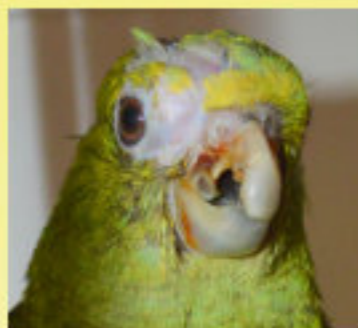


Hazards in the Home

- Dogs & cats attack and bite
- Hot stove and pots and hot food burn
- Ceiling fans can injure or kill flying birds
- Slamming doors can kill a loose parrot
- Birds can drown in open toilets
- Electrical wires can kill if they are chewed
- Strong chemical smells can damage tiny lungs and even kill
- Some paints, plastics, treated wood and natural plants contain toxins: be careful what he chews
- Parrots quickly chew through window screens
- Parrots chew everything -be aware of what you leave around the house with a loose bird



Dog bite injury

There are many health issues that affect birds, we have tried to cover a few of them here. The important thing to remember is by the time your bird looks sick to you, it is likely he is very sick.

If you are concerned about your bird's health, you may call us or contact a licensed veterinarian for advice. It is important to us that he lives as long and healthy life to prevent the high turnover of 'replacement' birds from the wild.

Remember, a happy, healthy parrot can live 45-80 years!

See the Belize Bird Rescue information leaflet "Caring for your Captive Parrot" for detailed diet and husbandry advice or visit belizebirdrescue.org

Listed are some of the registered vets practicing in Belize. They may want to see your licence or proof of application

Cayo District

Dr Orlando Baptist Roaring Creek Tel: 620 1099

Dr Isabelle Paquet-Durand, Central Farm Tel: 632 3257

Dr Edwardo Tesecum. San Ignacio Tel: 621-5377

Belize District

Dr Jane Crawford, AMC, Belize City Tel: 610 3481

Corozal District

Dr Sheila Schmeling, Corozal Town. Tel: 422-2519

Toledo District

Dr Ludwig Palacio, Punta Gorda Town 702 2550

Note - Humane Societies often have visiting vets.

Contact your local Humane Society to find out more

Keeping unlicensed parrots, or any species of wildlife in captivity is illegal.

Collect an application form and licensing information from the Belize Forest Department offices or download from www.belizebirdrescue.org



Alternatively, contact Belize Bird Rescue to enter your bird into the rehabilitation programme, so that we can return him to a life in the wild like these released pets!



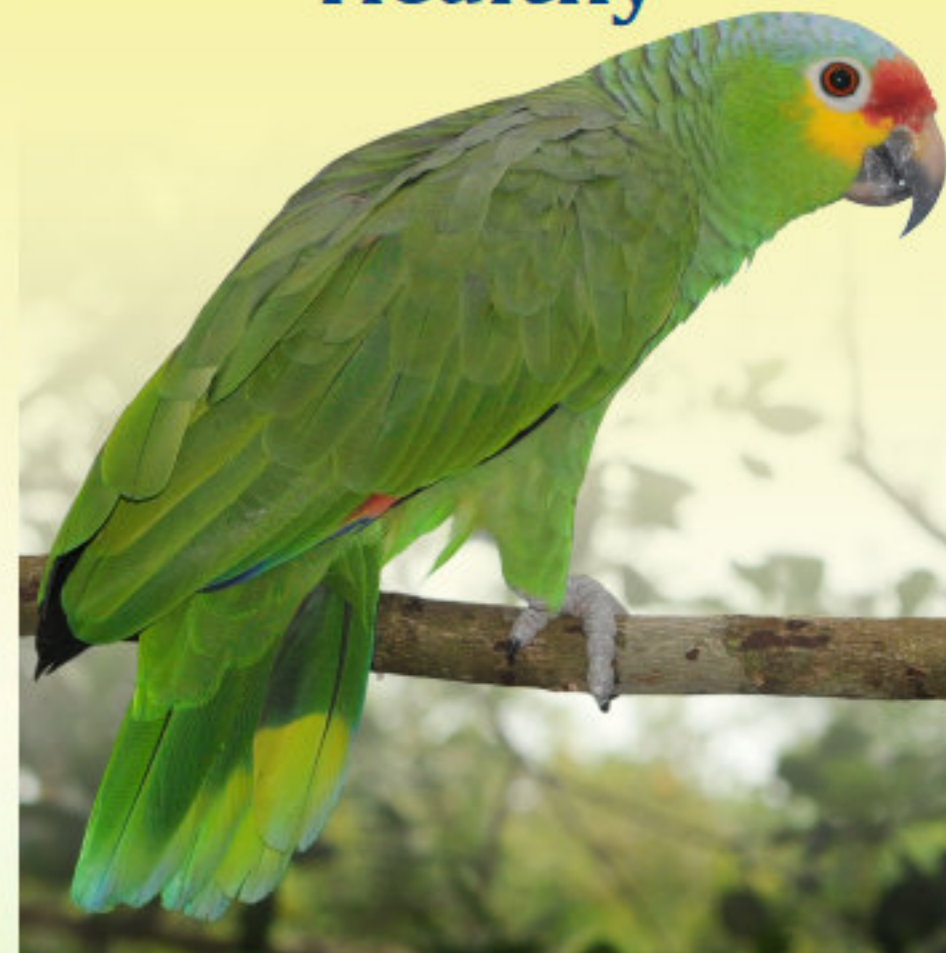
Bird
Sanctuary &
Rehabilitation Centre

Cayo District, Belize
Tel: (+501) 610 0400
belizebirdrescue@gmail.com
www.belizebirdrescue.org



Belize Bird
Rescue

Helping Polly Stay Healthy



How to recognise when your captive bird is sick and prevent accident or injury

All captive parrots in Belize must have a Forest Department Permit

To find out how to licence and care for your captive parrot, visit www.belizebirdrescue.org or pick up an information pack from your nearest agent or Forest Department Office

Recognising the signs

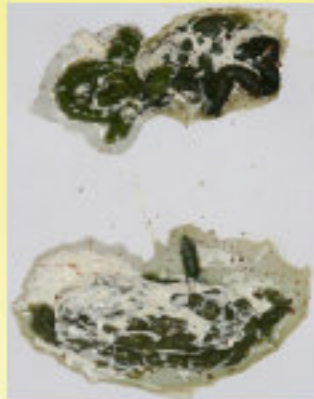
Watch for early warning signs: once any bird begins to *look* or *act* sick, it's usually too late to help him.

It's all in the poop!

Faeces: This is the best early warning of all. Get familiar with your birds normal poop and watch daily for changes.

Normal poop should be a mix of dark green, lighter green and white.

Depending on what he's been eating, it could be darker in colour (seeds) or orange (papaya) but the majority of the time it should look the same.



Normal droppings

When to worry:

- If the colour changes for more than three or four poops - especially if it's dark brown, very pale green, yellow, black and sticky, or bloody
- If it's bubbly or is sticking to the parrot's feathers
- If it increases or decreases in size for more than a day or two
- If it is watery, runny or smells bad

Other signs that your bird is sick

Food and Drink: if he stops eating, or suddenly becomes really thirsty

Discharges: from the eyes or nostrils

Sleepiness: if he sleeps more than usual

Eyes: if they are half-closed or shut most of the time

Swellings or infections: especially in the feet, eyes and throat.

Feet: If he limps or doesn't use one foot. Infections in the feet (bumblefoot) are the result of too few perches, perches that are too thick, too thin or too smooth



Bumblefoot (painful and often fatal)

Noises: if a noisy bird stops making sounds

Posture: if he's puffed up for minutes at a time with both feet down, if he loses balance or is trembling

Breathing: heavy or irregular breathing, especially if his tail bobs at the same time

Weight loss: this is an excellent indication of problems. You should weigh your bird on a regular basis. If you don't have a scale, run your fingers down his breast until you can feel the long 'keel bone'. If it sticks out and feels sharp, your bird is too thin and needs help. If he eats well and is still thin, he could have worms. If you can't feel his keel, he may be too fat: cut down on the sunflower seeds!

Vomiting/regurgitating: if he's 'throwing up' to feed you (yes, really) then that's natural, but if he's alone and does the head-bob-throwing-up movement, he may have an issue with his digestive system

Worms: If he is losing weight he may have worms. You could get his poop checked by a vet, a 'people' laboratory or BAHA (around \$10). Parasites require specialized treatment and if he tests positive you should contact your vet for advice.



Respiratory infection

Sleeping position: he should stand on one or two feet and upright, with or without his head tucked. Anything else is a sign of sickness or injury: on the floor, lying down, half-laying on the perch or holding the perch with his beak.

Poor feather condition and excessive scratching & grooming



Mites: if you notice your bird is scratching a lot or has any bald patches, he may have mites. Call us for advice on how to get the best treatment.

Poor Nutrition: vitamin deficiencies cause skin issues. He needs a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, seeds, nuts and beans.



Excessive feather plucking

Bad environment: he needs access to sunlight and rain to maintain feather and skin condition.

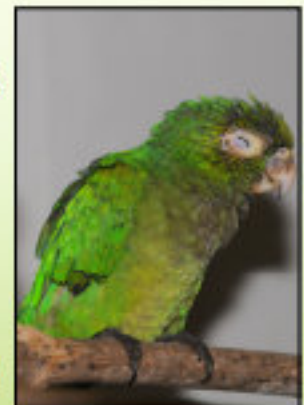
Boredom: birds pluck at their own bodies out of boredom. Give him something to occupy him: toys, leaves, branches and interesting foods, and likely a larger cage.

Badly clipped wing: this can cause irritation, may damage feathers and cause injuries on falling. See the parrot care brochure for proper wing-clipping techniques.

Infections

Bites from another parrot or a dog or cat will almost always become infected. They need immediate treatment.

Birds can get sinus, throat and chest infections. If they have discharge from their eyes or nose, or are breathing heavily, they need urgent medical care.



Eye infection

Toxins

Chocolate is poisonous, so is onion and parts of the avocado. Metals build up in a bird's system and slowly poison them. Don't give parrots metal objects or wires to chew and make sure the cage is not rusty. If you suspect any kind of poisoning contact your vet immediately