

## Tips/General Bird Info/Care

New birds in your home:

- Ⓟ DON'T make eye contact until your bird is ready.
- Ⓟ Try to keep the bird taller than you so it doesn't feel threatened at first.
- Ⓟ ALWAYS lower your eyes, talk softly and reassure them. Let the bird come out of its cage in their own time. BE PATIENT, this could take days or weeks. The trust you build will be SO worth it in the long run – you have plenty of time! Birds use a 'trust bank'...they develop it slowly but you can lose it ALL in a moment not thinking first.
- Ⓟ Keep your bird away from pets/children until they are accustomed to the noise - Remember, birds and other pets/children usually don't mix. If you have other birds, quarantine new additions for at least 30 days.
- Ⓟ Find a good avian vet. (Traverse City – use Dr. Eric Peck in Williamsburg)
- Ⓟ Always call to your bird when they call to you. They are flock animals and need to know you are there. It reassures them and creates a bond.

Prepare a bird first aid kit and include:

- Ⓟ Avian Vet phone number
- Ⓟ Styptic powder (to stop bleeding)
- Ⓟ 2 towels
- Ⓟ Small sharp scissors
- Ⓟ Q-tips
- Ⓟ Aloe Vera gel
- Ⓟ Pedialyte
- Ⓟ Nail clippers
- Ⓟ Masking Tape (stabilize feet/wings)
- Ⓟ Needle nose pliers (to remove feathers)
- Ⓟ Syringe
- Ⓟ Heating pad
- Ⓟ Ciprofloxacin and white, creamy antibiotic cream

FEEDING: I keep a parrot mix (see recipes) and/or pellets in the bowl along with fresh water every day. I don't use supplements like vitamins in water. With a proper diet, extra vitamins can be detrimental. I do sprinkle bee pollen or Echinacea on top of the fresh food a couple times a month.

Morning – about 7am I feed fruit pectin – about ¼ cup

Evening – 5:30pm I feed fruit pectin – about ¼ cup

SLEEP: I always cover my birds at night. They need a good 12 hours a night sleep. Beak grinding is a sign of contentment!

STRESS: If you notice your bird hormonal or restless/afraid, brew up some chamomile tea and offer it in a small cup. It will ease their anxiety. You can also purchase RESCUE REMEDY for PETS and add a couple drops into their drinking water.

INJURY: If you need an antibiotic, use **Cipro (ciprofloxacin)** orally. Crush ½ a pill in large water bottle and use 3 drops in a small amount of water twice a day for seven days as needed. Keep in fridge for up to two months. When I get an antibiotic I ALWAYS save one or two for the birds! 😊

If you need antibiotic cream, ONLY use white creamy over-the-counter antibiotic cream. The clear kind has petroleum in it and is toxic to birds.

TOYS: For boredom keep plenty of toys in the cage. Hanging, foraging and foot toys. You can also shove large pinecones between the bars for chewing. Be sure to add safe branches in the summer (and winter) so that your bird can chew on them. They love the bark and the leaves – Grapevines with leaves are a bird favorite. Rotate the toys often. Be creative what you put in there! Yard sales are a great place to get toys. Untreated wicker baskets, kids toys, a deck of cards, children's books, dominos, old thread spools, plastic curlers, wooden toys without paint or stain, colored beads (lg or sm) - drill holes in the stuff and use weed-wacker plastic to string them. (Be careful with bells, some birds try to swallow the clangor). If your bird is hormonal try natural colors for toys – sometimes the bright colors of cage items actually increase hormones.

OUTDOORS: Sunshine is so important for birds. It's how they get some of their vitamins. In the summer be sure to take your bird outside...and please remember wing-clipping is no guarantee the bird won't fly away. If they get scared the adrenalin will allow your clipped bird to fly. ALWAYS use a harness. The Aviator Bird Harness is the best out there.

WHILE YOU ARE AWAY FROM HOME: If you are going to be out of the house, leave the tv or radio on. Get a good bird sitter for longer periods away from your home. Ensure they are familiar with your bird and it's habits.

I am available 24/7/365 for help/advice/rehoming. Please call! 231-392-1440 or [lovingmybirds@hotmail.com](mailto:lovingmybirds@hotmail.com) – Wendy Judson