










Parrot Care

Providing care for a parrot (including parakeets, cockatiels, and lovebirds) requires:

-  A varied diet—not just seeds but grains, beans, vegetables (cooked and raw), formulated pellets, and some fruit. (Harmful foods include chocolate, avocado, highly processed or overly salted foods, human junk food, and caffeine.)
-  Daily exercise, preferably to include free flying in a safe, supervised environment.
-  A variety of toys and enrichment activities.
-  Veterinary care from a veterinarian who specializes in birds.
-  The largest enclosure possible.
-  Plenty of socialization with other birds and/or human caretakers.
-  Full-spectrum lighting.
-  Regular baths.
-  Adequate sleep (at least 10 hours of darkness and quiet recommended).
-  Good air quality. Dangers include: tobacco smoke; teflon and other non-stick coated cookware, appliances and self-cleaning ovens; cleaning products; scented candles; aerosols and pump sprays.
-  Bird-proofing the home to keep birds away from lead, zinc, paints, ceiling fans, electrical cords, and open windows.

How You Can Help!

You can help captive parrots in many ways:

-  **Don't Breed. Don't Buy. Adopt!** If you feel that you are qualified to care for an exotic bird, contact your local avian adoption or placement facility or your local animal shelter or humane society. Visit our website for adoption options: www.avianwelfare.org.
-  Advocate for responsible legislation that will expand legal protection for exotic birds in captivity and in the wild. If you would like to work on legislation in your state to help parrots, please contact us for assistance.
-  Educate others about the unique characteristics and needs of exotic birds by speaking at bird clubs, schools, humane organizations, or other public events or simply by distributing the educational materials available at www.avianwelfare.org.
-  Participate in National Bird Day: www.nationalbirdday.org.
-  Don't patronize pet stores that sell live birds and other animals. Shop only at stores that do not treat live animals like merchandise. Report pet shop conditions to the AWC's Pet Store Watch at www.petstorewatch.org.
-  Report parrot abuse, neglect, or poor housing conditions to your local humane enforcement authorities.
-  Support the Avian Welfare Coalition* by making a donation at www.avianwelfare.org or through the mail at P.O. Box 40212, St. Paul MN 55104. *Donations to the AWC are not tax-deductible

Baby birds belong with their parents, not in pet stores.



The Avian Welfare Coalition



Dedicated to the Welfare and Protection of Captive Birds


www.avianwelfare.org


P.O. Box 40212, St. Paul MN 55104
E-mail: info@avianwelfare.org




The AWC Provides the Following:


 Educational Events - AWC participants are available for consultations and speaking engagements on a wide range of avian topics. To book a speaker for your conference, workshop, or bird club, contact info@avianwelfare.org.


 Shelter Outreach - AWC offers assistance to shelter and animal control organizations in serving the needs of captive birds; AWC's *Exotic Bird Care Handbook* provides animal caregivers with helpful information on caring for exotic birds in a shelter setting: housing, nutrition, avian health, veterinary care, behavior, environmental safety, and *more..*

 Public Outreach - AWC's website, www.avianwelfare.org, serves as a comprehensive resource for captive bird welfare, complete with downloadable brochures, posters, and articles. Ordering information for educational videos on avian issues and the exotic bird trade is also available.

 Pet Store Watch - AWC aids in pet shop monitoring and investigations through our online evaluation forms at www.petstorewatch.org.

 National Bird Day - In coordination with the Animal Protection Institute, the AWC has established January 5 as a day of action and education for captive birds. For details, activities, and how to get involved, visit www.nationalbirdday.org.

 Grassroots Action - Letter writing campaigns, action alerts, and media outreach.


 Support - AWC collaborates with animal advocacy organizations, rescue groups, conservation organizations, and local agencies to bring about social, legislative, and public-policy changes that will improve the lives of captive birds and protect birds in the wild.


Did You Know?


 Exotic birds are not domesticated animals. Birds commonly kept as pets are no different from their wild relatives.





 While they're cute and cuddly as babies the behavior of parrots often changes as they reach maturity. They may become increasingly loud, messy, destructive, and demanding. A caretaker's inability to respond appropriately to these changes can lead to the development of maladaptive and/or dangerous behavior.

 Breeding facilities that supply birds to pet stores often resemble little more than warehouses in which birds are held in barren cages for mass production.

 Hand-feeding or captive rearing doesn't necessarily guarantee a tame bird.

 Birds are often excluded from laws regulating the care and treatment of animals, making it difficult for law enforcement agencies to remove birds from abusive and substandard conditions.

 There are more than 100 avian rescue and sanctuary facilities in the U.S. Some are filled to capacity. Many traditional animal shelters report an increase in the number of birds surrendered, and many are not equipped to provide proper care and placement for birds.

 Caring for a bird is often a life-long responsibility. Depending on species, they may live 20 to 50 years or more.

 Many parrot species are at risk in the wild due to habitat destruction and the pet trade.

Formed in 2000,

the Avian Welfare Coalition (AWC) is a working alliance of veterinarians, conservationists, avian welfare and animal protection organizations dedicated to the ethical treatment of parrots and other captive birds.

The Mission of the AWC is to raise awareness about the plight of parrots and other captive birds and to serve as an educational resource for the humane community, lawmakers, and the general public.

The AWC also aims to prevent the abuse, exploitation, and suffering of captive birds, to address issues of rescue, placement and sanctuary for displaced birds, to increase legal protections for captive birds and to support legitimate conservation programs aimed at preserving birds' rightful place in the wild.

The AWC works toward its goals by facilitating cooperation among AWC participants, the humane community and professionals in related fields, by providing educational resources for animal advocates, the media, and the general public, and through special AWC sponsored programs.

