

BIRD CARE EVALUATION SHEET FOR INVESTIGATING CAREGIVERS AND PET SHOPS

Note: Items covered in this evaluation sheet do not necessarily reflect legal requirements. Pet shop and anti-cruelty laws vary among states. Contact the Animal Protection Institute (API), www.api4animals.org, or the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), www.asPCA.org, for information on state laws.

General Health

- Are there any sick or injured birds?

Signs of injury or illness include: limping, excessive feather loss, lethargy, discharge from nostrils or eyes, accumulation of feces on feathers, regular sneezing, heavy breathing, fluffed-out feathers, or inability to perch.

- Yes, bird(s) appear to be sick or injured:

Type of bird(s): _____

Signs of illness or injury observed:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluffed feathers | <input type="checkbox"/> Labored breathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Debris or discharge from the eyes, nares (nostrils), or vent | <input type="checkbox"/> Very poorly groomed, ragged, or deformed feathers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive sleeping, listlessness | <input type="checkbox"/> Growths, sores, blemishes, warts, or other skin abnormalities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Irritated, red, swollen eye membranes | <input type="checkbox"/> Runny or bright green droppings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting | <input type="checkbox"/> A "pasted" vent — droppings stuck to the feathers around the vent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal to perch or difficulty perching | <input type="checkbox"/> Limping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feather chewing, picking, or self-mutilation | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird is unable to hold wings against his/her body |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald patches on the body | <input type="checkbox"/> Inability to fly properly |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sneezing | <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wheezing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bleeding | |

Other: _____

- Are any birds showing signs of psychological distress (fear or frustration)?

Signs of psychological distress include: repetitive behavior such as pacing, head bobbing, and bar-biting; feather plucking; heavy breathing; vocalizing and retreating when approached by casual human observer; aggressive behavior toward reflective surface or neighboring animal.

Yes, bird(s) appear to be distressed:

Type of bird(s): _____

Signs of distress observed:

- Excessive vocalization
- Fear behaviors (cowering, biting/lunging, retreating)
- Repetitive behaviors (head bobbing, pacing, bar-biting)
- Apathy or excessive sleeping
- Thrashing around cage
- Plucking or chewing feathers
- Aggressive behaviors

Other: _____

- Do any birds appear neglected?

Signs include: overgrown toenails or beaks, matted feathers, parasites.

Yes, bird(s) appear to be neglected:

Type of birds(s): _____

Signs of neglect observed: _____

- Does the store have an attending or consulting veterinarian or veterinary hospital, and is the contact information for that veterinarian/hospital posted in the store?

No, there is no consulting veterinarian/hospital information posted.

Handling

- Do caregivers handle birds in a manner that does not cause discomfort, stress, or physical harm to the animals?

No, the caregiver(s) does not handle birds in an appropriate manner:

Type of birds(s) handled improperly: _____

Signs of improper handling observed: _____

- If customers are allowed to handle birds, does pet store staff ensure that they do not cause discomfort, stress, or physical harm to the birds?

No, customers were not supervised by staff when handling animals.

Type of bird(s) handled unsupervised: _____

Signs of improper handling by customers observed: _____

Enclosures

- Are enclosures in which birds are housed constructed and maintained so as to contain the bird and to prevent injury to the bird or public?

No, enclosures do not appear safe.

Type of bird(s) in unsafe enclosures: _____

Signs of unsafe enclosures observed: _____

- Do enclosures provide sufficient space for the birds(s) to experience normal body movements without having to make contact with the sides or top of the enclosure and without obstruction, interference, or impediment by the presence of food and water bowls?

At minimum, enclosures that house bird(s) should allow the bird(s) within to fly, hop, or otherwise move about. All birds within a single enclosure should be able to simultaneously spread both wings and turn around without obstruction from objects or other birds. A variety of perch sizes of sufficient quantity, placement, and strength should be provided to allow all birds within the enclosure to simultaneously perch in a normal position without difficulty due to crowding or social aggression. There should be at least 4 inches of perch space per small bird (finches, canaries, parakeets), 12 inches per

medium bird (cockatiels, conures, lorikeets), and 24 inches for large birds (Amazons, greys, macaws, cockatoos). Cages housing single birds should measure at least one square foot for small birds, one-and-a-half square feet for medium birds. Cages for larger birds should be at least one-and-a-half times the birds' natural wing span in all directions.

No, enclosures do not provide sufficient space.

Type of bird(s) in insufficient space: _____

Signs of insufficient space observed: _____

- Does each bird enclosure have at least one form of enrichment (toys, chewing objects, etc.) that is appropriate for the species?

No, birds are not provided with enrichment.

Type of birds(s) denied enrichment: _____

Sanitary Conditions

- Are the bird enclosures kept clean and sanitary?

Signs of unsanitary conditions may include excessive accumulation of feces or old food on bottom of cage, feces-encrusted perches or toys, wet or soggy floor substrates, insects or maggots in enclosure.

No, enclosures are not clean and sanitary.

Type of birds (s) in unsanitary conditions: _____

Signs of unsanitary conditions observed: _____

- Are food and water containers free of mold, feces, or other contaminants?

No, food and water containers are not clean.

Type of birds(s) affected: _____

Signs of contaminated food and water containers: _____

Temperature and Ventilation

- Are temperatures where the bird(s) are located maintained to provide for the health and comfort of the bird(s)?

Birds should be protected from or provided with the opportunity to retreat from direct sunlight, rain, and wind. In general birds should be maintained in temperatures that allow them to comfortably maintain body temperature. Shivering is a sign of temperatures that are too cold. Panting or standing with wings folded but held away from the body is a sign of temperatures that are too hot.

- No, temperatures are not properly maintained.

Type of bird(s) affected: _____

Signs of improper temperature: _____

- Is the store/home properly ventilated to minimize draft, odor, moisture, and condensation?

- No, the store/home is not properly ventilated.

Type of bird(s) affected: _____

Signs of improper ventilation: _____

Lighting

- Does the store have sufficient light to enable regular monitoring of birds but protect the animals from excessively bright or stressful lighting?
- Does the store/home provide the bird(s) with ample access to natural sunlight or full-spectrum artificial lighting?

Birds need exposure to UVA and UVB rays from direct sunlight (not through a closed window, as windows block necessary UV rays) or full-spectrum lighting to synthesize vitamin D necessary for bone health.

- No, the store/home does not have proper lighting.

Type of bird(s) affected: _____

Signs of improper lighting: _____

Food and Water

- Are food and water containers positioned in each bird enclosure to allow each bird adequate access and to minimize contamination from feces?
- Are birds provided with water and nutritional and wholesome food in sufficient quantity to maintain healthy weight and good health?

(Seed-only diets do not provide adequate nutrition for birds. Diets should include fresh fruits and vegetables and formulated bird pellets.)

No, the store/home does not provide proper feeding and watering.

Type of bird(s) affected: _____

Signs of improper feeding or watering: _____
