

Your Parrot's Cage

Your bird's cage is really his home... to play, eat, and sleep. It should not be used for punishment or "time out". The bird should also have lots of time out of the cage with its human flock and should have a play gym or play area. The cage should have lots of room for toys, several perches of different diameters and heights, and should still leave room for the bird to be able to stretch and flap its wings. In other words, buy the biggest cage that you can afford and that will fit into your house!



Food Bowls	Most cages come with 3 or 4 built in places for bowls. You can get additional bowls that easily attach to the bars. Wash bowls daily and run through the dishwasher at least weekly. Have plenty of extras. If you do not use a water bottle, one dish will be for fresh water, one for pellets, one for fruits and vegetables, and one for the cooked meal. Stainless steel or high impact plastic work very well. Ceramic crocks sometimes come with the new cage and also work well.
LIGHTING	Place the cage near a window but not completely in front of the window. Half of the cage should be against a wall so the bird has a place to hide if something outside frightens it. A full-spectrum light near the cage is also ideal. Be certain your bird can not reach the wire or fixture.
FRESH AND CLEAN AIR	Fresh, clean air is essential. Household pollutants can be deadly. That includes secondhand smoke, and even the smell on our hands or clothing. A high-quality air filter would be very beneficial. Non-toxic house plants in the room, especially spider plants, are recommended. Do not use aerosol sprays, paints, cleaners, carpet powders, or other products without first determining whether they are safe. Remember many products are now coated with Teflon which is deadly when overheated.
TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY	Parrots are comfortable in the same temperatures as we are, but can do well between 55 to 85 degrees with no abrupt changes. Remember, a furnace will tend to dry the air. If you use a humidifier, clean it often. Stale or moldy air is dangerous. Watch for cold drafts, but do turn on a fan in the summer if it is hot.
TOYS	Lots of toys of different colors and textures. Wood toys, acrylic toys, vegetable oil tanned leather, cotton rope, and puzzle toys. Buy a dozen or so and rotate them every week to two weeks to keep your bird stimulated. Many birds enjoy swings, too!
COVERING THE CAGE	Birds need 10-13 hours of sleep a night. By covering the cage, you help ensure it gets the rest it needs. If you do choose to cover, be sure to use a heavy, dark, quality, close weave cover. Some parrot owners choose to cover or sometimes don't cover their birds at all. It is up to you! Though, if your bird chews on the cover, it can get tangled or ingest material with loose fibers. Covering the cage can help prevent thing from waking and scaring your bird in the night. If the cage is in a room where household activity continues after the bird goes to bed, your bird will not sleep. It needs darkness and quiet!

We do have a selection of cages available for purchase with the adoption of a companion parrot. A majority of these cages have been donated by parrot owners who no longer need them. We occasionally have a few new cages available for sale in our store as well.

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