

Psittacines- SOP

Order Psittaciformes:



Cockatiels



Parakeets/Budgies



Conures



Amazons



Cockatoos



Eclectus parrots



African Grays



Macaws

Objective: To be housed, while in the care of Adams County Animal Shelter, in a comfortable, low stress, and clean environment, with appropriate food, fresh water, and behavioral enrichment.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

1. Gloves
2. Surgical mask

Bird Cage Set-up:

1. Birds should be housed in a quiet area away from other mammals and reptiles.
2. The size of the cage is dependent upon the size of the bird.
 - The cage should provide space that is 1.5 times the wing span of the bird being housed.
 - It should also be large enough that the bird's tail does not extend through the bars.
3. Perches should be appropriate for the size of the bird's feet.
 - Perches should be small enough for the bird to encircle his feet.
 - Perches should also be large enough so that the bird can sit with his feet flat.
 - Perches should **NOT** be placed above food or water dishes, in order to prevent contamination of their food and water supply.
 - If there are multiple birds in the cage, then there should be enough perching for birds to fan their tail and spread their wings without touching the sides of the cage or any other bird.
 - Offer perches made of different material for variety. i.e. wood, rope, etc....
4. Use newspaper to line the tray in the bottom of the cage.
 - Do **NOT** use advertisements or any other glossy, shiny paper.

5. Hang food and water bowls securely on the cage.
 - Set up perching near food and water so the birds can perch while eating.
6. Add a variety of enrichment items to the enclosure
 - Minimum of 2-3 different items
 - Different items should be rotated daily into the enclosure to continue to provide mental stimulation
 - See AW if new items are needed.

Diet:

1. Offer a good quality pelleted diet that is fortified to that specific species.(75%)
 - Refill diet as needed. Bowls should be kept $\frac{3}{4}$ full at all times.
2. Offer small amounts of fresh fruits and veggies daily (25%)
 - Bird greens can also be used to supplement their diet
 - Remove any uneaten fruits and veggies at the end of the day
3. Nuts and seeds should be used as treats only. (5% daily diet, 10% for Macaws)

Cleaning:

1. Replace the newspaper at the bottom of the enclosure tray daily.
2. Replace water daily with a clean water bowl - more often if needed.
 - Birds should always have fresh clean water
3. The entire cage should be deep cleaned every two weeks (in a home this can be done monthly.)
 - Set bird up in a clean cage. Rinse thoroughly before using to ensure all fumes are removed from the cage.
 - Take dirty cage to wash bay to be cleaned, scrubbed and disinfected with Rescue.
 - i. Disinfection:
 - a. Remove all bowls, perching, and toys (These items should be disinfected separately)
 - b. Thoroughly coat enclosure with Rescue
 - c. Scrub the enclosure
 - d. Let Rescue sit for 10 minutes
 - e. Thoroughly rinse the enclosure ensuring all Rescue has been removed
 - f. Allow enclosure to air dry
 - Rinse cage thoroughly and allow to air dry.
4. Report any visible injuries or abnormal behavior to Health Care
 - Report urgent matters immediately
 - Place all other concerns on the vet list
 - Common illnesses:
 - i. injured wings or legs, cuts and open wounds, overgrown beaks and nails, lameness or sore feet, feather picking, feather cysts, weight loss, eye disease, mites, watery eyes, colds, tumors, Psittacosis

Enrichment:

1. Patio time - must remain inside their enclosure
 - All doors on the cage should be secured, preventing the bird from opening them.
 - Bird must also have a space to get away from direct sunlight.
2. Small smashed paper cups (hanging) with seeds.
3. Hanging paper bags with seeds or fresh leafy greens.
4. Hanging bells or plastic balls.
5. Various perching made of different materials
6. Mirrors
7. Spray millet

8. Bird swings
 9. Other ideas are welcome but should be approved by management before use
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Written by Angel Williams