Helpful Hints:

A young baby bird that is not familiar with a large cage might get confused on where the food is. I place the food where it should go in the cage, but I also put a bowl of food and a bowl of water on the bottom of the cage.

Take the bottom grate out of the cage, we have seen many birds get their feet and/or their beak stuck in it and get very badly injured.

If you find that while out of the cage, your baby bird hangs on the side of the cage and poops, take a paper towel that has been sprayed with non-stick oven spray and wipe the bars of the cage with it. It makes cleaning a lot easier.

BE CAREFUL USING TEFLON COOKWARE, WHEN TEFLON GETS HOT, IT RELEASES A GAS THAT IS TOXIC TO BIRDS!!!

Do’s and Don’ts for New Bird/Parrot Owners

These are only a few of the very basic things you might need to know after purchasing a bird from us. Please go over this even if you have had birds before now, as there may be some things in here you didn’t know/have forgotten.

\*Do give bird time to adjust in your home.

\*Don’t put the bird in a high traffic area of your home.

Until your new family member has had time to adjust to it’s new surroundings, it’s best to keep him/her in a quiet area that isn’t in the most active area of your house. This doesn’t mean to put them in a room and leave them alone however, after all, they aren’t an outcast in the home, or in major trouble. Put him/her in a place where they can see the family, and can get used to the sights and sounds of your home.

\*Do handle with loving care, sharing their attention with your family and friends.

\*Don’t just leave your new baby alone in their cage on the first day.

Baby birds (or any baby animal for that matter) are easily frightened by quick movements, or loud noises. It’s only natural that all family members want to be a part of the homecoming, but don’t overwhelm your baby with the excitement. When you get home, continue to hold and love the baby, don’t just put them away in their cage and ignore them, they want to get to know you, and be a part of the family. Don’t be surprised if they are frightened and a bit skittish the first few days, this is the first time they have been away from their siblings for any length of time, and you are a total stranger to them. Give them time to get used to you, and you will be surprised how quickly they will grow attached to you.

When petting your bird, don’t use quick movements, or jerk away quickly. They might see this as a threatening, or aggressive motion. Don’t pet your baby against the against the grain of it’s feathers, as it would hurt them when the feather shafts are jammed into it’s body.

\*Do have a play area away from the cage.

\*Don’t leave the bird inside it’s cage for long periods of time.

Making sure your bird has a play area away from the cage is a big step in keeping him/her from becoming cage bound. Don’t let your baby sit inside the cage for days at a time, even if he/she won’t come out on their own. If your bird is not tame, coax them out with a treat or toy, though if you purchased a baby from us, this should not be a problem. If you are afraid to take them out, use a wooden perch to coax them out (gently place the perch in front of their legs and slowly and gently press it forward, against their legs, until they step up onto it.), or use a soft towel to wrap around them and pull them out. If you take out your baby at least once a day to play, they won’t become cage bound. On the contrary, getting them back in the cage will become the problem.

Each time you pick up your baby, no matter from where, say “up” as in “up, (insert babies name)”. This will be the most important thing you can teach your bird, “down” being the second thing. They will quickly learn to step up because of this. Another way to help them learn, is when you have them perched on your finger. Place your other hand in front of their legs, and gently roll the finger they are perched on, saying “step up” at the same time. Because the finger they are on is now unsteady, they will move to the your other hand, as that is the nearest steady thing they see.

\*Do offer veggies and fruits along with their seed every day.

\*Don’t feed only seed.

Even if a parrot is not interested in the fruits and veggies you offer them every day (an unlikely problem with your baby), offer it daily. This is especially true for the larger breeds. Corn seems to be a hit with almost every breed of bird, so its something you can always count on them eating. Make sure if frozen, you defrost it completely before offering it to them.

\*Do make sure all cage and water dishes are cleaned at LEAST once a month.

\*Don’t leave fruit or veggies in cage overnight.

Please make sure to clean out, with soap and water, the bottom of your babies cage, and to thoroughly clean their water dish, at least once a month, if not more often. Leaving dirty water dishes in their cage is only asking for problems, as is not cleaning the bottom tray of their cage. It’s not necessary to clean the bars of their cage, or their seed dish as often, but the bottom tray of their cage and the water dish become dirty very quickly. The same with their fruit and veggie dish.

Veggies and fruit go bad quickly when left out for them to eat, and have a bad habit of attracting fruit flies. A rule of thumb is to dispose of it by the afternoon, or before they go to bed. This doesn’t mean to take it away if they are eating it at the time, wait for them to finish, then take it away. Some breeders recommend throwing it away after two hours, but we find that the babies are usually to active to notice their treats right away.

Don’t mix your seed with your fruits and veggies. Wet seed is bad for your baby bird, and can cause serious problems. If you notice droppings in their seed, dispose of it immediately, as this can make your baby very ill. Change their seed every day, even if you think they haven’t eaten it. Cracked seed is not a noticeable as you may think.

\*Do show your bird love and affection.

\*Don’t allow your bird to only bond to you.

While the second part of this may not be something you want to hear, it is something that needs to be said. If you leave to go on vacation, or even to go to work for extended periods of time, your bird is left alone at home, with no one there to pay attention to him. Birds are flock animals and are made to be with other creatures at all times. Its incredibly lonely to be left at home by themselves, so even leaving a tv, or a radio on while your gone is an incredible comfort for them. When we usually leave the radio on for our birds when we aren’t with them, and leave it on constantly for our breeders. It also helps our birds to learn to talk if they hear someone speaking to them often. Even instrumental music will be a comfort to your baby when you aren’t around to love them.

Having more than one person to love can also help when you aren’t around, if you have another person in your home who stays at home when you are gone. The important thing for you to remember is NOT to give it anymore love and affection than you will be able to give it in the future. When you get your bird, make sure that you keep the same schedule with it that you will have to have in the future, this means don’t take time off work when you get your baby. While this may be difficult for you, as this is a new baby in your family, remember that to them, they get all this love, and then without warning, they suddenly are left alone. As humans, this is difficult and hard to accept, but to your new baby bird, this is a rejection, which in some breeds can lead to feather plucking, a problem that is very difficult to stop.

It is a huge compliment to be bonded to a bird, but by the same token it is a curse to the baby is you are not able to spend time with them. If you are the only person they are bonded with, it can be a problem since they need affection, and can find it hard, and sometimes impossible to accept it from anyone other than you. This is why we recommend that you socialize your baby with other members of your family during the first few weeks and months of having your baby. Even just leaving her on her playpen to play while you and your family go about their daily lives is a good way to socialize your baby, as this will build her confidence, and security in her new home. It also helps her learn to play and entertain herself on her own, for when she has to be left at home by herself. That said, never leave your bird out of her cage by herself if no one is there to watch her, unless you are confident that she won’t hurt herself in your absence. And never do so if you have another animal in the house that you aren’t sure won’t hurt your baby.

\*Do hold your bird on you arm, lap or hand.

\*Don’t put your bird on your shoulder if you aren’t prepared to be bitten

If you are holding your bird on your shoulder, and something happens that s/he perceives as a danger, she might bite you on your neck, cheek, ear, nose, or lip. She isn’t doing this to be mean, she is just reacting to something that scared her. Even ignoring that, if you are wearing jewelry of any kind, I can personally promise you, your baby will be attracted to it like a magpie. Metal is a birds favorite material on earth, and they love to play with it, and most likely, they will accidently nip you while they are playing with it. Stud earrings are a big no-no for them however, as birds have been known to swallow them, and it will kill them if they don’t receive immediate veterinary attention, and even then, there may not be anything a vet can do to save them.

\*Do allow your bird to realize they can depend on your if needed.

\*Don’t run to them the instant they call.

After a while in the home, your baby becomes very perceptive on how to get your attention. Yelling, screaming, screeching, etc, they will learn what works best. How do you think they do this?

By our returning to the scene of the crime. What crime you ask? The crime of allowing your baby to become bored. Because your baby wasn’t one of the lucky ones that learned to entertain themselves with the toys and the play area. If you hear a scream of pain (believe me, if you don’t know what this is now, you will eventually learn it. It’s an unforgettable sound, and one every bird owner eventually learns), or any other sound that alerts you to a potential problem, by all means, go to them immediately. Otherwise, don’t rush to them at their first call, or maybe even the second. If they are bored, they may quiet down after realizing you aren’t coming at that exact moment.

If they do want something (a treat, or maybe a toy that fell), they will call again (again, trust me on this one. This babies are smart, and they know how humans work.).

\*Do have your birds wings and nails trimmed regularly.

\*Don’t hesitate to call us if you have any concerns on doing this, or notice a problem with your baby.

Birds with wings have a tendency to fly out open doors and windows the one time you aren’t paying attention. It is something that sadly does happen, and you only need to be distracted one time, for it to happen to you. We sell all our babies with clipped wings, but their wings will grow out again with their next molt. If you don’t know how to clip your birds wings, call us, you are local, we will come over and clip them the next time we are in your area, or meet you somewhere and clip them. If you aren’t, we will explain how to do so. We don’t want you to lose your baby, and want to do whatever we can to help you protect them.

The same thing applies to their nails, though Quakers usually trim their own nails. Long nails can cause your baby to trap their foot in their cage or somewhere else. When this happens, your baby with panic, and can break their leg, or even their neck, in their panic to get free. Broken legs in birds are very difficult to set, and vets that can work on birds are hard to find. Beaks don’t need tending to, as long as you include a cuttlebone in their cage.

Safe Fruits For Birds:

Make sure that all apple, and orange seeds are removed before feeding to you bird. If you want to feed something not on one of these lists, check online first. Make sure you wash all fruit and veggies before feeding to your bird, and feed organic when possible, as pesticides are bad for birds.

Apple

Apricot

Banana

Blackberry

Blackcurrant

Blood Orange

Blueberry

Cantaloupe

Cherry

Cranberry

Dried Dates

Figs (fresh)

Gooseberry

Grape

Guava

Honeydew melon

Kiwi fruit

Lychee (litchi)

Mandarin orange

Mango

Melon

Nectarine

Orange

Papaya

Peach

Pear

Pineapple

Plum

Pomegranate

Quince

Raspberry

Red currants

Strawberry

Tangerine

Yellow Plum

Safe Vegetables for Birds:

Artichoke

Beans, cooked only

Bell Peppers

Broccoli

Brussels Sprouts

Carrot

Cauliflower

Celery Stalks

Corn (cooked and raw)

Cucumber

Eggplant (fruit only)

Endive

Fennel

Green Beans

Hot Peppers

Kale (though not often, and not a favorite of most birds)

Lettuce (same as kale)

Peas

Potato (cooked)

Pumpkin (they love the seeds)

Radish Red Beet (fresh)

Radicchio

Romain Lettuce (not often, not a favorite)

Spinach (not often)

Sprouts

Squash

Sweet Potato

Turnips

Watercress

Yams

Zucchini

Non-Toxic Foliage for Birds:

Acacia

Aloe

African Violet

Baby’s Tears

Bamboo

Begonia

Boston Fern

Bougainvillea

Chickweed

Christmas Cactus

Cissus (Kangaroo Vine)

Coleus

Corn Plant

Crabapple

Dandelion

Dogwood

Donkey Tail

Dracaena Varieties

Ferns: Birds Nest, Boston, Maidenhair

Figs: Creeping, Rubber, Fiddle Leaf, Laurel Leaf

Gardenia

Grape Ivy

Hen and Chickens

Impatiens

Jade Plant

Kalanchoe

Magnolia

Marigolds

Monkey Plant

Nasturtium

Natal Plum

Norfolk Island Pine

Orchids

Palms: Areca, Date, Fan, Lady, Parlour, Howeia, Kentia, Phownix, Sago

Perpperomia

Petunia

Pittosporum

Prayer Plant

Purple Passion

Rose

Rubber Plant

Schefflera

Sensitive Plant

Snake Plant

Spider Plant

Swedish Ivy

Thistle

Velvet Nettle

Wandering Jew

Wax Plant

White Clover

Yucca

Zibra Plant

Zinnia

Non-Toxic Wood For Birds

The following materials are not safe if toxic chemicals or insecticides have been sprayed on them. Before installing them in any cage, clean them thoroughly and let them dry.

Acacia

Apple

Ailanthus- Tree of Heaven

Alder- White Alder, Buckthorn

Almond

Aralia- Fatsia Japonica

Ash- Fraxinus

Aspen- Populus

Bamboo

Barberry- Berberis

Birch

Beech- fagus

Bois D’arc- Horse Apple Tree

Bottle Brush

Butterfly Bush

Camellia

Citrus- Lime, Kumquat, Grapefruit, Orange, Lemon

Cork- Not wood from the cork tree, but cork

Corn Plants

Cottonwood- populous

Crabapple- Malus

Crape Myrtle- not the same as Myrtle

Dogwood- Cornus

Douglas Fir- Pseudotsuga

Dracaena

Elm- Ulmus

Escallonia

Eucalyptus

Fig

Fir- Genus Abies

Ginkgo

Grape Vines

Grape Palm

Guava

Hackberry

Hawthorn- Crataegus

Hibiscus

Hickory

Ironwood- apparently toxic leaves

Jade Plant

Kalanchoe

Kumquat

Larch- Larix

Liliac- Syringa

Madrona/Madrone- Arbutus

Magnolia

Maple- Acer

Manzanita- Arctostaphylos

Mesquite- Remove sharp points

Mimosa

Mock Orange- Phladelphus

Mountain Ash- Sorbus

Mulberry- Morus

Nandina- common name is Heavenly Bamboo

Nectarine

Norfolk Island Pine- Araucaria

Nut Trees- excluding Chestnut and Oak

Orange- Several sources lean towards safe

Oregon Grape- Mahonia

Palm

Papaya

Peach

Pear

Pecan

Pine- Pinus Photinia

Plum

Popular- Populus

Pussy Willow- Salix

Raphiolepsis- Indian Hawthorn

Ribbonwood

Rose- Rosa

Rubber Plant- Ficus Elastica

Russian Olive

Sassafras

Silk Tree

Spiraea

Spruce- Picea

Staghorn Sumac- Rhus- not toxic Odendron

Strawberry Tree- Arbutus like Madrone

Sweet Gum- Liquidambar

Sycamore

Thurlow

Tree Fern

Viburnum

Vine Maple- Acer

Weeping Willow- Salix: Goat, Pussy and Weeping

Wiegela

Yucca

Toxic Household Items: