## **LEGION AVIARY - BASIC BIRD CARE MANUAL**

## Congratulations on your new bird/family member!

- 1. When you purchase a bird and he is taken from his environment, it can be depressing. A good way to help the bird adapt to his new family is to provide it with familiar foods that it is used to. Failure to do this can lead to weight loss and even the death of the bird.
- 2. Offer a mix of seeds with Pellets (I prefer Mazzuri) every day. Also, throughout the week, offer vegetables like romaine lettuce, collard greens, pumpkin, corn etc. These birds have been weaned on these vegetables so they are adapted to consuming them, I recommend you chop all these vegetables together and provide it to them in a separate container. Place the vegetables in a small container at the bottom of the cage. Birds are natural scavengers and this will stimulate their natural instincts, but make sure the container is not in a place where the food can get soiled by the birds when perching.
- 3. Baby chicks must be provided toys as this will prevent plucking or fights with other birds in the cage. Should a fight occur and your bird gets injured, stop the bleeding immediately using cornstarch and separate the birds in a different case. I will tell you from experience once the birds draw blood there is a high likelihood they will never get along again. But, if you wish to attempt to put the two birds again do not introduce the bird until fully healed. Observe the birds closely, if another fight occurs separate the birds for good this time. If you have an emergency, or are unsure of how to deal with an injury to your bird please rush to a veterinarian or call us at 702-525-1904.
- 4. Please remember to only house birds of the same species in the same cage together. Birds from different species will fight and kill each other as they see themselves as competing for resources like food, water, and attention.
- 5. Different bird species can coexist with each other outside of the cage. Introducing your baby bird to other flocks of birds you may have should be done in a slow process by placing your recently bought bird in a cage next to the other birds so they can get acquainted, but not close enough where they can hurt each other. Do this for a minimum of 2 weeks to 30 days, then you can let them all out of the case and free flight throughout the house.
- 6. In order to keep your bird tame, they must be handled every day. At first since they are not used to their new family, start by striking your hand inside the cage and get them to step up. After a few times, open the cage and let them come out to explore your home and interact with your family. This is a slow process but it will pay off eventually. It is all about getting the bird to trust you.
- 7. Birds might get jealous of different family members and lash out by biting specially if children are around. Make sure to correct the bad behaviors immediately. Never hit you pet bird as it will kill him. Simply tell him no and put him on his cage. Birds are one of the smartest animals in the world, once you do this several times your bird will learn which behaviors are appropriate.

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- 8. A good way to bond with your bird is by having them out at dinner time. Feed them some of your food or their favorite treat while you and your family eat. These birds will see you and your family as part of their flock. Be careful what you feed them as some foods like avocados and chocolate are toxic and will kill them. If in doubt do a quick google search or contact us.
- 9. Birds need a good source of calcium all the time. Provide cuttlebone or a good mineral block all the time and get a vitamin supplement at Walmart to add to their water 3-4 times a week. It is important that you provide vitamin B supplement as they need it in order to process their calcium intake.
- 10. Avoid putting the birdcage in direct sunlight, always provide a shaded area. Birds will overhead and suffer a stroke if shade is not provided. If they do over heat, they will open their wings and hyperventilate. Immediately grab the bird, place him in front of a fan and spray water onto it. Once he has calmed down, place him in the shade and provide fresh water and feed him vegetables for the next couple of days.
- 11. In winter, if possible, bring your bird inside the house, but if you have them in an aviary make sure that you eliminate draft and the bird can have a safe place to hide from the cold. If you want you may provide a heat lamp but as long as you avoid any draft inside of the aviary you will have no problems.
- 12. The babies' wings may be cut for training purposes. While we do not condone this practice we recognize sometimes is needed. If you have the wings cut do not attempt to do it yourself. Take the bird to an experienced professional as this can be very dangerous and the bird could bleed to death. The birds' wings, if cut properly, will re-grow each season when the bird molts its feathers.
- 13. MOST IMPORTANTLY!!!!! Keeping the cage or living area clean is the key to keeping your bird healthy and in good condition. Feed enough for JUST one day only. If by the next day they still have food you are over feeding. Also change the water container every day, as birds like to dip their food in the water and thus contaminate the water. Fresh water must be provided every day to maintain their health.

  Good nutrition and cleanliness will make it so that your new friend will live for many years to come!!

I hope you enjoy your new friend! Should you have any questions, please contact us at 702-931-1134 or yunelyslima@gmail.com

