

Setting up your Aviary

Learn more
from the team
at Kellyville Pets

Aviaries today are available in a wide range of styles and finishes.

They can be used to add a feature to your garden, to help conserve natural fauna or to begin a hobby in breeding.

Aviaries can add sound and life to your garden as well as providing an enjoyable hobby for the entire family



What type & size of aviary should I buy?

With so many options available today, selecting the right aviary can be confusing. When you have decided which birds and how many you would like to keep, the experienced staff at Kellyville Pets can help you to decide which aviary will best suit your needs.

Positioning your aviary

Ideally, your aviary should face North-East to take the best advantage of the sun throughout the seasons and to protect them from the worst weather conditions which usually come from the South. Also the morning sun will help warm up and dry your aviary from the morning cold and dampness. They should also be positioned in a dry area and away from any other influences, which may cause stress (e.g. a dog run or moving vehicles).

What kinds of floors are best?

It is very important that floors stay dry and are easily cleaned / maintained. Concrete is easy to hose off if adequate fall and drainage are provided. Sand or Gravel floors are great for their aesthetic value but require weekly raking to remove debris. You should install mouse proof wire under your aviary when using Sand or Gravel as flooring. Avoid using barks or mulch as these can hold moisture, which can encourage diseases.

Feed and Water Dispensers:

There are also many different options available for feeding and watering your birds. Choose feeders / waterers, which make food/water changes easy as well as, minimise waste. Once again, our team at Kellyville Pets can help you in your selection once you have decided the type and number of birds you wish to keep. Stainless Steel dispensers are ideal for fruits and vegetables as they are easy to disinfect and won't be corroded by fruit acids.



Some other points to consider:

- Always fix your aviary to the ground/concrete to prevent potential damage from strong winds.
- Treat any new galvanised materials with a mixture of 1 part vinegar to 5 parts water and rinse well, to minimise the risk of "heavy metal poisoning".
- Install feeders, waterers, perches, nest boxes, etc. before introducing your birds.
- Never position your aviary directly in contact with soil as this can encourage corrosion.
- Use a padlock on your aviary to prevent unwanted access to your birds.

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What about breeding?

If you wish to breed your birds, provide suitable breeding boxes (or logs / cane baskets) and nesting material for each type of bird. (At least 1 box or log per pair)

Decorating an aviary

Bird comfort is just as important as appearance. Natural logs and perches look great and the variety of thicknesses and textures, which are useful in preventing long-term problems (e.g. Arthritis). They also provide natural materials to chew and to be used for nest building. Swinging perches create a fun toy for your birds.

Getting My Birds Home

Birds are best transported in a cardboard box or dark carry cage. This minimises the stress associated with transporting your birds.

Preferably, you should quarantine birds in a separate cage for three weeks in a separate cage prior to releasing them in a stocked aviary. Always release your birds into an outside aviary before 3.00 pm, which allows them time to "settle in" before the evening.

Watch your birds after release for signs of stress (heavy breathing, hiding in corners) or incompatibility with other birds.

What will I do when I go on holidays?

Always ask someone to check on your birds regularly. Feed stations which can provide enough food to last for a few days to a week can be provided however, water and fruit/ vegetables should be provide and changed daily. Most seed eating birds can live without fruit and vegetables for a short time.

Do I need a licence to keep birds?

Some birds do require either a National Parks and Wildlife Services Licence or a National Exotic Birds Licence. Native protected birds will be issued with a certificate to prove they are captive bred.



Caution: If you are installing your own aviary, it is not recommended that you do so in windy or rainy conditions as this practice can be very dangerous.

At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.

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