Bird Care Checklist

A pet bird care checklist covering cage, diet, cleaning, enrichment, health and home safety.

Cage & Housing

- [ ] Provide a cage large enough for full wing movement
  Bigger is better; bar spacing must suit the species
- [ ] Add varied-diameter perches, including natural wood
- [ ] Place food and water bowls away from perches to avoid droppings
- [ ] Position the cage out of drafts and direct sun
- [ ] Include a quiet area for restful sleep

Diet & Feeding

- [ ] Offer a balanced base diet such as quality pellets
- [ ] Provide fresh, bird-safe vegetables daily
- [ ] Give fruit and seeds in moderation
- [ ] Supply clean, fresh water and refresh it daily
- [ ] Avoid toxic foods such as avocado, chocolate and caffeine
  Confirm safe foods for your species with an avian vet

Cleaning Routine

- [ ] Change the cage liner daily
- [ ] Wash food and water bowls daily
- [ ] Clean perches and toys weekly
- [ ] Wipe down the cage and tray weekly
- [ ] Do a deep clean and disinfect periodically

Enrichment & Interaction

- [ ] Rotate a variety of safe, destructible toys
- [ ] Provide foraging toys to encourage natural behavior
- [ ] Allow supervised out-of-cage time in a safe room
- [ ] Spend daily time talking to and interacting with the bird
- [ ] Offer bathing opportunities such as a dish or misting

Health Monitoring

- [ ] Check droppings daily for changes in color or consistency
- [ ] Observe appetite, breathing and activity
- [ ] Watch for feather plucking or behavioral changes
- [ ] Weigh the bird regularly if possible
- [ ] Schedule routine avian veterinary check-ups

Home Safety

- [ ] Remove or avoid non-stick cookware fumes and aerosols
  Overheated non-stick coatings can be fatal to birds
- [ ] Keep toxic plants and foods out of reach
- [ ] Cover or close windows to prevent collisions
- [ ] Keep other pets supervised and separated
- [ ] Bird-proof rooms before any out-of-cage time