



Birdline UK Ltd Parrot Rescue

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HOME CHECK CHECK LIST:

Hygiene:

- Seed bowls should be clean and have fresh clean seed daily - no top-ups
- Water bowl should be clean and not slimy. Test for slime, wipe your clean finger in the bowl under the waterline. Water should contain clean fresh water, changed at least twice a day, more often in the summer.
- Perches should be clean and not soiled, as most parrots eat with their feet
- Cage bars should be clean, no rust, and free from food debris. Birds are messy eaters. If there is food debris on the bars of the cage, examine it closely. Is it today's or is it dried on and obviously several days old?
- Bottom of cage should have fresh lining every day, newspaper is fine
- Toys should be clean
- All the above items should be cleaned with a good bird-friendly disinfectant
- Play stands, Java trees etc. should be clean and debris free
- During the summer months, fruit should only be left in the cage for half a day.

Diet:

- The bird should be offered fresh fruit and vegetables daily. These should ideally be organic, or fruit should be peeled or washed with a vegetable cleaner. Check that they know what fruits not to give.
- A good quality seed mix, no more than 15% sunflower seed, should be available to the bird. Too many sunflower seeds are bad for bird. Fresh seed should be given daily.
- Fresh water must be in the cage at all times
- Calcium should be given once a week to non-breeders, twice a week for Eclectus and African Greys, five days a week for breeding birds.
- Nuts should be offered as a treat. Macaws need nuts as part for their diet. Check on breed requirements.
- Check they are aware of dangers of monkey nuts in the shell.

The Bird:

- Where will the bird be kept?
- The bird needs to be bathed/sprayed at least 3 times weekly. Discuss.
- Out of cage time is essential - how much time *realistically* can they give including interaction with the bird?
- They need to supply toys - discuss various options
- Discuss the needs, behaviour and noise of the specific breed of bird (if a Foster Homecheck). If the bird they wish to Foster has any behavioural problems or special needs, talk about these, too.
- Can the bird be taken outside in nice weather?
- If the bird does not come with a cage, you need to see the cage it will be living in. If a Safe House bird, do they have a spare cage, if not, BL will need to supply one. Remember that the cage should be at least a wingspan and a half in all directions.
- Discuss the need for different types/sizes of perches.

Hazards:

- Give a list of common hazards in the home
- Look for any hazards in the vicinity, ie plug-in air fresheners, cables etc.
- Are they aware of the dangers of normal household chemicals, ie polish, window cleaners, etc?
- Discuss paint fumes, and other DIY hazards
- Do they have other pets, and if so, how will they manage them to ensure the safety of the bird *at all times*, whether they are present or not?
- Check awareness of open windows and doors. Check to see if a main door opens onto the area where the bird might be
- Are they aware of the dangers of Teflon, smoke, etc. from the kitchen?
- Explain the hazards of heat in the summer
- Give a list of safe foliage
- Can they do basic first aid on a bird? Can they towel a bird?

Vets:

- Where is their nearest Avian vet? Does it have an emergency service? Take the details of an avian vet in their area, in case they don't know one.
- Remind them of the requirement to insure the bird (Foster)
- Would they be prepared to travel a bird to the vet?

- Do they have a suitable travel cage? Plastic Cat Carriers are NOT an option.

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