



Purdy Bird Pet Behavior

Pet behavior counseling for parrots and other birds

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COUNSELING FOR PARROT BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS

Thank you for contacting me about your bird's behavior problem.
Here's some more information about me and about the consultations I do.

There are several steps to my services.

- ❖ Vet Visit: I usually suggest a visit with a veterinarian first, especially with feather destruction ("feather picking" or "feather plucking") problems, to make sure there is not a physical reason for the problem.
- ❖ Set Appointment: Assuming the bird gets a clean bill of health, we make an appointment for a block of time either over the phone (one hour) or in-home (2 - 3 hours) and you send a \$25 deposit to hold the appointment time. I accept personal checks or credit card payments through PayPal at www.paypal.com).
- ❖ Questionnaire: You have the option of filling out a questionnaire on the problem (included here) to save time during the consult. You can send it back by fax or the postal service. (Let me know if you prefer e-mail.) This is actually meant to save you money, since I charge by the hour and it can easily take an hour to collect the necessary information. If you prefer, I will fill it out during the consult. Just let me know what you prefer so we can set the appointment accordingly. Filling it out ahead of time can save you \$25 - \$50.
- ❖ Estimate of Costs: For parrot cases I recommend an in-home visit. If you live outside the Colorado Front Range area and prefer a phone consult, I may need a floor plan of your bird's living area and a videotape of typical behavior and the problem behavior. Phone consults typically cost \$75. The typical in-home consultation requires a questionnaire review (\$25), a 2-hour initial consult (\$100 plus \$25/half hour after 2 hours) and 4 months of phone or e-mail follow-ups (\$75). If your case is atypical, I'll need the questionnaire back before giving a more accurate estimate. Payment can be made by personal check after the consultation or credit card using PayPal.
- ❖ The Consultation: During the appointment, I ask questions and observe to gather information about the bird's environment and about the behavior problem and its history. Then I analyze the problem and give you my recommendation of ways for you to modify the behavior.
- ❖ Follow-ups: There should also be at least one phone or e-mail follow-up appointment, typically more, so we can adjust the treatments based upon the progress of you and your bird.

You can find more information about me, my services, and applied animal behavior on my Web site: www.PurdyBird.com. My background includes a Ph.D. in Biopsychology (specializing in animal behavior with training in learning theory) and over 15 years of animal behavior and animal care experience in laboratories and zoos, mainly with exotic birds, primates and carnivores. I emphasize positive reinforcement techniques in my treatments, so, for the consult, please have a supply of some of your bird's favorite treats -- several choices if you can.

I cannot guarantee the behavior of any animal, since much of the success of these treatments depends on owner compliance. However, I appreciate feedback on both my service (gathering the information, analyzing the problem and conveying the recommendations to you) and the results of the treatment even if you are not requesting a follow-up.

Next is the questionnaire I use for bird cases. You can skip questions you're unsure about. Use footnotes on extra pages if you need more room. To save time during the consult, I'll need it back 3 days before an appointment, unless we've made other arrangements. Please include directions to your house from a major highway.

Don't hesitate to call or e-mail me if you have any questions about the procedure or pricing.

QUESTIONNAIRE:
Background information for Parrot Behavior Counseling

DATE:

OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:

Address:

Phone (day or evening?):

E-mail:

PET INFORMATION

Name:

Species:

Sex:

How confirmed (appearance? surgical sexing? behavior?)

Present AGE:

AGE when acquired:

From what source? Pet shop Shelter Breeder Vet Other:

How long have owned?

Previous history?

Your previous experience with birds:

WEIGHT (if known)

Last molt:

Wings clipped?

Have a "usual vet"?

Last visit to vet:

Vet's name, address and phone #

Medical problems (present and past):

FAMILY INFORMATION:

All people living in home:

<u>Name</u>	<u>sex</u>	<u>age</u>	<u>relationship</u>	<u>occupation</u>
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Other animals living with family:

interaction

<u>species/breed</u>	<u>sex/age acquired/age now</u>	<u>with subject bird</u>
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Changes in household since pet acquired (including moves)

ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION

Area: urban suburb rural

Home: apartment attached house single home other:

Where is cage?

How often is bird outside cage?

Where does it go? on cage? separate perch? other:

What is view like?

What tends to go on where it spends it's time?

Who spends most time with?

What is available for the bird to do (such as toys to play with)?

What are its favorites?

DIET & HYGIENE INFORMATION

%Seed/mix/pellets:

Fruits:

Vegetables:

Other:

When fed:

Who feeds?

Treats (hand-fed items or not regular part of diet):

Favorite treats (gets excited, readily takes):

How gets treats?

in cage cup in cage, outside cups outside cage hand-fed

Any details:

How often is the bird bathed?

What is method?

What is drying method?

How and when is cage cleaned?

INFORMATION ON ROUTINE ACTIVITY

Describe typical day (including light/dark cycles):

"Rules":

Can't do.....

Allowed to do when "ask".....

Allowed complete freedom to...

BEHAVIOR INFORMATION

The Problem(s) Describe those that apply:

BITING/LUNGING/CHASING

NOISE MAKING

EXCESSIVE FEAR

FEATHER DESTRUCTION

OTHER PROBLEM BEHAVIORS

Other typical non-problem behaviors:

How does it react to :

Vet visits

Whoever does feather clipping

Carrier

Towels

Familiar people

Strangers

MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM Describe in detail:(use extra page if necessary)

HISTORY:(use extra page if necessary)

Please give a chronological description of the problem's history, including the season (if not the month) of each change in behavior from events just before the problem appeared to the current situation. [Example: Got Paco in Feb 99 when 2yrs old, moved to new house in summer, daughter left for college in fall, started new job in Jan 2000, screaming not a problem until March 2000, daughter home for summer, screaming less of a problem, daughter left for college in fall, got a little worse, got much worse in Feb 2001 and continued until present.]

Include answers to these questions: Had problem when acquired?

Developed afterwards? When? How old bird?

How often does it occur? daily weekly monthly

Usual circumstances: (what happens before, during, and after behavior?)

But sometimes happens when...

What have tried so far to correct it and with what results:

OTHER PROBLEM Considered Serious(can skip if only one problem)

Describe in detail:

HISTORY

Please give a chronological description of the problem's history:

Occurs how often? daily

weekly

monthly

Usual circumstances:

But sometimes happens when...

What have tried so far to correct it and with what results: