

# ADOPTED

## A VBSPCA WELCOME HOME GUIDE



### Essential Items

Everything your pet needs to get settled in their new home

- Seed/Pellets
- Treats & Cuttlebones
- Bird Bath
- Millet
- Variety of Toys & Perches
- Paper or Litter
- Vitamin Supplements
- Cage & Cage Cover
- Food & Water Dishes

### Basic Bird Care

#### Food & Water

Your bird should always have access to fresh seed and/or pellets and fresh water. Provide fresh, chopped dark green and yellow vegetables as well as a variety of fruits, hard cooked eggs, and grated cheese.

#### Cage & Environment

Cage size recommendations vary by the type of bird. For parakeets, cages should be at least 20" long, 18" high, and 17" wide. Cages should be cleaned weekly. Birds are very sensitive to temperature, so be sure to place the cage away from windows and drafty areas.

#### Exercise & Toys

Provide a variety of perches that are appropriately sized for your bird's feet, and place them so that droppings will not contaminate their food or water. In addition to perches, climbing ladders, ropes, bells, and mirrors are great ways to keep your bird entertained.

#### Handling

Hand-feeding treats to your new pet will build trust and create a positive association with your presence. Start by feeding treats through the cage, then work up to using treats to coax the bird onto your hand. It is important to be patient with your new pet as they grow more comfortable.

### Common Bird Dangers

#### Toxic Substances

These items are toxic to birds if ingested or inhaled: insecticides, pesticides, bleach, glues, nail polish remover, oven cleaner, paint, perfumed candles, certain plants, non-stick coatings, aerosol products, and cigarettes.

#### Open Water

Birds such as parakeets can easily drown. If your bird is loose in the house, be sure to put the toilet lid down and supervise them around dog/cat water bowls and hot pots of water on the stove.

#### Electrical Cords

Birds explore with their beaks. Be sure to cover outlets, conceal electrical cords, and keep an eye on your pet.

#### Ceiling Fans

Ceiling fans that are turned on can easily injure your bird if they fly into it. Additionally, birds feel anxious when things move above them, so a whirling ceiling fan could cause stress if they are out of their cage.

#### Windows, Doors, & Mirrors

If your bird flies into a window, door, or mirror at full speed, they could experience a concussion or broken neck. Keep your bird's wings clipped by a veterinarian to minimize this risk.

### When to See a Veterinarian

If your bird shows any of these signs, take them to a veterinarian immediately:

- Labored Breathing
- Blood in Stool
- Signs of Shock (includes fluffed feathers, rapid breathing, weakness, unconsciousness, and/or cold legs and feet)
- Tumors/Bumps
- Burns
- Loss of Appetite
- Egg Binding
- Bleeding
- Suspected Leg Injury
- Bites/Wounds
- Heatstroke