



Avian Health Services

EXOTICS
PIGEONS
POULTRY
GAMEBIRDS
WATERFOWL
REPTILES

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Recommendations for Housing Birds

Pet birds

Pet birds don't like changes in environment or diet. They can often stop eating for 2-3 days if things are unfamiliar. Some can starve to death if they aren't offered food they're familiar with. If possible, have the owner bring the bird's cage and food. If the cage is too large to transport, have them bring their food, familiar toys, cage covers, perches to make the provided cage more like home. If possible, have the owner set up the cage as similar to the bird's cage at home.

Some foods to keep on hand in case owners don't bring food with them are:

Roudybush Daily Maintenance pellets, small size

Zupreem Fruit Blend, small size

Large hookbill seed mix

Small hookbill seed mix

Spray millet (for small birds like canaries, finches, budgies, cockatiels) given in addition to small hookbill seed mix. Many small birds will eat spray millet even if they're too stressed to eat regular diet.

Ask the owner what they feed their bird. The above are the most common in this area.

Most larger birds will eat grapes, banana, apple, corn. Most small birds will eat greens like cilantro, celery tops, lettuce, carrot tops.

Nervous birds should be offered visual barriers or be housed away from high traffic areas.

Don't house pet birds in cages sharing a common wire wall. They will bite off toes of the adjacent bird as it clings to the wire.

Towels are the easiest ways to capture, move, and restrain pet birds.

Poultry

House heavy bodied poultry (standard breed roosters, large breed chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys) on solid flooring, not wire. Use shavings, not straw, for litter on the solid floors. Only young poultry, bantam chickens, small hens should be up in wire bottom cages. If possible, keep poultry that were together at home together at the facility.

Provide visual barriers (cardboard) between chickens that are squaring off against a bird in an adjacent cage.

Feed chicks less than 8 weeks of age starter diets (chick starter for chickens, goslings, and ducklings; turkey starter for turkeys and gamebirds).

Feed birds not laying eggs Flock Raiser or a grower diet (even turkeys, ducks, geese, gamebirds can be on this if older than 8 weeks)

Feed hens laying eggs layer diet.

They don't need any other foods like scratch grains or fresh foods.