



# Riverside Aviaries Ltd

Registered in England and Wales, Company No: 11948349

Mill Lane Titchfield Fareham Hampshire PO15 5RD  
 Telephone 01329 846521 Email cheryl@riversideaviaries.co.uk  
 www.riversideaviaries.co.uk

## BIRD CARE SHEET

### The basic essentials you will need are:-

- 1) **Seed** (*we recommend our seed is used for babies*)
- 2) **Grit**
- 3) **Cuttlefish** (*we do not recommend picking these up on the beach*)
- 4) **Iodine Block**
- 5) **Millet Spray**
- 6) **Cage Bird Disinfectant**
- 7) **Toys - all birds love toys**
- 8) **Fresh Water Daily**

- 
- 1) When you first take the bird home **seed** needs to be sprinkled on the base of the cage, just until he gets used to the dishes. For budgies we suggest baby budgie seed to start, followed by special budgie and baby budgie mixed together in equal amounts.

Any other birds we will advise.

The **seed** needs to be checked on a daily basis. If you do not change the seed completely every day then it needs to be sieved regularly to remove dust.

- 2) The **grit** can either be sprinkled on the seed (twice a week) or sprinkled on the sandsheet (twice a week).
- 3) A piece of **cuttlefish** is essential. It gives the bird a source of calcium - needed to keep bones, nails and feathers in good healthy condition. An extra calcium supplement is always a very good idea. (Vetark Nutrobal or Calcivet being the best one to use). For Parrots Vetark Zolcal-D is best. Give every other day, or if moulting every day
- 4) An **Iodine Block** is essential for minerals etc., replace when used.

- 5) **Millet spray** - We always recommend using this when you take a baby bird home. Cut the spray into three, one piece every other day. Proper treat sticks, i.e. Vitakraft or Johnsons are best for the bird after this.
- 6) Proper **bird disinfectant** should be used to clean the cage etc. **NEVER use household products.**
- 7) Toys are also an essential item for a birds well-being, to stimulate them and stop them from being bored. Changing the toys on a weekly basis is a good idea. Even aviary birds love to play with toys. *Do not put in a mirror if you want to tame and teach to talk.*

**PLEASE NOTE: ALL ROPE AND CHAINS ON TOYS NEED TO BE KEPT TO A VERY SHORT LEVEL.**

- 8) **Fresh water** daily is essential.

- 
- You may try all birds with fruit and vegetables in moderation. We give them sweet apple (no pips) - they tend to like Gala's or Cox's best, seedless grapes (red or black seem to be favourite), Birds Eye frozen peas thawed out, nectarines, English strawberries, celery, raw carrot grated, satsumas or oranges, sweetcorn (tinned) with no added salt / sugar, pomegranate etc. Wash all fruit first (do not give them lettuce or cabbage).

**AVOCADO PEAR, CHOCOLATE AND APPLE PIPS ARE POISONOUS TO BIRDS.**

- If they do not eat any fruit and veg, we would recommend a calcium / vitamin supplement (Vetark Nutrobal is best).
- Nutrobal is a must when birds are moulting. Give every day - a pinch sprinkled on their seed.

- Keep birds out of draughts and fierce sunlight. Do not put too near a radiator either.
- **NEVER SPRAY AEROSOLS SUCH AS POLISH, WINDOW CLEANER, AIR FRESHENER, ETC, OR BURN CANDLES, PLUG-IN AIR FRESHENERS OR EVEN DIFFUSERS IN A ROOM WHERE THE BIRD IS.**
- Wasp stings are also deadly to birds.
- Burning Teflon on saucepans, self-cleaning ovens and gloss paint are also poisonous to birds. Bonfire smoke can also cause them a problem. Cigarette smoke is harmful too.
- When purchasing a cage for a bird please feel free to check with us that it is suitable. We only stock cages which are safe for the birds, unfortunately there are a few companies on the internet who supply unsuitable cages and these can have tragic consequences. We cannot give any guarantee with our birds if going into one of these. All our cages are genuine.
- If a bird does not use a bath, it is always a good idea to lightly spray them with warm water on a daily basis.
- Natural branches are ideal for birds, apple and hazelnut are completely safe, just wash with hot plain water before putting them in the cage.
- When you take your bird home, leave somewhere quiet for a few days to settle, but still talk to him/her. Once the bird has settled in and is eating ok then is the time to start taming. **Do not let out until completely tame in their cage.**
- Beak and nail clipping is a definite **NO**. On the very odd occasion it may be necessary but once you start it, you will have to keep doing it.  
We sell a wide variety of pedi-perches which help keep beaks and nails trimmed.
- I personally do not agree with wing clipping, baby birds need their wings to develop their chest muscles, I think it is extremely cruel to take their flight away.

**HAVING SAID THAT YOU MUST MAKE SURE ALL WINDOWS AND DOORS ARE SHUT WHEN YOU LET YOUR BIRD OUT. IT IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA TO CLOSE BLINDS OR CURTAINS WHEN YOU FIRST LET IT OUT, TO AVOID COLLISION WITH WINDOWS. ALSO BEWARE OF MIRRORS.**

- We are asked an awful lot about covering your bird at night - it is a good idea as birds do need their sleep.

---

### **TIPS ON TAMING YOUR BIRD**

- ***Leave for 2 days to settle in before starting to tame***
- ***Little and often is best***
- ***Do not disturb when eating***
- ***Move hand around cage very slowly***
- ***Try to get bird to sit on your finger***
- ***Keep calm and don't pull finger away if he threatens to bite***

---

### **CHECK FOR HEALTHINESS OF BIRD:**

- ***Eyes should be bright (not slit).***
- ***Droppings should be normal.***
- ***If bird sleeps a lot with beak in feathers there could be a problem.***

**If you need any back up advice please phone: 01329 846521**

---

*We hope you have found this information useful and that you have many happy years with your new bird.*

*Cheryl Robinson and all her staff at Riverside Aviaries*

*ps: We now have a picture gallery on our website and would welcome any of your pictures. Funny or cute make the best ones. Blurred pictures cannot be used.*

*Please send as email attachment to [cheryl@riversideaviaries.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@riversideaviaries.co.uk)*