

WHAT IS RIGHT FOR MY BIRD



AFRICAN GREYS

HELPFUL INFORMATION

OWNING AN AFRICAN GREY IS A SIGNIFICANT, LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, SENSITIVE, AND SOCIAL COMPANION BIRD THAT REQUIRES EXTENSIVE DAILY TIME, TRAINING, MENTAL STIMULATION, AND SPECIALIZED CARE TO PREVENT BEHAVIORAL ISSUES LIKE FEATHER PLUCKING. THESE PARROTS BOND DEEPLY WITH THEIR FAMILIES, THRIVE ON ROUTINE, NEED LARGE, NON-TOXIC CAGES WITH VARIED PERCHES, A BALANCED DIET OF PELLETS, FRUITS, AND NUTS, AND CONSTANT SUPERVISION WHEN OUT OF THEIR CAGE TO PREVENT DESTRUCTION OR ACCIDENTS.

AFRICAN GREYS SHOULD GENERALLY NOT BE HOUSED WITH SMALLER BIRDS AS THEIR POWERFUL BEAKS CAN EASILY CAUSE FATAL INJURIES. IT'S ALSO RISKY TO HOUSE AN AFRICAN GREY WITH OTHER LARGE PARROTS, SUCH AS MACAWS OR COCKATOOS, DUE TO POTENTIAL AGGRESSION, STRESS FROM SIZE DIFFERENCES, AND TERRITORIAL INSTINCTS.

TOYS

- PUZZLE AND FORAGING TOYS: INTERACTIVE TOYS AND COMPLEX FORAGING DEVICES ARE PERFECT FOR KEEPING A GREY'S MIND SHARP.
- CHEWABLE BLOCKS: HARDWOOD BLOCKS, ROPE KNOTS, AND LARGE CARDBOARD PIECES OFFER A SATISFYING CHEWING EXPERIENCE.
- FOOT TOYS: GREYS ARE ADEPT AT USING THEIR FEET AND ENJOY MANIPULATING SMALL OBJECTS.

CAGE

- MINIMUM SIZE: 36" WIDE X 28" DEEP X 46" HIGH. A LARGER SIZE OF 36" WIDE X 24" DEEP X 40" HIGH IS ALSO RECOMMENDED.
- BAR SPACING: 3/4" TO 1".
- OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: THESE INTELLIGENT BIRDS NEED PLENTY OF ENRICHMENT. ENSURE THE CAGE IS LARGE ENOUGH FOR A VARIETY OF TOYS AND DIFFERENT PERCHES AT VARYING HEIGHTS.



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PERCHES

GOOD PERCHES FOR AN AFRICAN GREY INCLUDE NATURAL, UNPOLISHED WOOD BRANCHES, ROPE PERCHES, AND FLAT PERCHES, AS THEY PROVIDE VARIED TEXTURES AND DIAMETERS TO EXERCISE FEET AND ENCOURAGE NATURAL BEHAVIOR. BAD PERCHES INCLUDE UNIFORM DOWELS, SAND, AND CONCRETE PERCHES, WHICH CAN CAUSE PRESSURE SORES, STIFFNESS, AND BACTERIAL INFECTIONS (BUMBLEFOOT), AND SHOULD BE REPLACED WITH NATURAL WOOD OPTIONS. A VARIETY OF MATERIALS, SIZES, AND TEXTURES IS ESSENTIAL FOR PROMOTING FOOT HEALTH, BEAK MAINTENANCE, MENTAL STIMULATION, AND OVERALL WELL-BEING IN AFRICAN GREY PARROTS.

GOOD PERCH TYPES

NATURAL WOOD PERCHES:

- THESE ARE THE BEST CHOICE BECAUSE THEY MIMIC THE NATURAL BRANCHES FOUND IN THE WILD. THEIR VARYING DIAMETERS, TEXTURES, AND SHAPES ALLOW YOUR PARROT'S FEET TO CONSTANTLY ADJUST THEIR GRIP, STRENGTHENING THEIR FOOT MUSCLES AND DISTRIBUTING PRESSURE TO PREVENT STIFFNESS AND FOOT PROBLEMS.

ROPE PERCHES:

- SOFT AND COMFORTABLE, ROPE PERCHES PROVIDE RELIEF FOR A PARROT'S FEET, ESPECIALLY FOR OLDER OR ARTHRITIC BIRDS. HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD BE REGULARLY CHECKED FOR FRAYING OR LOOSE STRINGS THAT COULD TRAP A PARROT'S TOES OR NAILS.

FLAT OR PLATFORM PERCHES:

- OFFERING A FLAT SURFACE FOR RESTING AND STRETCHING THEIR FEET ALLOWS FOR COMPLETE FOOT RELAXATION AND CAN BE USED FOR EASIER FORAGING TOY PLACEMENT.

SAFE, EDIBLE PERCHES:

- SOME PERCHES ARE MADE FROM EDIBLE MINERALS LIKE CALCIUM OR BEE POLLEN, PROVIDING ESSENTIAL VITAMINS AND MINERALS AS YOUR PARROT CHEWS ON THEM.





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PERCHES TO AVOID

DOWEL PERCHES:

- THESE UNIFORM PERCHES, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE THE ONLY TYPE USED, CAN LEAD TO PRESSURE SORES, STIFFNESS, AND EVEN BUMBLEFOOT (A PAINFUL BACTERIAL INFECTION) BECAUSE THE FEET REMAIN IN THE SAME POSITION FOR EXTENDED PERIODS.

SAND AND CONCRETE PERCHES:

- WHILE SOMETIMES SOLD AS NAIL-GROOMING TOOLS, THESE ABRASIVE PERCHES CAN CAUSE PAINFUL ABRASIONS AND INFECTIONS ON THE UNDERSIDE OF YOUR PARROT'S FEET AND TOES.
- UNSAFE WOOD:
- ENSURE ANY NATURAL WOOD YOU PROVIDE IS NON-TOXIC AND PROPERLY CLEANED. WOODS LIKE CHERRY ARE NOT SAFE FOR CONSUMPTION AND COULD CAUSE HARM.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

VARIETY IS KEY:

- OFFER A VARIETY OF PERCH TYPES, MATERIALS, AND DIAMETERS TO PROMOTE PHYSICAL HEALTH, STIMULATE MENTAL ACTIVITY, AND PREVENT BOREDOM AND BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS.

CHEW-RESISTANT MATERIALS:

- SINCE AFRICAN GREYS NATURALLY CHEW, PROVIDE PERCHES THAT ARE DURABLE ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND THEIR BEAKS.

PLACEMENT:

- ORIENT PERCHES WITH DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND DIAMETERS TO DISCOURAGE DROPPINGS FROM LANDING ON OTHER PERCHES OR FOOD AND WATER BOWLS, WHICH HELPS MAINTAIN CLEANLINESS.

