



- categories, hardbills (canaries, finches, etc.) and hookbills (Parrots, parakeets, etc.)
- Hardbills commonly eat seeds, fresh leafy greens, and fruit slices.
 - Hookbills also eat seeds, but will also consume fruits, berries, vegetables, bark, and leaves.
 - Commercial diets can be found for both kinds of birds. Commercial diets can be bought as pellets or seeds.

Companion Birds

Cages:

- When shopping for a cage, buy the largest cage you can afford. The width of the cage is more important than the height.
- Metal cages that are designed for easy cleaning are preferred. Avoid buying wooden or cylindrical cages.
- Be sure to have multiple perches for your bird to climb and sit on.
- It is critical to provide chew toys, and places for your bird to hide.
- Provide one food bowl, a water bowl for bathing, and a water bowl for drinking.
- Food and water bowls should be cleaned daily.
- Birds should be kept in natural light, but avoid direct sunlight through windows.



Birds

Companion Birds, Wild Birds,
and Chickens

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Caring for Wild Birds

The first thing to do when you find a baby bird is to make sure it is truly in need of help. Often times, baby birds simply fall out of their nests. If you can locate the nest, you should simply place the bird carefully back into its nest. But, it is important not to touch the bird unless you are sure it is in need. If you are certain that the young/adult bird does not have a nest to return to, or is injured, place it in a small box with airholes and soft padding. Fight the desire to raise it yourself and instead contact the local wildlife agency or your local veterinarian.



Chickens

Baby Chickens

Baby chicks need to be housed in a predator proof shelter. It is important they are protected from drafts, but also have adequate ventilation. Cardboard boxes or “kiddie” pools will do a good job. Provide 2 sq. ft. for each chick.

Baby chicks require a lot of heat; 95°F the first week of their lives, decreasing the heat by 5°F each week. It is recommended to use a red heat lamp.

Bedding is the next most important factor when raising chicks. Pine shavings work very well because they are absorbent, and do not irritate their feet. Despite what your neighbors may tell you, newspaper is not a good choice for bedding.

When providing feed and water to chicks, use a chick waterer and feeder. These are designed to keep the chicks from easily spilling, and messing in them. Even though these are designed to prevent spills and messes, it is still going to be necessary to check their food and water several times a day.

Feeding chickens is relatively simple. There is a starter feed available at any feed store called a “starter feed.” This feed will provide the chicks with everything they need. Depending on the manufacturer’s recommendation, chicks are generally kept on this feed for 4-16 weeks, and then switched to a “grower” feed. Also, provide them with access to food and water at all times.

Lastly, chickens like to sit on perch when resting. So providing chickens with a perch a few inches off the ground is will be a nice bonus to them. The perch may also keep them from perching on their food bowl.