

Pet Parrot Primer

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Contents

- 10 Most Common Species Of Parrots**
- Life Stages of A Parrot**
- Common Parrot Health Issues**
- Having a Happy Parrot Home**
- How To Care For Your Parrot**
- 10 Things To Consider In Parrot Ownership**
- How To Feed Your Parrot**
- Five Ways To A Tame Parrot**
- How To Train Your Parrot**
- Why Your Parrot Needs An Avian Veterinarian**

10 Most Common Species Of Parrots

With some 350 different species of parrots out there you might be thinking, what are the most common types of parrots? And what makes them different from each other? Well, we have compiled a list of the ten most common types of parrots out there. You'll probably recognize a lot of the names, but now you'll know what makes them different.

1. Cockatiels. These are small parrots that come in many different colors. They are sweet, personable and easy to care for. They make a great family pet. They are good whistlers and the male cockatiels can be taught to talk. They can be very loyal birds and become very attached. Good for a first time bird owner and families with small children.

2. Love birds. Another small bird. They are quiet so suitable for apartment living, but not great for small children. They require a lot of handling to not become nippy. Contrary to what you might think it's best to only have one love bird. If you get two they will bond to each other and not you.

3. Small Parakeets. Obviously a small parrot. Parakeets really encompass a lot of different breeds of parrots. They all have long tail feathers. They range in size and each with a very different personality. The most common parakeet is Budgerigar. This is the green and yellow parakeet.

4. Parrotlets. These are just as the name suggests. A very much parrot like bird only the size of a love bird. They are mostly green in color, but some have blue, especially the males. They are similar in personality to the great Amazon parrots, but much smaller making them easier to care for. They are entertaining and playful while also being easy to teach tricks and even how to talk.

5. Amazon. The class clown of parrots. The talkative large birds have quite the sense of humor about them. They have a beautiful singing voice and are very playful. However they

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make a better one on one companion.

6. African Gray. This is probably the most popular parrot. Probably also the most intelligent and talkative of the parrot family. They make great companions and can learn a large vocabulary (possibly over 1500 words). They can even mimic other voices. They require a lot of interaction and stimulation.

7. Hawk Headed Parrot. These are unique parrots who like hawks raise the feathers on the nape of their neck to make them look larger. They make for a great pet for the experienced parrot owner. They are loyal, curious, and affectionate, but they can become aggressive if not handled enough, or properly.

8. Mini Macaw. Another very intelligent parrot that can learn to talk and do tricks. Teach him to play dead, do somersaults, and even dance. Make sure they have a lot of toys though as they can be chewers. They are many different colors like green, red and green, red and yellow, blue, and blue and gold. Smaller than the Macaw, but still a larger bird with a powerful bite.

9. Cockatoo. These parrots are not lacking in the love department. They are a bit of a needy bird. They require a lot of attention. So be prepared for cuddles. They are very loud. Mostly white or black with crests of different colors.

10. Macaws. The largest of the pet parrots and also very popular. They come in many different colors much like their smaller counterparts. They have the intelligence of a 3-8 year old, but emotionally can be more like a 2 year old. They are high maintenance. Also able to learn to talk and do some tricks. They require a lot of intention and interaction.

These are the most common species of parrot that people tend to keep as pets. Smaller parrots are generally better suited for inexperienced bird owners while the larger ones do best with an experienced owner. Keep that in mind when choosing a parrot.

Life Stages of A Parrot

Parrots live a very long life. Some species can live as long as humans. Sadly many times a parrot will outlive its owner. And because of this long life span they have that also means there are different stages of their lives. We can break their life stages into seven parts. It's important to know which stage of life your parrot is in to properly care for him and to know what to expect.

Baby Parrot

So you have a little hatchling. Baby parrots are born completely blind and naked. In the wild a baby parrot is fed regurgitated food by his parents. Human breeders will feed the baby parrot formula through a syringe injected into his mouth. The formulas contents will vary from species to species. But it should closely resemble the regurgitated food a parrot would get in the wild from his parents.

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This is the stage in a parrot's life when he begins to open his eyes and take in the world around him and identify his parents. They aren't picky, they will accept the first moving thing they see as their parent. But even though they might accept the first thing they see as his parent he also gets very attached to who he views as his parent.

This is an important time in a parrot's life to get parrots accustomed to humans and keep them tame. That doesn't mean if you don't get a parrot in this stage of life he can't be tamed, but it will take training to accomplish that. Getting domesticated parrots from a breeder will hopefully gotten your parrot imprinted that humans are trustworthy.

Fledgling Parrot

This is the stage of a parrot's life where he begins to learn to fly or has begun to fly, but still depends on his parents for food. If a parrot's wings are going to be clipped it should be done during this stage, but preferably after the parrot has already learned to fly. If you do it before, then he'll likely never take flight.

Weaning Parrot

As I'm sure you can guess a weaning parrot is in the stage of life where he's being weaned off of parent feedings. This is usually done once a parrot has completely learned how to fly. In captivity this is done by slowly introducing solid foods. This has to be done by a trained breeder so you don't have to worry about your parrot being malnourished or starved.

Juvenile Parrot

This is the time in a parrot's life when he is able to fend for himself. Or in captivity is completely on a diet of solid foods and off of formula. This is the time a parrot can be sold. This is a good time to get a parrot of this stage of life because usually they are very accepting of new people.

You can tell if you are getting a juvenile parrot in most cases by looking at his feathers. It will of course depend on species, but most species of juvenile parrots do not have the full adult color and they sometimes don't get them until a few molting sessions.

Parrot Puberty

Yes, parrots go through puberty too. This is when the parrot becomes sexually mature and it can vary by species of parrot and even the sex of the parrot. There can be significant personality changes during this stage which might be short lived and might only happen during mating season. It's possible your parrot might fall in love with you and you'll see some strange behavior which includes regurgitating food at you or trying to make love with your hand or push his back against you trying to get you to mate. It's important that you not encourage this sort of behavior by stroking your bird's vent when he does this stuff or handling him. Be patient with your parrot during this time and remember to keep him active and stimulated to help avoid some of the acting out you might experience when your parrot is trying to mate.

Adulthood

This is a parrot who has been through several mating seasons. He should calm down by this time and settle nicely into life as a parrot in captivity. But they are also less willing to try new things most likely at this stage of life. Kind of like many humans who get set in their

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The stages of a parrot aren't all that much different from the stages of a human. They are born, cared for by parents, begin to recognize them, learn to walk, and eventually go out on their own. Going through puberty and then settling into an adult life and set in their ways. Parrot ownership is a lifelong commitment so be prepared for all of these different stages of life.

Common Parrot Health Issues

When it comes to parrots there are some common health issues you will have to watch out for. But with good care for your parrot you will have a bird who's with you for a very long time. So here's what health issues to look out for and how to avoid them and properly care for your parrot.

First things first, with over 350 different species of parrots I can't possibly tell you the most common for each one. You will be wise to get a book about your specific breed of parrot and always discuss health concerns with your parrots veterinarian. Make sure to find one who has experience with parrots, or your particular species of parrot. But here are the 5 most common diseases to watch out for in most parrots.

* Aspergillosis – A fungal infection that causes respiratory distress and can be fatal. It's difficult to treat and may require months of medication and treatment to cure. Signs include changes in your parrot's breathing or vocalization; gasping; or wheezing. This disease can be prevented by keeping your bird clean and dry. Stop mold from growing and you'll avoid this infection.

* Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD) - This is incurable and contagious to other birds. It causes feather loss and beak lesions. You will need blood testing to get a diagnosis, but PBFD is fatal, and with no cure the most humane thing to do would be put the bird to sleep.

* Pacheco's Disease (PDV) – You might see symptoms such as lethargy, diarrhea, ruffled feathers, sinusitis, anorexia, conjunctivitis, and tremors in the neck, wing and legs. Birds who get this can die from massive liver necrosis. Death from this disease can occur suddenly though. He will need to be quarantined as this is a highly contagious disease. Stress seems to be something that can cause a parrot to get this disease.

* Psittacosis (chlamydiosis and parrot fever) - this disease typically causes respiratory distress, but not always. Sometimes it's symptomless. It can be transmitted to humans. To prevent your parrot from getting this disease a proper diet, no overcrowding, and a good ventilation system are all important to keeping this from spreading.

* Feather plucking – This isn't really a disease per se, but it is something which can be concerning and difficult for parrot and owner. It can be caused by many things including poor diet, poor hygiene, or emotional problems. Make sure you feed your parrot a well balanced diet of seeds, pellets, and fruits and vegetables. Clean your bird and his cage regularly. Emotional problems might be harder to deal with, but extra interaction might help. If nothing else you might figure out what's making your parrot emotionally upset enough to pluck his feathers and can hopefully remove that thing which is upsetting him.

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Taking care of your parrot is going to be very important to make sure that you don't end up losing your parrot to one of these fatal diseases. That means a healthy diet, plenty of chance to stretch his wings, watching for household dangers, and keeping him in a clean environment. And of course quick and proper veterinary care when it's warranted. Should your parrot come down with any of these symptoms you will want to get to the veterinarian sooner rather than later:

- * change in behavior or attitude
- * change in color, odor, or consistency of droppings
- * change in quantity or quality of feathers (possibly as the result of self-mutilation)
- * dirt around the face or feathers
- * discharge from the eyes, nose, or vent
- * Fluffy feathers. This means your bird is having a hard time regulating his temperature
- * Unable to walk or hold his head up
- * loss of appetite
- * panting or labored breathing
- * too much sleep

If you notice any of these symptoms, then get yourself an appointment for your parrot right away. If you keep your parrot healthy with regular veterinarian check ups and proper diet and hygiene, then you will have your parrot for many years to come.

Having a Happy Parrot Home

It's important to keep your parrot happy. A happy parrot makes for a happy home. If you have an angry parrot, then everyone's just going to be miserable. So here's how to keep your parrot happy in your home.

Five Ways To A Happy Parrot

1. Flight space. Your parrot needs to be able to stretch his wings. Remember, this is an exotic bird that use to roam free. Even if you have a domesticated parrot he needs to spread his wings. A large cage is nice, but even better is an area indoors that you can regularly let him out to soar. He can feel free and that will make him happy. Give him his own perch or even play trees or stands to make your parrot feel more like he's in his natural environment. A good four hours of flight time a day will be great for your parrot.

2. The proper diet. This is very important to a happy parrot. Proper seeds, pellets, and fruits and vegetables for your parrot will not only keep him healthy, but happy as well. Don't you feel happy when you have a well fed belly? And to go along with this you'll want to make sure your parrot has a nice bowl of fresh clean water. Change it out daily and make sure the dish is clean.

3. Cage placement. You want to make sure the cage is in an area with plenty of natural sunlight. But watch for drafts, especially if you live in cold climates. Parrots are tropical birds

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room or the kitchen where the family congregates the most is great because your parrot is a social bird who loves interaction. But he'll need his rest as well, so make sure he's in an area where he can get ten-twelve hours of sleep.

4. Toys. Parrots need the stimulation of toys. Have plenty of them and rotate them out so he doesn't ever get bored. Be careful what he plays with though. Make sure they are safe for parrots and inspect them to make sure they are not broken when you give them to him.

5. Interaction. You don't have to pick up your bird, but talking to your parrot will make him happy. Some of them might even begin to talk back. Making parrots a fun companion all around.

Some other ways to make things run smoothly is to establish yourself as the flock leader. Your parrot needs to know to respect you and you can achieve this by working on teaching him tricks and interacting. Know your parrot and know what his screams mean. This is how parrots communicate so you will need to know if he's screaming out of unhappiness, fright, or joy. This will help you to keep your parrot happy.

There's nothing worse than an unhappy parrot. It leads to aggression or self mutilation and lots of screeching. Worst case scenario an unhappy parrot can cause death. So do what you can to establish order and happiness within your family with your parrot and you should live a very long and happy life together.

How To Care For Your Parrot

Parrots can make a really great domestic pet, but you'll need to know how to care for them. Caring for an exotic bird like a parrot is not like a dog or a cat. So if you're looking for the how to in daily care of a parrot, then you've come to the right place. Here is some basic parrot care which will help your parrot live a long and happy life with you.

Diet

Your parrot has got to eat, just like you. It's not as simple as some bird seed though. There's not enough nutrition in seeds and pellets. You will also want to make sure you feed your bird fruits and vegetables, pellets, nuts, and seeds, and don't forget about the water.

Watch out for sunflower seeds and peanuts. These are too fattening. These are some mainstays of a parrots diet:

- * Apple
- * Bananas
- * Berries
- * Broccoli
- * Carrots
- * Cauliflower
- * Cheese
- * Chillies

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- * Greens
- * Corn
- * Grains – whole wheat breads
- * Grapes
- * Green Beans
- * Kale
- * Mango
- * Melon
- * Orange
- * Papaya
- * Pasta (raw or cooked)
- * Pear
- * Peas
- * Popcorn
- * Spinach
- * Yogurt

Food pellets can be used well in conjunction with these basic foods. But seed can be good as well. Make sure it's a good mixture of seed and you provide enough for your parrot to eat daily.

Don't be afraid of cooked foods. If you're having mashed potatoes, beans, eggs, rice, etc then go ahead and put it in your parrots food dish.

Wash bowls and dishes daily in soapy hot water. Keep the water fresh and not placed under the birds perch or near his favorite toy.

You should never feed your parrot things like chocolate, avocado, caffeine, or heavily salty and greasy foods. No fruit pits either. These can be toxic for your bird.

Just remember, like a child a well balanced diet is important with lots of variety.

Bathing

Baths are not required daily, but it should be done regularly. Two to three times a week is good. Your parrot will likely love it. If at first he doesn't like it, don't give up. The more he is bathed the more he will get used to it and before you know it he'll be begging for bath time.

Here's how to give your parrot a bath:

- * Fill a spray bottle with tepid water and holding the bottle 18 inches from your parrot and spritz, or take him in the shower with you, or a shallow bowl or sink filled with about 2 inches of water will go.
- * No soap required. Just get the wings wet with a little water and the rest happens naturally.
- * You can then towel dry your parrot. You can blow dry, but set the dryer to warm and keep it 18 inches away. It's important that you keep your parrot warm after a bath as they are tropical animals.

Parrots can't swim so always supervise them around the water. But baths in general are

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Other Daily Reminders

Your parrot needs plenty of attention and nurturing on a daily basis. Playtime and interaction is very important. Allow him to stretch his wings as well. Cleaning out his bird cage on a daily basis is important. Plenty of playthings are going to be important for your parrot as well. You can even use household items like paper towel rolls, empty beer cans, cardboard boxes, etc to create playthings for your parrot to keep him occupied. Watch out for toxic things or things he can hurt himself on when you let him out to play though.

Parrot ownership is a great thing so long as you remember a good daily diet, regular bathing, and plenty of interaction. You are going to have your parrot for a long time you want to make it good times. Having a parrot can be a lot like having a child. So remember that when you are deciding if you are ready for parrot ownership.

10 Things To Consider In Parrot Ownership

So you want to get a parrot? Pet ownership is something no one should ever go into lightly, but when it comes to exotic animals and birds there are probably some things you want to educate yourself on before you commit to one. And make no mistake about it, adopting a parrot is a lifelong commitment. Here's what you need to know before adopting a parrot.

1. There are over 350 species of parrots. So before you get a parrot you'll want to know exactly what species it is and what it will require for its care. You'll also want to know what behavioral issues you might be getting yourself in for.
2. Parrots live a very long life. Some species can live for 60-80 years. That means a truly lifelong commitment. If you think your bird is going to outlive you, then you'll want to consider what might happen to your parrot after you're gone. This could mean putting the parrot in a will and leaving it to a family member or friend or possibly leaving it to a zoo.
3. These are highly intelligent birds. Some are even as smart as a 3 year old. Because of this they will require a lot of interaction and time outside of the cage. When you're not able to entertain your parrot you'll need to provide him with other ways to entertain himself. Whether it's with safe toys, television or radio, or another parrot they do require that stimulation.
4. They are messy birds. You'll need to be cleaning up around the cage, in the cage, whatever play area they have throughout the day.
5. You will need to be mindful of a parrot's diet. They require a strict diet of dry pellets, fruits, vegetables, nuts and seeds. It will need to be prepared fresh for your parrot.
6. A parrot needs to stretch its wings. You don't want to keep him caged up. Part of his daily play should be in an open area in your home where he can take flight.
7. Owning a parrot can be very much like having a child in your home. Play time and back

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give your parrot a safe environment to roam in. Parrot proofing is going to be important. You'll have to figure out what things in your home could be toxic to your parrot. Chlorine bleach and ammonia are some things that even just the fumes can be toxic to parrots so you won't want these things in your home. Even aerosol products can be dangerous to your parrot so you'll need to watch out for these things in your home.

8. A smoke-free home is a happy home with a parrot. Even just passive inhalation of common smoking devices can cause parrots to have eye problems, skin problems, and respiratory disease. And you absolutely do not want to smoke marijuana around a parrot because this will cause the bird to regurgitate and to suffer from severe depression.

9. Even though parrots come from a tropical climate, domesticated it's best to keep them at a temperature between 60 and 80 degrees. They are comfortable with that temperature, but they can handle temperatures up to 90 degrees and as low as 40 degrees. But be cautious, any drastic increase or decrease in temperature up to 15 degrees either way in a 24 hour period can be dangerous for your parrot.

10. Parrots are very vocal. You can help keep the noise down by providing plenty of stimulation and entertainment for it, but they have a loud squawk and will continue to use it especially if you don't give him enough attention.

So as you can see parrots require a lot of work. It really is like having a child. They live a long time, make messes and lots of noise, and need lots of attention. So you will have to ask yourself, can you provide the kind of environment that a parrot can thrive and be happy in?

How To Feed Your Parrot

It's feeding time at the aviary. But you're a new parrot owner and you're wondering what do I feed my parrot? How often does he eat? How do I go about feeding my parrot? Well, wonder no more, here's the how to in proper parrot feeding.

What To Feed Your Parrot

First of all you can't just feed your parrot bird seed. Even a good bird seed. They need a diet that consists of a good seed, pellets, and fruits and vegetables as well. You will need to know what your particular species of parrot is to really know exactly what the best diet is, but no matter what it cannot be just seed. Each species has different foods it will consume based on the area they are from and what was available to them.

As a general rule, if it's healthy for humans then your parrot can eat it too. However, stay away from foods high in salt and sugar. Also no parrots should ever have chocolate, alcohol, avocado, or rhubarb.

A good well rounded parrot diet will consist of protein, whole grains, vegetables that contain Vitamin A, as well as other fruits and vegetables, and carbohydrates. A very hard boiled egg, lean chicken, and turkey are all good proteins you can feed your parrot. Brown rice,

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Vitamin A rich foods are needed for the parrot's eyes, skin, and feathers. Good sources of vitamin A include carrots, sweet potato, butternut squash, broccoli, spinach, and green peppers. Fruits high in vitamin A include peaches, apricots, cantaloupe, and papaya.

For whole grains you can feed your parrot a whole grain toast or cracker. Whole grain pasta, unsweetened cereals, and oat bran are good to feed your parrot too.

How Often Should You Feed Your Parrot

How often and how much to feed your parrot is important. You don't want your parrot to become obese. You run this risk because with the lack of exercise a parrot in captivity will receive he's not going to need as much food. So be careful with the snacking and stay away from peanuts as they are too high in fat content for parrots.

Obviously, different sized birds are going to require different amounts of food. You just can't feed love birds the same amount of food you can feed an Amazon parrot. To know if you're on the right track watch your bird. See how much waste of food there is and how he's doing with weight. A healthy happy bird is a well fed bird. You can weigh food to know how much to feed each time.

In the wild parrots will eat at dawn and spend the rest of the morning preening and playing and napping. Then they will feed again in the late afternoon before going back home for the evening. You might not be able to provide this same feeding schedule for your parrot, but two meals a day with one snack is ideal anyway you can get it. You can get your parrot on your schedule.

How To Feed Your Parrot

Now finally you are probably wondering how to go about feeding your parrot. Or perhaps you think putting a bowl of food in the cage will work. That could be fine, but you need to keep your parrot interested. In the wild he had to hunt and scavenge for his food. This took up a good portion of his day making it both stimulating and exercise. In captivity you will be providing all meals and are therefore taking the hunt out of it. That doesn't have to be the case though. You need to present the food to your parrot in a variety of different ways. This might mean cutting up the fruit differently or moving the bowl in the cage. Vary the feedings. You don't need to feed him the same food for breakfast, dinner, and snack. For breakfast give him some high in protein foods for energy and for his evening meal some vegetables and grains. Snack of fruit. Mix it up a little, keep your parrot on his toes.

Once you know how to feed your parrot you can have a happy parrot home. And you will keep your parrot healthy and with you for a long time to come. So make sure you are providing a well rounded diet daily. This isn't a dog or cat that you can just give food out of a bag, you'll actually be preparing meals for your parrot.

Five Ways To A Tame Parrot

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One of the biggest problems people have when they begin the journey of parrot ownership is dealing with some unwanted and aggressive behavior. Parrots are not quite as easy to handle the domesticated lifestyle as dogs and cats are. They require certain and specific things to make them happy and content within your home. And when they don't get it they begin to act out by screeching and biting and self mutilating. All hope is not lost though. You can tame your aggressive parrot with these simple tips.

First you will need to figure out why your parrot is acting out, in particular biting. A parrot will bite for 4 reasons. Either he is exploring his environment with his mouth, fear, territorial aggression, and because he has learned that biting get him what he wants – attention. Once you have figured out the why you can then address the how.

1. If your parrot is exploring with his mouth and has begun exploring your finger, fight the urge to pull away. Instead you will need to teach him that fingers are not to be explored. To do this when he begins to peck at your finger give him a firm, “No!” or “Gentle!” Then push your finger into his beak causing him to break his grip. Do not pull, he'll just get a stronger grip.
2. If your parrot is biting out of fright, then you will have to remove him from that frightful situation. Then avoid it. Sudden loud noises and movements are some things that can cause a parrot fear so in particular when you're holding a parrot try not to make any sudden movements or loud noises.
3. Territorial aggression is relatively easy to resolve so long as your parrot is aware that his territory is his cage and not your living room. Warn guests not to stick their hands in the cage. When you approach the cage for feeding or to let him out to roam he shouldn't become aggressive because he will recognize you as his caregiver. You still should not stick your fingers inside the cage.
4. You cannot give into your own fears. Stand your ground with your parrot. If he gets food every time he bites you he's going to think that's how to get food. Establishing a predictable schedule for your parrot might help stop this aggressive biting for attention. Playing with your parrot and talking to him, as he's a social being will all be helpful in keeping him from beginning to bite for what he wants to begin with.
5. Build trust with your parrot. This is going to take time and work with your parrot. Teaching him tricks is a good trust building exercise, but remember positive reinforcement is always going to be better for your parrot than negative reinforcement. Praise and treats for a desired behavior is the best way to get your parrot to repeat that behavior for you. As social beings they do have this need to please.

Taming an aggressive parrot is essential to your parrot ownership. Biting and even screeching aggressively is done because a parrot is unhappy. Have a happy parrot and it will be a happy home life with your parrot. And parrots are happy when they get enough stimulation and attention.

Everyone who sees a parrot wants to get it to talk. Some are more talkative than others and of course it will depend on the species of parrot. But even beyond that just teaching tricks to your parrot will all lead to good behavior on your parrots part. Parrots require a lot of attention and interaction so the more time you spend interacting and teaching the better. But who doesn't want a parrot to do parlor tricks at your next get together? So here's how to train our parrot to do tricks (even talking if that's something the species has a propensity for).

First of all keep in mind positive rewards are key when it comes to getting a parrot to do what you want. Praise is great, but Polly really does want a cracker. So when you're trying to train your parrot make sure you have plenty of treats on hand. When you get an undesired reaction out of your parrot just ignore it. Parrots often are about as smart as a 2 year old, so think of it like you would with a child. Sometimes negative attention is better than no attention so you don't want to get your parrot into that mindset. Once you are prepared with your positive reward you can follow these steps to train your parrot.

1. Work with your parrot when you're in a good mood. This will make it easier to provide the positive award and not snap at your parrot.
2. Consider your parrots mood as well. If it's time to eat or a time he usually likes to sleep, then you're probably not going to get the desired behavior out of him.
3. Short and sweet training sessions are great, but do it a lot and consistently. Attention span will likely be much like a 2 year old.
4. Once he begins to get the trick start switching your reward to praise instead of what you used to get the desired reaction. This way there won't be that expectation every time he does it and you are more likely to get him to do the trick sporadically.
5. Always end on a high note. If you get the desired reaction or something that's close enough, then it's a good time to end for the day and move onto something else.
6. Always keep training sessions upbeat and fun. You don't want it to be a chore.
7. Teaching your parrot to step up on your your finger or perch and step down on command is a great way to start training your parrot. It's simple and stepping up is something very natural for a bird. Step down might be a little harder to teach, but it's a good thing to start out teaching.

If you keep these seven tips in mind when it comes to training your parrot, then you should really have no problem achieving the desired outcomes. Just remember, know your parrots limits and capabilities. Start small and work up with plenty of positive reinforcement and you'll have a parrot doing tricks before you know it.

Why Your Parrot Needs An Avian Veterinarian

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Whether it's for a well check or if you clip their feathers or there's something wrong with your parrot friend, you need to have a good veterinarian. But your regular veterinarian who specializes in more mainstream pets (dogs and cats) probably isn't the best medical care you can provide for your parrot. You take your child to a doctor who specializes in pediatrics, right? When you have a problem with your heart you see a Cardiologist. Well, the same is true of your parrot. You will want to find him an avian veterinarian (a veterinarian who specializes in birds).

Avian veterinarians have spent extra time learning the unique needs of our feathered friends. And with 350 different species of parrots you will definitely want a doctor who has spent extra time learning about the different quirks that can arise from all of these different species of parrot.

Finding a veterinarian with avian expertise might be hard. It's not exactly a common training in veterinary school. Often times they don't even get any hands on experience of exotic birds during their time in veterinary school. An avian veterinarian will go out of his way to further educate himself in the unique make up of exotic animals like parrots. These avian veterinarians are part of an association known as Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV). This is where they get their additional training and remain up to date on the latest and greatest information pertaining to all things bird.

How You Can Find An Avian Veterinarian

With the scarcity of a veterinarian who has the added training of birds you might be wondering how do I know for sure that my veterinarian has the training needed to make proper diagnosis of my parrot? You will need to find a reputable source to recommend a good avian veterinarian. Unfortunately this might not always be the breeder or pet store. You can start there, but do your homework. Your local domesticated pet veterinarian might be able to make an avian veterinarian recommendation, but when all else fails calling the national AAV would be a great way to find an accredited avian veterinarian.

Ask lots of questions of your veterinarian. How many birds does his practice see a year? What's his training in avian medicine? When did he most recently take a class? Check out his practice. See how he acts with your parrot. If he's hands on as well as his staff then you probably have found yourself a competent avian veterinarian. If they don't recommend yearly check ups or refuse to see your parrot for a sick visit because it's too cold for transporting your parrot, then it might not be a very knowledgeable avian veterinarian and you'll probably want to seek out a new one.

You want the very best for your parrot to make sure he lives a long and happy life. This all starts with a doctor who understands and knows exactly what your parrot needs. So take care of your parrot and find him a qualified avian veterinarian.

Parrot Info Resources

[Elite Parrots Club](#) - Multimedia Membership Site (Videos, Audios & More)

[Stop Your Parrot From Biting, Train Tricks, Speech & More](#)

Raising Parrots

[**The Ultimate Parrot Care Guide**](#) - Guide For Understanding And Caring For Your Parrot.

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