

Rivertown Avian Care Sheet Instructions

Below are our recommendations for our

Caiques, African Greys, Indian Ringnecks, Amazons, Cockatoos, Lovebirds, Conures, Cockatiels, Rosellas, Grass Parakeets & Budgies.

SUPPLIES YOU WILL NEED FOR YOUR NEW BIRD

- * A good size **cage**. It is recommended that you purchase the largest cage you can afford for the species of bird you are purchasing. Please remember the length of the cage (for flight) is more important than the height of the cage, think of your bird as a plane, not a helicopter. Bar spacing needs to be taken into consideration too.
- * Make sure that you have the correct size, type and length of wooden dowels and manzanita perches for your species of bird. **Perches** should have different textures and diameters.
- * Proper **food** for birds should include pellets, vitamin enriched seed mixes, cuttlebone, mineral block, treats, millet spray, vegetables, fruit & pasta mixes.
- * A good bird **vitamin** or supplement.
- * **Toys** that are appropriate for the species and type of bird you have purchased.
- * Reading materials and **information** on the species of bird(s) you have purchased. Recommended reading for novice to advanced bird owners include: Bird Talk magazine, The American Federation of Aviculture magazine, along with a book that is related to the species of bird you are purchasing or adopting. Recommended avian authors include: Rosemary Low and Joanne Abramson. Locally, The Redwood Empire Cage Bird Club is an excellent source of information for people wanting to learn more about birds.

FEEDING YOUR NEW BIRD

- * With no exceptions, birds need **fresh water** and **feed** on a daily basis. Birds should have a separate bowl to bathe in, and another one to drink out of.
- * As for a daily diet, most avian veterinarians recommend a **pellet or an extruded diet**. Rivertown feeds its birds a **fortified seed mix**, along with a pellet diet so that the birds are exposed to both diets. Additionally, because Rivertown's breeder birds are housed in large outdoor flights and habitats they are able to maintain a healthy weight on a diet that includes seed. Our recommendation for a diet that

includes both seeds and pellets is Kaytee's Fiesta mix. But for a sedentary bird that is housed in a cage, we would recommend a pellet mix, and seeds only used as a treat. Exact, Zupreem, Roudybush and Kaytee (just to name a few), all make excellent pellet and extruded diets. **Fruits, vegetables and pasta mixes** should be included in your birds daily diet. Some suggestions include, apples, corn, peas and carrots, and premixed bird pastas. **Cuttlebones, mineral blocks and nutritional treats** also should be available to your bird at all times. Grit can be added for softbills such as doves, finches, waxbills and canaries.

- * **NEVER FEED YOUR BIRD THE FOLLOWING FOODS:** Chocolate, Caffeine, Avocados or any type of Liquor.

HOUSING/ENVIRONMENT/SAFETY/VETERINARIAN CARE

- * All birds should be housed in a draft free environment. Cages and all bowls should be cleaned daily. A grid on the bottom of the cage will keep your pet bird from being able to get a hold of any spoiled food that has fallen into the litter pan. If you choose to use litter instead of newspaper in your cage pan, you must be sure to purchase one that is nontoxic to birds. Specialty litters for bird cage pans include; but are not limited to; walnut shell, corn cob, and Carefresh recycled paper (one nice thing about Carefresh is that you can use the white Carefresh in a pan, and sprinkle on the pink, yellow, blue, green or purple Carefresh, which diverts the eye away from any seed hulls, or droppings that are on the bottom of the cage).
- * Household hazards that can harm your bird include, but are not limited to; toxic fumes from Teflon pans, other household pets, and ceiling fans.
- * Rivertown recommends that you begin a relationship with an Avian Veterinarian once your bird is purchased. The information contained in the Rivertown care sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care for your pet.

Rivertown Asks That You Consider the Following Before Adding a Bird to Your Flock:

1. Do I fully understand how to care for this bird? Do I understand the feeding, housing and socialization needs of this particular species?
2. Can I provide adequate veterinarian care for my bird if it should become ill?
3. Is there anyone in my household who might object to having a bird in our home? Is there a possibility that someone in the household may be allergic to my bird?
4. If I can no longer take care of this bird will I be able to find it a new home?