

Bonding Birds

Birds can be housed alone or together, depending on species. Smaller pet birds like finches, love birds, and parakeets prefer to bond with others of the same species. Medium size birds like conures and cockatiels can bond with each other or their person if they are hand tame. Large birds like macaws, African greys, and cockatoos typically do well housed alone as they need a lot of space and tend to bond strongly to their human.

Bird to Bird

When bringing a new bird home, it is best to quarantine them for 30 days. This is recommended to prevent the new bird from introducing any diseases to your resident bird.

Once the new bird is checked out and cleared by a veterinarian, the birds should be in their own cages, but sharing the same room. This way they can get used to each other's sounds and activities.

If both birds are hand tame, you can let them both out of their cages with supervised interactions. If both birds are not hand tame, get a larger, neutral cage, and introduce both birds to the cage at the same time. Very vigilant supervision will be needed for the first couple of hours or days when the birds are allowed together.



Bird To Person

Most bird species tend to bond to the humans in the home. They see the humans as their flock mates.

When first bringing a new bird home, it is best to let them settle in for a couple of days. Remember, they just moved to a new area, it may be scary.

When starting the bonding process with a new bird, treats will be the best. Great treats to use are millet seeds, almond slivers, dried fruits, and cheerios. First, start giving the new bird treats either by hand or setting it in their food bowl. You want the bird to see you as an awesome treat giver.

Once the bird is comfortable taking treats out of the hand, you can start to lure the bird onto your finger to step up. Once the bird steps onto the hand, give him a treat. Remember, humans can be scary so go slow.

Some birds enjoy handling and sitting on shoulders, others may like to sit in their cages and watch. Not every bird will want to be social with people and that is okay. Some birds like to be read to or enjoy listening to music; these are also great ways to bond with a bird.

