diet of 60% green/orange vegetable intake to supply their higher Vitamin A requirements.

**Macaws, and in particular the Hyacinth Macaw, need a higher fat intake, so a higher intake of nuts is tolerable.

*** Cockatiels and Parakeets usually fare better on 60-70% pellets with a 20-30% intake of Cockatiel seed

We do not recommend honey seed sticks or dried fruits (dehydrated is ok). Limit millet to no more than an inch a week.

HOUSING:

- The size of the cage should be large enough for the bird to be placed in the center, stretch its wings and not have the wing tips touch the sides, front, or back of the cage.
- **Untreated galvanized wire cages have been proven to cause fatal zinc toxicity in a variety of species of birds.**
- Perches should allow the bird’s claws to encircle the perch by 75%. Natural “hard wood” perches are great if cleaned properly or bought from a bird/pet supply store. Stone, sandpaper, or “pedicure” perches are fine for helping keep nails dull, but should not be the only perches available.
- Feed cups and bowls should be cleaned with soap and water daily and if possible, washed in the dishwasher at minimum once per week.
- Newspaper, ground walnut shell, pine or aspen shavings and “Carefresh” bedding are safe coverings for the bottom of the cage. Particulate bedding should be raked out daily and changed once per week. Newspaper should be changed daily. ***Note that absorbent bedding (like corn cob) can mold easily if allowed to get wet***
- The entire cage should be washed out once per week.

We recommend Harrison Bird Diet, Zupreem Avian Diets, and Lafeber Bird Food & Treats

We strongly recommend annual health examinations and routine blood work on all exotics!

