



# FOREST DEPARTMENT

Ministry of Forestry, Fisheries and Sustainable Development

Forest Drive, Belmopan, Belize

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FD-WP-003 Minimum Care Avian

## MINIMUM CARE STANDARDS - Husbandry

### Section 1: Enclosure size for species

SMALL enclosures: *parakeet, white-fronted, yellow-lored, brown-hooded, white-capped*

LARGE enclosures: *red-lored, yellow-head, blue-head (Mealy)*

### Section 2: Enclosure size (*minimum specifications*)

SMALL bird enclosure size: INDOOR: 3' x 3' x 4' - *Situated off the ground*

OUTDOOR: 6' x 4' x 8'

LARGE bird enclosure size INDOOR: 4' x 4' x 4' - *Situated off the ground*

OUTDOOR: 6' x 6' x 8'

### Section 3: Enclosure requirements (*minimum specifications*)

#### 3.1 Indoor enclosure requirements (*minimum*)

3.1a Wire must have no damage or holes or rust

3.1b There must be no nails, screws, or sharp objects sticking out

3.1c PERCHES: there must be a minimum of 3 perches of different textures and sizes, scattered through the cage (plastic pipe or metal bar is **not** acceptable). All perches should be firmly secured without twisting/rotating. Perches must be changed at least every 6-8 weeks or when damaged/dirty.

The bird must be able to perch at least 4' off the ground

3.1d Porch cages must have shelter from direct sun, rain and wind

#### 3.2 Outdoor enclosures

3.2a WIRE must be ½"x ½" or smaller and galvanized

3.2b The wire must have no rust, damage or holes

3.2c Half of the ROOF area must be covered with solid roofing material

3.2d One corner of the outdoor enclosure must have protection from elements on all three sides

3.2e There must be no nails, screws, or sharp objects sticking out

3.2f DOOR should allow adequate access for cleaning and husbandry. Catches must be predator-proof

3.2g PERCHES: there must be a minimum of 5 perches of different textures and sizes, scattered through the cage (plastic pipe or metal bar is **not** acceptable) They should be firmly secured without twisting/rotating and changed at least every 6-8 weeks or when damaged/dirty. Highest perch must at least 5 feet off the ground

### Section 4: Diet and husbandry requirements (*minimum*)

4a Enclosure must contain fresh (non-poisonous) green branches, leaves and/or bird-safe toys

4b The cage or enclosure must show evidence of regular cleaning

4c Food provided must comply with all aspects of FD minimum standards

4d Food and water must be replaced daily

4e Food and water bowls must be cleaned daily

4f INDOOR birds must be allowed out of the cage (and preferably) socialized for 3 hours per day

4g INDOOR birds must be allowed access to sunlight and rain at least twice-weekly

4h OUTDOOR birds must have the ability to shelter from the elements at all times



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### MINIMUM CARE STANDARDS - Recommended daily diet

#### **Parakeet:**

½ cup mixed parakeet seed and sunflower/pumpkin seed

½ cup chopped vegetables and fruits

½ cup cooked whole corn & beans

#### **White-front, white-capped, yellow-lored, brown-hooded**

1 ½ cups of fresh chopped vegetables, fruits and cooked corn & beans

1 tablespoon of sunflower seeds or pumpkin seeds, ONLY

#### **Red lored, yellow head, blue-head mealy**

2-3 cups fresh chopped vegetables, fruits and cooked corn & beans

2 tablespoons of sunflower seeds or pumpkin seeds, ONLY

#### **All birds**

A bowl of fresh clean water every day

Food and water to be changed daily. Dishes to be washed frequently. If the inside of the water bowl feels slimy, it needs to be scrubbed

### **Additional diet and husbandry information**

Diet: Licensed keepers are also encouraged to provide Mazuri Parrot Maintenance, available at Reimers Feed Mill

Peanuts are **not** recommended as they may contain harmful toxins

Caged birds suffer health and weight issues if they have a high-fat diet. Sunflower seeds are high in fat and not recommended in large quantities for most captive birds. Pumpkin seeds are preferred. Processed foods intended for humans are not recommended, especially those high in sugar, fat and salt (do not feed your bird salted nuts, seeds or chips)

Onions, chocolate and avocado (skin and stone) can be poisonous to parrots

In the dry season, spray your bird gently with water from a spray bottle or low-pressure misting hose.

Gently preen your bird's feathers by rubbing the feather shaft between your index finger nail and your thumb pad.

Remember, growing feathers are 'alive' with a blood supply, so be gentle: the bird will let you know if it hurts.

Bird-safe toys: Do not give your bird metal objects or electrical wire to chew: most metals are poisonous for birds. Suitable toys are: plastic bottle-tops; untreated/natural wood blocks/sticks; cardboard boxes, paper, including old phone directories; old (washed) slippers; leather strips, sisal string; baby teethingers, and of course natural branches.

Enrichment: Fruiting trees and hibiscus are the safest branches and leaves to give to your bird. Avoid other ornamental plants or any obviously poisonous branches or plants and trees with white-sap. Any fruits or berries you observe wild parrots eating will be safe for your captive bird, as will their branches. Try to create a natural environment for the bird wherever possible.

For more information, read '*caring for your captive parrot*', a copy of which will be provided by the inspecting officer or visit [www.belizebirdrescue.com](http://www.belizebirdrescue.com)