

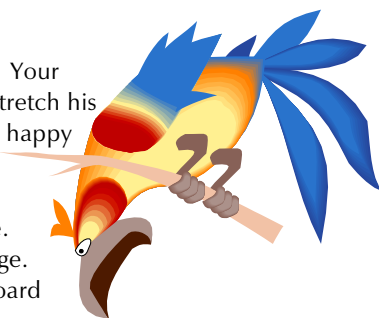
Top Ten Tips for Happy Parrots!

- ☉ Give your parrot the largest cage you can afford. Your bird's cage should, at a minimum, allow him to stretch his wings in both directions, to climb and to play. A happy parrot is an active tumbling, swinging, hanging upside down one!
- ☉ Horizontal space is as important as vertical space. Give a place to hide near, or at the top of the cage. A cloth covering a corner, or a suspended cardboard box, provides a safe place. Even better are edible branches and leaves woven through the cage bars on top.
- ☉ Foraging behaviour is important to your bird. He requires a good quality pellet type food, but also fruits, vegetables and treats such as nuts. Parrots adore chilli peppers. For smaller parrots, cut rounds off and string them to make an edible toy.
- ☉ Parrots love to climb and play. They require time outside their cage to remain sufficiently active and healthy. Flying is a natural behaviour and one that your parrot can perform safely in a suitably supervised room. Suitable suspended ropes allow your bird to perform those acrobatics, such as open winged twirls, which they cannot perform in their cages.
- ☉ Wing trimming is not usually recommended because wing trimmed birds will feel more vulnerable, especially when they are on a low surface or on the ground. Wing trimming only one wing will cause the bird to fly badly and contribute to possible accidents. Wing trimming both wings may cause your bird to feather pluck. Birds who cannot fly cannot perform their most natural, fundamental, behaviour.
- ☉ The rooms where they can be allowed flight must be carefully assessed for dangers. Many household appliances (cookers, boiling pots, heaters), practices (cooking with Teflon coated cookware, burning incense or candles, smoking), plants, furniture (paint and varnish) and rooms (sinks with water/toilets) can provide possible fatal hazards to your bird.
- ☉ Parrots love to play with toys. Parrots require different types of toys, such as non-printed paper and cardboard to shred, ropes to swing off and chew, ropes/cloth to preen, mirrors to 'kill', foot toys to manipulate and keep feet and toes healthy and mind challenging toys to stimulate the mind. Toys should be either chew resistant, such as acrylic toys, or good quality rubber, such as Kongs. Wooden clothes pegs with the metal spring removed make wonderful foot and shredding toys. Chain or metal should be stainless steel. Parrots love dismantling nuts and bolts.
- ☉ Your parrot's main resting perch should be just right for the circumference of your parrot's foot; not too wide so the foot is splayed, and not too narrow so that the toes meet and overlap. Ideal perches are of natural wood and have irregular surfaces. Dowel perches should be removed from the cage and replaced by parrot friendly ones. Perches can be made from jute rope twisted from one side of the cage to the other. Fresh branches make wonderful perches. Perches to be avoided are those with sanded covers or rough cement perches as they do not reduce nail growth and can cause injury. A parrot should not be allowed to perch above your head height.



- ☉ Your bird will enjoy being showered with a plant mister aimed in the air over the bird so that the water mists on top of him - birds like to get thoroughly wet. Remember, the more your parrot exercises his beak and nails with toys and wooden perches, the less trimming he will require.
- ☉ Training will enhance the bond you have with your bird, allow you to control him even if fully flighted and give you opportunity to teach him many fun and challenging behaviours. Many books have been written on clicker training parrots. This is one successful way of training your parrot.

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Wildlife Rescue

Why should I rescue a wild animal?



- If the animal is obviously injured, cold or weak.
- If you know for sure the parent is dead. Wild parents may leave their babies alone for hours at a time. When in doubt, observe from a distance first.
- If a baby has fallen from a nest, either replace it in the nest or into a cardboard box with a hot water bottle filled with warm water.
- Sometimes animals enter buildings, chimneys or rubbish bins etc. It is best to provide a means of escape for the animal and leave it to get itself out.

When don't I need to rescue a wild animal?

- Bright eyed, active, warm, well-fed orphans if the parent may still be nearby.
- Healthy baby rabbits whose eyes are open. Even if they seem vulnerable, they will have a better chance of survival on their own.
- Fully feathered baby birds. Place them in a nearby tree. The parents will feed them.

Bee and Wasp Stings

As with humans, it is very rare for an animal to be allergic to bee and wasp stings. Bees leave their sting in, so if you can see a sting, remove it. Stings are initially very painful, but this can be relieved by holding a cold flannel or ice cube on the affected area. Some animals will try to bite or chew the sore spot, so it is a good idea to distract them, eg: by feeding or taking a dog for a walk.

Pet Web

A new website providing information on responsible pet ownership has been launched by Fort Dodge Animal Health. According to the company, the new site (www.responsiblepetlovers.co.uk) provides advice on caring for a dog or cat.



Mobile Surgery Timetable

Please note that we no longer visit Breamore Village Hall on Wednesday mornings, but are at Downton Co-Op Car Park instead, as below:

Location	Day	Time
Bishopstone (White Hart)	Wednesday	1.30–3.30pm
Downton (Co-Op Car Park)	Monday Wednesday Thursday	11am–12.30pm 9.30am–12pm 12.30–2pm
Morgans Vale (Village Hall)	Monday Thursday	9.30–10.30am 2.30–3.30pm
Whiteparish (Parish Lantern)	Tuesday	10am–3.30pm
Winterslow (Village Hall)	Monday Thursday	1.30–3.30pm 9.30–11.30am



Following government medicines regulations that came into effect on 1 November 2005, we would like to advise you of the following changes:

Prescriptions are available from this practice. You may obtain Prescription Only Medicines, Category V, (POM Vs) from your veterinary surgeon **or** ask for a prescription and obtain these medicines from another veterinary surgeon or a pharmacy.

Your veterinary surgeon may prescribe POM Vs only for animals under his or her care.

A prescription may not be appropriate if your animal is an in-patient or immediate treatment is necessary.

You will be informed, on request, of the price of any medicine that may be prescribed for your animal.

The general policy of the Small Animal Department of this practice is to reassess an animal requiring repeat prescriptions every six months, but this may vary with individual circumstances. The standard charge for a re-examination is £15.30 during the day, £17.38 in the evenings or £20.88 at weekends.

The current prices for the ten POM Vs most commonly prescribed or supplied during a typical three month period are displayed in our waiting room.

Further information on the prices of medicines is available on request.

Repeat prescriptions are available at forty-eight hours' notice, Monday to Friday.