

Bird Health

Pet Birds need regular veterinary exams. You will want to find an exotics veterinarian that is knowledgeable in avian health.

Bathing

To aid in good health, birds should be provided with bathing opportunities. Birds can bathe as much as once a day or as little as once every couple of weeks, depending on the species and their personal preferences. It is a great idea to provide a shallow dish of water at least twice a week to the bird to allow the bird a chance to bathe and clean its feathers.

Maintenance

Birds will sometimes need their beaks trimmed if they become overgrown. Overgrown beaks can cause serious health issues because it will inhibit a bird from eating and preening properly. It is important to have multiple objects for your bird to chew on and manipulate with its beak to keep it healthy.

Birds may also need their nails trimmed occasionally. It is important to keep a variety of different sized perches and different materials to help keep their nails short. A variety of perches also helps keep your bird's feet healthy and prevents foot issues.

Monitoring Health

Birds are prey animals which means they often hide their illnesses very well. When a bird looks sick, it can mean they are really sick and need to see a veterinarian right away. Some symptoms to watch out for with your bird are loose and watery stool, heavy breathing with tail bobbing, wobbly on feet or unable to perch, vomiting, lethargy, feather loss, and lots of feces stuck in their feathers or skin.



Common Health Concerns

Some common health concerns for birds are:

- The common human cold, as you can pass your cold onto your bird
- Calcium deficiency due to improper diet
- Eggs getting stuck inside a female bird, known as egg bound
- Parasites
- Mites
- Psittacine beak and feather disease

Household Concerns

Birds have a very sensitive respiratory system. This means any smell that is aerosolized can kill your bird. This includes things like candles, perfumes, Febreze, paint, and even things humans cannot smell like Teflon. **Non-stick pans heated at a certain temperature can release harmful toxins that could kill your bird within 24-hours.**

Birds are not good swimmers so make sure your fish tanks, toilet, or any other open water sources are completely covered. If your bird flies into it they can easily drown.

If your bird is allowed to fly around your house, make sure they are safe from fans, mirrors, and windows; all of which can cause severe injury or death.

