



Exotic Animal Hospital of Philadelphia

HOME SETUP FOR SICK BIRDS

CAGE SET UP

- It is important for your bird to get plenty of sleep
- Place your bird in a warm, dark and quiet cage, away from the air conditioning/TV/stereo/windows
- Cover 3 sides and the top of the cage by a sheet or towel
- Remove all perches from the cage so they can sit on the bottom and conserve their energy.
- (If you note climbing on the sides of the cage, please move them to a different cage without wire)
- The floor of the cage should be a flat/solid surface – no wire or grate.
- You may place newspapers and soft paper towels for your bird to sit on.
- Do not take your bird out of the cage unless you are giving medications or cleaning the cage. **Do not allow them to fly.**
- Your bird will need to eat frequently. Offer your bird all of their favorite foods. You may try hand-feeding to encourage them to eat. Make sure that the food is placed in many areas on the floor of the cage so that they don't have to move far to eat.
- It is important that your bird drinks frequently to prevent dehydration. Place several water bowls on the floor of the cage so that they don't have to move far to drink. Make sure the water is changed as soon as it becomes dirty.

MONITORING

- Watch your bird's respiratory rate and effort.
 - Birds that are having trouble breathing will sound noisy when they breathe open their mouths to breathe, and/or bob their tails up and down while they are breathing.
- Monitor your bird's droppings.
 - A bird should be defecating all day. If your bird is not defecating, it could mean that they are not eating enough. The feces (brown/green part) should be well formed and the urates (white part) should be white with a small ring of urine.

