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## Bird Care Tips

- To ease removal of dried droppings and/or food, use non-stick cooking spray to coat cage bars. It will also help prevent rusting.
- Use a small hand vacuum for quick cleanups. Vacuum or sweep up feathers at least once every day.
- Keep perches free of dried droppings to help avoid illness and sore feet. Scrape the perches and clean them with sandpaper. You can also use a putty knife to loosen the debris from the perch.
- Disinfect perches in bleach and dry them in the sun.
- If your bird is not tame, buy a spare cage to transfer it to while you clean the primary cage.
- Change paper on cage bottoms every day.
- NEVER use paper printed with colored inks. Many of these inks are toxic to birds.
- Cut several sections of the newspapers used to line the bottom of the cage at one time. Remove one or two layers daily to help ease cleanup.
- Your bird probably enjoys music as much as you do. Tune into a favorite radio station for your bird, especially when you are away from the house.
- Tie undyed leather shoelaces into complicated knots and then hang this toy from the top of the cage. Your bird will love untying the knots and chewing on the leather.
- Offer your bird balls with bells. These balls, usually made for cats, will allow the bird to entertain itself for hours.
- Allow your bird plenty of supervised playtime outside the cage every day.
- Do not offer your bird foods or drinks that contain caffeine, such as chocolate or coffee. Caffeine is potentially toxic to birds.
- Add chili peppers to your bird's diet. There are many varieties; they are nutritious and most birds enjoy them. Bones with some pork or beef meat on them are relished by many birds. These bones are an excellent source of protein. Be sure that the meat is well cooked through.
- Watch closely for any of the following signs of illness in your bird
  - Change in character.
  - Change in the number or appearance of droppings.
  - Change in food or water consumption.
  - Change in appearance or posture (Ruffled feathers, closed eyes, droopy stance.)
  - Noticeable breathing at rest or heavy breathing after exercise.
  - Any enlargement--even fat in a bird is abnormal!!!