

Household Dangers

Birds have incredibly sensitive respiratory systems. Never place your bird's cage in the kitchen or in reach of cords. Do not use teflon or nonstick cookware, instead, opt for stainless steel or ceramic cookware. Always turn on the range hood fan and/or open a window when cooking.

Perfume, fragrance, essential oils, candles, cigarette smoke, vape, air freshener, plug in room freshener, fabric freshener, candles, sprays, aerosols, paint fumes, potpourri, pesticides, bleach, and any cleaning product not labeled all-natural are all incredibly toxic to birds. Birds may not consume lipstick, makeup, hair products (including mousse, sprays, and gel), or cosmetics. The only safe alternative to pesticides is food-grade diatomaceous earth, and simmer pots for room fragrance.

If fumes or fragrances are unavoidable, move your bird as far away from the area as possible, and air out the room to disperse all toxic fumes before allowing your bird back in. It is sometimes necessary to board your bird elsewhere for several days if you are painting or spraying pesticides.

These practices will not only prevent death and serious illness in birds, but will also improve your own health, and is recommended for people with asthma or allergies.

FOR MORE RESOURCES AND
IN DEPTH INFORMATION,
VISIT OUR WEBSITE



Website

www.LovingPetSalon.com

Email

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Social Media

[@LovingPetSalon](https://www.instagram.com/LovingPetSalon)

BIRD CARE BASICS

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Cage

As large as possible, with adequate bar spacing for the breed. Galvanized metal and zinc are toxic to birds, powder coated and steel is ideal. Enough room to flap wings freely and hop around.

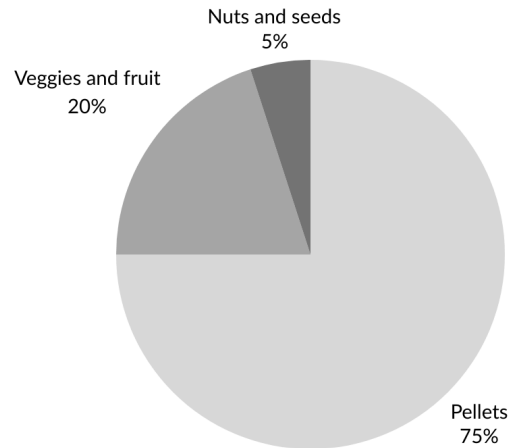
Perches should be of varied widths and shapes to avoid pressure sores. Stainless steel and ceramic bowls are better than plastic and should be washed daily with dish soap and water.

Line the cage with a sheet of paper, not bedding or litter. Change cage paper daily. Keep an air purifier running nearby at all times. Avoid humidifiers as they harbor mold. Only clean the cage with vinegar or all natural cleaners when your bird is out of the cage. Bleach and other multi purpose cleaners and their fumes are toxic.

Fill the cage with shreddable and foraging toys, hide treats around. All metal hardware must be stainless steel to avoid metal toxicity.

Give your bird as much outside time as possible, the cage is for sleeping and safety when left alone. Daily exercise is essential, allow flighted birds to fly and clipped birds to flap and walk. Use clicker training and target training to tame and bond with your bird.

Diet



Feed twice daily and change water once daily. Poisonous to birds are avocado, chocolate, caffeine, alcohol, carbonated drinks and most houseplants and flower arrangements. Foods high in sugar, salt, and oil should be avoided. Always research if something is safe for birds before allowing them near it.

Maintenance

Vet Care

Bring your bird to an avian veterinarian at least once a year for a wellness checkup. Birds hide their illnesses, bring your bird to a vet or veterinary emergency room immediately if they are tail bobbing, have drooped wings, are staying at the cage bottom, are lethargic, have labored or audible breathing, or if you suspect they are egg bound.

Grooming

Bathe your bird every day. Offer a fountain or large bowl of water to bathe in, mist your bird with a spray bottle, or move them into the bathroom when you shower.

Birds molt twice per year on average. New feathers (pin feathers) emerge from the skin wrapped in a keratin sheath. Pin feathers are itchy and uncomfortable, frequent baths help the keratin to flake off and relieve discomfort. Pin feathers on the head and neck are inaccessible to your bird's beak, so they rely on companions and their owners to open up pin feathers when they turn a silvery color, by rubbing it between a nail and a finger pad. This is a great way to bond with your bird. Dark colored pin feathers (blood feathers) are not yet ready. If a major (wing, tail) blood feather breaks and the bleeding does not stop, it must be pulled out swiftly with tweezers or pliers.

It is important to trim your bird's nails to avoid injury. Signs that it is time for a nail trim: your bird sticks to fabrics, scratches you, or their nails curl around cage bars. Every bird's nails will grow at a different rate, but the minimum amount of nail trims is twice per year. To clip your bird's wings is a very personal decision that should be discussed thoroughly and in depth with your avian vet or bird groomer. Birds with scissor beak or overgrowth require beak trims. Offer shreddable wood toys for beak health and maintenance.