

BIRD CAGE SELECTION - CHOOSING THE CORRECT CAGE FOR YOUR FEATHERED FRIEND



When you are not home or when you can not supervise his activities, your bird will likely spend much of his time in a cage. From your bird's point of view, his cage is security, protection; a place to play, sleep and rest. For these reasons, it pays, in the long run, to purchase the biggest and best quality cage that you can fit and afford.

The height of the birdcage should be tall enough to accommodate the full length of the bird's tail. Your bird should also have enough room to turn around without running into walls, toys or bowls. Budgies, canaries and other small birds should have enough room to fly and hop around so they can get the proper amount of exercise.

The two most important factors when choosing a bird cage are the bar spacing and diameter. The spacing must be narrow enough to prevent your bird's head from getting wedged between them, while it should be large enough to prevent toes and limbs from getting trapped. The bar diameter must be thick enough so your bird can not bend or break through with its beak. Here is a guide to selecting the proper size cage for most birds:

Type of Bird	Bar Spacing	Bar Diameter	Min. Cage Width	Ideal Cage Width
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Budgie, Finch, Canary	1/8"- 3/8"	1-3 mm	14"	28"-30"
Cockatiel, Conure, Lovebird, Senegal Caiques, etc.	1/2"- 5/8"	4 mm	18"	32"
Amazons, Greys, Medium Cockatoos, etc.	5/8"-1"	4-6 mm	24"	36"
Macaws, Mollucans, Cockatoos	1"- 1 1/2"	6 mm	36"	48"

When selecting a location for your bird's cage, keep in mind that birds thrive on social activity. The best place to keep your bird is a room where people gather. However, avoid the kitchen, near the television, or in the bathroom. Also keep the cage away from sudden temperature changes and drafts that may be caused by the outside door, a heating vent or a window.

Situate perches in locations that are not directly above the food and water bowls to minimize the chances of contamination. The bowls should be washed daily with a mixture of dish soap and light bleach and rinsed thoroughly.

Remember, when it comes to our feathered friends the sky is literally the limit, so bigger is always better when it comes to their cage.



HABITAT ENRICHMENT

Your bird's cage is his home within your home. Making sure that it is properly accessorized will greatly enrich your feathered friend's life, making it more enjoyable for him and you!

Perches and toys are obvious additions to any cage. In the wild, perches are trees, and no two trees are alike - their irregular sizes and textures exercise feet and legs, and also trim their nails. For this reason, it is a great idea to provide perches with varied diameters, textures and shapes.



A mix of materials, colors and shapes is best when it comes to toys. Natural materials are usually appreciated; sisal, woven leaf, wicker and coconut shells mimic what is found in birds' natural environments. Toy rotation will keep toys fresh and birds interested, and will also prevent overcrowding, which can damage feathers.

Hideouts are another important natural habitat element to replicate within the cage. In the wild, you can often find birds enjoying solitude in dense, covered area, such as trees or brush. Cage sacks, nest boxes or even treated Manzanita wood branches are all excellent options for creating such a space.

For females, nesting materials may also be necessary. If she displays destructive behaviors, such as cage liner shredding or



feather plucking, seasonally or year round, providing nesting materials will allow her to create the cozy nest she craves, without damaging her cage or herself.

A cage cover is a necessity. All birds require a quiet, dark cage in order to get the long, refreshing sleep they need for health and happiness. The cage cover will cloak your bird from lights and distractions.

TREAT TOYS - THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS!



In the wild, the majority of a bird's time is spent foraging for food. We, as good avian owners, provide a bowlful of a premium, balanced bird diet, and feel

that we are doing the best by our bird, but our feathered friend would probably say otherwise. Cage-induced boredom often manifests itself in destructive behaviors that could be limited or eliminated by offering a treat toy, which will challenge and sharpen your bird's intellect in a tasty, nutritious way.



Replaceable treat toys are designed to be eaten and replaced. They are often made of fruits, nuts and seeds and can be completely consumed, safely. Refillable treat toys are made of plastic or metals to provide continuous enjoyment; their reusable designs range from simple skewers to complex puzzles, which allows you to choose the best fit for your bird.

Natural Nesting Behaviors May Counter Spring Cleaning

Female birds may start displaying unusual changes in behavior as spring approaches and the season brings about longer days. Owners may notice that their birds have been scratching or tearing at the lining in their cage. This type of mess may also be accompanied by a collection of self-removed feathers. These actions may seem bizarre, unusual and problematic, but it's simply a natural adjustment.



STICK CANARY NATURE NEST



STICK NATURE NEST FINCH



STICK NATURE NEST GIANT FINCH

This type of behavior is instinctual and especially common during breeding times. During the beginning of the season, shortly after Daylight Savings has begun, mature females may demonstrate attempts at constructing a nest, or searching for potential nest-building materials. These urges are often so strong that females will provide a nest by any means necessary, i.e. plucking their own feathers. This innate need to prepare a home for potential offspring is oftentimes destructive and should be remedied.

The aforementioned behaviors are natural, just as birds, and all pets, were once free-roaming creatures. Captivity and cages are not natural surroundings to these birds, so it is up to the owner

to provide them with essential materials to reduce seasonal stress that may be affecting your pet's comfort and well-being. All-natural bedding materials will prove ideal since they consist of items that birds will find in the wild. This type of cage addition will also provide warmth, security, and stress-relief. Owners may notice that their bird has begun redecorating their cage with the nesting materials in attempts to obtain a more comfortable surrounding; this should be encouraged because comfort is in direct correlation with overall health.