

Shelley's Birds
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Care & Feeding of Your New Baby Parrot

This is a general Guide for the care and feeding of Baby Parrots. While You are encouraged to read everything available about your new companion parrot, there are several things to remember.

- 1) Yours is a Baby and will be considered a baby for the next 6 months.
- 2) All babies have different needs than juveniles or adults.

Your baby will need an abundance of food for a while, not just seed and pellets. They will also need vegetables minus avocado. This can include carrots, peas, green beans, corn, cooked squash, broccoli, cauliflower, beans, fresh or frozen. Warm is best for the first few weeks. The Baby may regress to wanting to be hand fed. If this happens you can heat some food to a warm temperature and offer it from your fingers or a small dish. They need to have fresh vegetables or fruit offered to them in the morning and evening. the best time in the evening is at your dinner time. this will insure they feel as a family member by eating with their flock. Try to minimize the intake of excess salt, sugar, or fat, but still enable them to try a variety of foods. Table food is fine but not in excess.

Your baby should be a member of the family, which means they must be handled every day. They must have cage time and out of cage time. They need to be with you but also learn to be by themselves. They should never be left unattended when they are out of their cage. Someone should be in the room or within sight of them at all times. They can be just like children and the moment your back is turned get into something they shouldn't. Avoid anything they can become entangled with ie.. curtain strings, loose threads and such.

For a while your baby will need fourteen hours sleep a day. They will nap wherever during the day but should have a regular bedtime , and be covered with a sheet at that time. This will give them a safe zone where they can relax and sleep undisturbed.

Training is a slow process, Start with coaxing the baby to step up on your hand when you approach themm As they get older a more firm tone can be used along with the 'evil eye' and firm NO if they are biting. Distraction is also an option. Try keeping a toy they like on hand to offer instead of your fingers or ears.

If the baby is doing something you don't understand don't hesitate to ask for help, either from the

person you purchased the bird from or a reliable pet store or even an avian vet.

Be very careful of teflon pans, overheating puts off fumes that are fatal to birds.

Bathing is a vital aspect of a your birds heath and well being. Not only does it keep them clean and their feathers and skin in good condition. It can become a source of great enjoyment for you and them. Whether your bird wants a bath dish or a spray misted over them, they will find a way to take a bath, even if it's in their water dish. If you shower with your bird always make sure the toilet seat is down.

Hopefully this will lead to long and rewarding relationship.

Shelley & David Reedy

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