

Choosing a Pet Bird

Information for the Pet Bird Owner

Many people have questions concerning the selection of a pet bird. All too often people pick out a pet bird without understanding that early neonatal care provided by the seller is paramount in giving the pet a great start in life.

Presently most birds purchased are hand raised. These birds are more comfortable with humans and overall make better pets. Wild caught birds are becoming less common as public awareness of the trauma and means that these birds were captured can be extensive. Younger birds are usually more tame and can be better trained by their owners. Older birds may come with pre-existing medical or behavior problems that may require special management.

Because birds are great at hiding illness, we recommend that all recently purchased birds undergo a physical examination and some basic blood tests to determine if illness is present.

There are a variety of birds that may be well suited to your particular lifestyle and more importantly, what you want from the bird. Certain birds are singers and talkers, other birds are good 'starter' birds (such as cockatiels) for breeding.

The best place to start is to talk to a breeder of birds. We have a list of breeders here at the Hospital. Unfortunately, some pet stores may not have the best information so we recommend you avoid the typical cat and dog pet stores.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- ◆ Choose a bird that will meet your needs and lifestyle.
- ◆ Select a healthy bird from a reputable dealer.
- ◆ Have a post-purchase examination. We strongly recommend diagnostic testing to check internal functions.



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