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(02) 9521 7778
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Pic-a-pet

HELPFUL HINTS TO CARE FOR YOUR NEW BIRD

Congratulations on the purchase of your new bird. Following are a few hints to help you care for your new bird. If, after reading these hints, you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jerry for advice and help.

HOME FOR YOUR BIRD:

To keep your bird comfortable and healthy, you should house it in a cage big enough for it to be able to stretch its wings to the fullest extent. The bigger the cage is, the better it is for your bird. Make sure the cage bars are close enough so that your bird can't fit its head through and strong enough that it can't chew through. (ie. A cocky could easily chew through the bars of a budgie cage.) Place a couple of large diameter sticks in the cage to help your bird's feet. (If the bird is continually on the perches supplied with the cage it can develop overgrown nails and skin lesions on its feet.) Do NOT put perches above the food and water containers as this can lead to contamination from the bird droppings.. The cage should be placed in an area that is free of draughts (ie. Open windows or doors.) as your bird may catch a cold which can develop into pneumonia (which is life threatening). The cage should also be kept away from the kitchen area where there are a lot of fumes from cooking.



FOOD AND WATER:

Kirrawee Pic-A-Pet has a large range of quality bird seed. Jerry will advise you as to which seed you will need for your new bird. Change your bird's seed on a daily basis. At the same time, make sure your bird's water is changed. Birds need fresh seed and water daily. Your bird also needs fresh fruit and vegetables. Apple, grated carrot, broccoli and brussel sprouts are a good start. Check with Jerry as to which greens to give your bird. Do NOT give your bird Avocado as this can be toxic to many breeds of birds. Lettuce is another green that some birds react badly to. Cuttlefish and Grit are also essential for your bird. They should be in the cage at all times. Cuttlefish, because of its calcium and trace elements helps with your birds beak health and shape. Grit is needed to help breakdown the seed in the bird's gut and helps in forming the egg shell in breeding birds. Bird vitamins are also essential. Ask Jerry for advice on vitamins.

BATH AND CLEANLINESS:

To keep your bird's plumage healthy and to reduce feather dust your bird needs to bathe. Provide a bird bath with fresh, clean water. Also, keep a spray bottle with fresh water handy so that the bird can be sprayed down to help keep it clean and cool in warm weather.

FUN TIMES FOR YOUR BIRD:

If your bird is tame, it should be let out of its cage on a regular bases. Make sure all windows and doors are closed and let it investigate the area. This will help to keep it fit and stop it from becoming overweight. You should also give your bird some zinc free toys to play with so that it won't get bored. Only give it one or two toys at a time and change them regularly as birds get bored very easily. If you only have one bird, place a mirror in its cage as it will think it has a bird friend, which will keep it entertained. Birds love shiny toys, so include some of these as well.

HANDLING:

As birds stress easily, let your bird get used to you over a few days before putting some food on your hand and slowly putting your hand in the cage. Your bird should eventually step onto your hand. Remember, slowly does it AT ALL TIMES. If your bird isn't tame and you MUST catch it, do so by throwing a towel over large birds or a handkerchief over small birds then move it quickly to where it needs to go. Dim lights should make catching it easier and they have a calming effect on birds.

.KEEP YOUR BIRD WELL FED, CLEAN AND COMFORTABLE. GIVE IT EXERCISE AND TOYS TO PLAY WITH. GIVE IT ATTENTION BY TALKING TO IT AND YOU WILL HAVE A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND FIT BIRD