

CLIENT INFORMATION SHEET

CATCHING AND TRANSPORTING YOUR BIRD TO THE VETS

Would you recommend a health check for my new pet bird?

Yes, here at Stanhope Park we always recommend a full health check for your new pet bird. We will always perform a full clinical examination and will discuss ways in which to best care for your pet bird.

Why are new bird health checks so important?

Firstly it is vital to check your new bird over to ensure there are no health concerns. This is especially important if you already keep other birds, so that you minimise the risk of bringing an infected bird into your aviary.

Advice can also be given regarding avian nutrition, microchips, insurance, training your pet bird and ways to help recognise ill health. This way we can help to keep your bird as healthy as possible. To book an appointment for your new bird health check or for further information please contact Stanhope Park Veterinary Hospital's Cat and Exotic Practice on 01325 620 968.



We understand that a trip to the vets can be very stressful for a bird which is why we have a separate waiting area for our exotic pets and why we use plug in calming products in the both the waiting room and consulting room.

How do you recommend I catch and transport my pet bird to the practice?

Remember that if your bird is already in an appropriately sized and ventilated transport box, they may not need to be handled prior to their vet visit. A key thing to remember is to NOT clean the floor of your bird's cage just before your visit. This way we can assess the faeces and urates to ensure they are normal.

Handling your bird at home:

- Assess your bird first of all. Severely weakened birds or those struggling to breathe are at greater risk of handling. These birds must be handled with care, if at all. Prolonged pursuit of the bird can increase this risk. Please contact the Stanhope Park Cat and Exotic branch practice if you would like advice on handling and transport of a sick bird.

- To help calm your pet bird you may wish to dim or turn off the lights in the room or talk calmly to them when catching them.
- Remove as many toys and perches as possible, ideally only leaving one perch in the cage to prevent injury to the bird. This will not only make it easier and safer to catch them when moving them into a travelling box.
- If the bird is to be transported into a smaller box or travelling cage, ensure it is set up and close by to allow quick and easy transfer.
- If your bird is trained to step up and down, drape the towel over your arm and allow it to set on in a calm manner to then transfer to the travelling box.
- If your bird is being caught from the cage ensure you have it securely in the towel being removing from the cage.
- Always use a suitably sized clean towel to handle your bird as it reduces the risk of your bird becoming hand shy. Alternatively a net may be used to capture birds.
- When your bird is ready to be release into the travelling box allow the bird to grip to the floor/side bars or perch prior to release.



Transporting your bird to the vet practice:

- Ensure an appropriate sized, ventilated and secured box is used for your bird during transport.
- Towels can be draped over travelling boxes to help calm birds. These towels may be sprayed with safe calming products such as pet remedy.
- It is preferable to transport birds in a front- or top- opening carriers.
- Again ensure toys and all but one perch is removed from the carrier to avoid injury during transport.
- Raptors only may be hooded during transport, which will further calm them. Tail guards may also be placed.

Can I train my pet bird to step into a transport box?

Yes. Below is one method to train your bird to step into a transport box.

- Firstly you can place the transport box on a table and release the bird into the room. Never force a bird to approach a transport box. But you can reward the bird when they approach the box or when they look in the direction of the box.
- As your bird becomes more comfortable only reward them when they then lean towards the box, then step towards the box and then touch the box.
- Once your bird is comfortable doing this place a reward just within the box.
- Next, further lure the bird by placing the reward further within the box each time. Do this until your bird is comfortable standing in the box.
- Once your bird is comfortable standing in the box you may begin closing the box door. If your bird shows any sign of distress keep the door where it is until your bird appears comfortable again. Gradually repeat this step over multiple sessions until you are able to close the door completely.
- Remember to take your bird for short trips around your house in the box and remember to give positive reinforcement or rewards during this process. Talk calming to your bird when training.