



Exotic Animal Hospital of Philadelphia

New Bird Handout

CONGRATULATIONS on your new addition!

Please see below information about your first visit.

Make sure to bring all of your bird's medical records to the appointment. This information in addition to the husbandry handout will help us get to know your bird and begin in diagnosing a health issue if they are unwell. In your husbandry form, please make sure to fill out all of the information including diet, cage type and location, any recent changes in the environment, etc.

When you bring your bird in, we will start by a visual exam to assess for any obvious signs of distress, disease, or injury and if your bird seems well at the initial exam we will move on to a physical exam in which we will need to restrain your bird using a small towel. This helps us reduce chances of injuries and allows us to complete the physical exam safely.

TOP REASONS TO BRING YOUR BIRD TO THE VET:

- Bleeding/trauma
- Seizure activity
- Changes in breathing- sitting fluffed/heavy breathing with open beak or tail bobbing
- Changes in droppings- diarrhea/decreased amount
- Decreased activity or change in vocalization
- Decreased appetite or other changes to eating habits
- Regurgitation
- Discharge from the eyes, mouth or nares/sneezing
- Overgrown beak or nails
- Unkempt feathers and/or self-mutilation

During the exam we will evaluate your bird's body condition and weight, we will assess every body part carefully and record any findings in the patient record.

If your bird has a band on their leg, we will record the numbers/letters and recommend removing it as it can often lead to injuries. The band is not a true identification system and is not recorded in any database in case your bird is lost.

The next step will include our recommendations for your bird.
For all newly acquired pets we will recommend infectious diseases screening for Psittacosis (Chlamydia psittaci) and Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD).

For all birds we recommend having annual bloodwork done to establish a baseline while they are healthy. This bloodwork will include a chemistry profile looking at organ function and electrolytes and a complete blood count to assess the white and red blood cells in the body.

For sick birds we will often recommend bloodwork and radiographs (X-rays) to evaluate for any disease process to better identify the cause of illness.

Did you know?

1. Smoking, lighting candles, or burning incense in your bird's air space will predispose them to have respiratory disease, distress, and sometimes cancer
2. Avocado is highly toxic for your pet bird
3. Non-stick cookware fumes are toxic for your pet bird
4. Petting your parrot from the neck down might send the wrong message and stimulate hormonal behavior in your pet bird
5. Seed based diet is NOT appropriate for your bird as it is full of fat and cholesterol and is lacking in important nutrients including vitamins and minerals
 - a. A seed based diet will predispose them to obesity and obesity related diseases such as heart disease, high cholesterol, and hormonal imbalance

