

Introducing Birds to your Aviary

Learn more from the team at Kellyville Pets



Purchasing, transporting and introducing new birds to your aviary at home can be very tricky for both your new birds and the birds already in your aviary.

Here are a few helpful hints to make this process a little easier and successful.

Purchase

At time of purchase, check the following features of the bird;

- Chest - The bird should have good weight.
- Nostrils - Clear, with no discharge.
- Feet - All toes, correct conformation, no build-up of faecal matter
- Wings - All flight feathers (unless requested clipped).
- Tail - All 12 tail feathers.
- Eyes - Bright and clear, free from discharge.
- Appearance - Happy and 'on the go'.
- Is compatible with your current and proposed aviary inhabitants.
- Your bird should be freighted home in a dark box, minimising stress.
- Ideally your bird should be released into its new home at least 3 hours before sunset.

Quarantine

All new birds should be quarantined for a minimum of 30 days, prior to releasing into your aviary. During this time, the bird should be;



- Wormed using an appropriate wormer
- De-loused using an avian insecticide
- Checked daily for any signs of disease, stress, or general poor condition.
- A faecal sample should be taken to your avian vet at the commencement of quarantine, and again at the conclusion, to have a "wet gram stain" & "faecal smear" procedure done. This can help assess any disease risk, and appropriate action can be taken preventatively.
- Feed an appropriate diet to add condition to the bird including vitamins
- Kept in a suitable location where stress is minimised (NB/ The kitchen or hallway is not appropriate)
- The quarantine cage should be cleaned daily, and disinfected using an avian disinfectant

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Introduction to the Aviary

Releasing your bird to the aviary should be done as early as possible on a warm, low wind day. Ensure both the new arrival and aviary inhabitants have eaten prior to the introduction. Moving the current perches around, changing nest boxes around, and adding some additional temporary feeding stations will all help the next few hours to be pleasant and stress free.

Placing some fresh plant cuttings of Eucalyptus, Tea Tree, or similar plants into the aviary can also help provide shelter for the new arrival, while also giving the aviary inhabitants something to chew on.

Monitor your new arrival every hour, to ensure all is going well. All should be happy and settled in within 6 hours.

Follow up

It is advisable to check the status and condition of the new aviary arrival daily for the first few weeks, with any change in its condition or general appearance monitored closely. Take the time to watch your birds for an hour or so, to ensure there is no untoward aggression as a result of the new arrival, and that all birds are getting along.

Further information on diet, hygiene, worming, vitamins, bird stress, licensing, Avian Vets and much more is available from the team at Kellyville Pets.

At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.

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