

# AVIARY BIRD ADOPTION GUIDE



## Finding your new companions

### Step 1: Submit your application form (available on our website) and photos

We will need to see photos and measurements of your birds' accommodation. Please email these to: [aviaries@raystede.org](mailto:aviaries@raystede.org).

We will consider your application and contact you if we need a few more details or to invite you to Raystede for a chat. If you do not hear from us, we have everything we need for now, thank you.

### Step 2: Wait for the magic to happen

Once you have registered with us, please keep an eye on our website for new arrivals and contact us if you feel someone might suit your home.

When animals arrive at Raystede, we get to know them through behaviour and medical assessments. Our expert animal care teams carefully use this information alongside your application to see if the match could be a success. Finding the perfect pet can take time. Please be patient; they will be worth the wait.

### Step 3: Visit Raystede

We will invite you to Raystede as soon as we have found any potential matches for your home. We will discuss the animals' background, health and behaviour. This sometimes requires a few visits. You will need to provide photo ID, proof of address, and if applicable, written landlord permission to have a pet in your property.

### Step 4: Take your new pet home

Once we have found your perfect partner, we will book an adoption appointment; our Rehoming Team will talk you through caring for your pet. Your adoption fee will help us continue our work to give animals a better life.

## Rehoming criteria

Our housing requirements aim to ensure the best welfare standards for birds. Our team are happy to offer advice in purchasing or adapting your set-up to provide the best home before adopting.

### Birds are always rehomed in pairs or groups.

Birds are social animals and naturally live in flocks. We only rehome single birds as a companion for an existing bird.

**Birds need an aviary with at least a 6x4' flight, plus a heated shed and safety porch.** The aviary should be a secure, rodent-proof construction and with an appropriate size mesh. The birds must have plenty of enrichment and stimulating equipment such as branches, ropes and toys.

Raystede seeks pet homes only, we do not rehome to breeders.

## Peace of mind when adopting

- All birds are health checked by a vet, accompanied by up to 6-weeks quarantine period

You will also receive:

- A comprehensive adoption pack and appointment with our Rehoming Team to ensure you have everything you need to care for your new birds

Follow-up advice from our Aviaries expert team

## Thank you for your adoption fee, which will help to cover some of our costs:

Adoption fees:      Finches & canaries, £5 each.      Budgies & cockatiels, £10 each.

The average daily cost of care for our aviary birds at Raystede is in excess of £195.

Raystede Centre for Animal Welfare, The Broyle, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5AJ.

Tel: (01825) 880460 Fax: (01825) 840995 E-mail: [aviaries@raystede.org](mailto:aviaries@raystede.org) [www.raystede.org](http://www.raystede.org)

President: Morgan Williams. Registered Charity No. 237696. Registered Office: Raystede, Ringmer, East Sussex, BN8 5AJ. Registered in England No. 816674

## Bird care

Owning and caring for aviary birds is great fun and very rewarding, but it is a big responsibility and a long-term commitment. Did you know, cockatiels can live 15-20 years, canaries 10-15 years, budgies 6-10 years, and zebra finches 5-9 years?

Getting your birds' diet and environment correct is the best way of ensuring a long and healthy life. Here are some guidelines for offering your birds the best care:

- **Birds are social animals** and should always live in pairs or groups. The ratio of males to females will depend on the individuals, the species and your aviary size.
- **Add furnishings to the aviary/cage:** these are intelligent birds and need mental stimulation from you and the environment. Bored and unhappy birds may start chewing or plucking at their own feathers or show other repetitive behaviours. We ask that your aviary has a minimum of a 6x4 flight with plenty of bird-safe toys and fresh branches.
- **Feeding time:** their food needs to be fresh and nutritious, free from mould, contamination by rodents and other birds, and free from poisons. Offer fresh seeds and pellets as well as fruit and vegetables. Do not over feed millet as it is high in fat, but it makes a great training aid or treat, in moderation. A vitamin and mineral supplement should be regularly offered.
- **Cleaning:** minimum daily cleaning should include sweeping up waste, scrubbing and rinsing contaminated areas plus food and water bowls with a bird safe disinfectant.
- **Check your birds for signs of injury or illness every day and seek veterinary advice if necessary.** Signs to look out for with a sick bird are varied and could include changes in normal behaviour such as sleepy or listless during the day, changes in appearance such as fluffed up, stained feathers around nostrils or laboured breathing. It is also key to observe faeces quality.
- **Avian vet:** any exotic species can be costly when it comes to proper care, however taking your birds to an avian vet for an annual check-up will be reassuring. This expert may recommend various tests to check your bird's health, such as gram stain or blood tests if it should be needed.
- **Enrichment:** toys should be moved around or changed to maintain interest. Make your own toys with shredded paper cardboard tubes and even ropes. It is important for a bird to have access to bathing facilities like a bird bath, while some liked to be sprayed with a fine mist of tepid water.

## Diet

- **Seed:** A good quality species-specific seed mix is essential for a healthy bird, plus a good quality sprouted seed mix (human grade). Sunflower seeds must be given sparingly as they can cause obesity.
- **Fruit and veg:** fresh greens such as chopped apple, orange, celery sweetcorn, broccoli and dandelion.
- **Fresh water** available at all times.
- **Treats:** Some food treats can be placed around the aviary as a good form of enrichment.