



WHAT IS RIGHT FOR MY BIRD

QUAKERS



CAGE

- MINIMUM SIZE: 24" X 24" IS A COMMON RECOMMENDATION, THOUGH SOME SOURCES SUGGEST 36" X 36" X 36". BAR SPACING SHOULD BE 1/2" TO 5/8".
- OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: SECURE LOCKS ARE NEEDED AS QUAKERS ARE KNOWN TO ESCAPE.
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TOYS

- CHEW TOYS: THEY ENJOY SHREDDABLE MATERIALS LIKE CARDBOARD, WOOD, AND ROPES FOR CHEWING AND PREENING.
- FORAGING TOYS: AS PROBLEM-SOLVERS, QUAKERS ENJOY PUZZLE-TYPE FORAGING TOYS THAT OFFER A CHALLENGE.
- NOISY TOYS: MANY QUAKERS ENJOY BELLS AND OTHER MUSICAL TOYS, WHICH CAN LEAD TO FUN—AND LOUD—SESSIONS

HELPFUL INFORMATION

OWNING A QUAKER PARROT (OR MONK PARAKEET) REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT DUE TO THEIR HIGH INTELLIGENCE, NEED FOR CONSTANT SOCIAL INTERACTION AND MENTAL STIMULATION, AND LONG LIFESPAN OF 20-30 YEARS. THEY ARE HIGHLY VOCAL, CAN LEARN TO TALK AND MIMIC SOUNDS, AND ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR STRONG PERSONALITIES, SOMETIMES DESCRIBED AS BEING LIKE "FOREVER TODDLERS". WHILE THEY CAN BE VERY AFFECTIONATE AND TRAINABLE WITH POSITIVE REINFORCEMENT, OWNERS MUST BE PREPARED FOR POTENTIAL TERRITORIAL BEHAVIOR, HARD BITING, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVIDING AN ENRICHING ENVIRONMENT TO PREVENT BOREDOM AND DESTRUCTIVE HABITS.

QUAKER PARROTS SHOULD NOT BE CAGED WITH SMALLER, MORE DELICATE BIRDS LIKE COCKATIELS AND BUDGIES DUE TO THEIR TERRITORIAL NATURE AND STRONG, CHISEL-SHAPED BEAKS, WHICH CAN INFLICT SERIOUS INJURY OR EVEN DEATH TO THE SMALLER BIRD. WHILE SOME SPECIES CAN GET ALONG, IT IS GENERALLY SAFER TO HOUSE QUAKERS IN SEPARATE CAGES TO AVOID POTENTIAL AGGRESSION, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE HORMONAL OR WHEN THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT SIZE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BIRDS.





QUAKERS

PERCHES



FOR A QUAKER PARROT, GOOD PERCHES MIMIC THE VARYING DIAMETERS, TEXTURES, AND SHAPES OF NATURAL TREE BRANCHES TO PREVENT FOOT PROBLEMS LIKE BUMBLEFOOT. BAD PERCHES INCLUDE ABRASIVE, UNIFORM, OR SYNTHETIC OPTIONS THAT CAN CAUSE INJURY OR IMPACTION.

GOOD PERCHES FOR QUAKERS

A VARIETY OF THE FOLLOWING TYPES WILL PROVIDE THE BEST ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR PARROT'S FOOT HEALTH AND MENTAL STIMULATION.

- **NATURAL WOOD BRANCHES:** THESE ARE THE BEST CHOICE. THEIR IRREGULAR, VARIED DIAMETERS AND TEXTURES EXERCISE YOUR PARROT'S FEET AND HELP MAINTAIN THEIR NAILS AND BEAK NATURALLY. SAFE OPTIONS INCLUDE:
 - MANZANITA
 - GRAPEVINE
 - APPLE
 - DRAGONWOOD
 - BIRCH
 - ASH
 - PINE (UNTREATED)
 - **ROPE PERCHES:** SOFT COTTON OR NATURAL HEMP ROPE OFFERS A COMFORTABLE RESTING SPOT, ESPECIALLY FOR BIRDS WITH ARTHRITIS. LOOK FOR OPTIONS WITH A BENDABLE WIRE CORE TO CREATE DIFFERENT SHAPES. IF YOUR QUAKER CHEWS ON THE ROPE, TRIM ANY LOOSE FIBERS TO PREVENT INGESTION AND CROP IMPACTION.
 - **PLATFORM PERCHES:** FLAT PERCHES GIVE YOUR QUAKER A PLACE TO REST THEIR FEET FULLY AND TAKE PRESSURE OFF THEIR JOINTS. THEY CAN ALSO BE USED AS A FEEDING OR PLAY STATION.
 - **MINERAL OR CEMENT PERCHES:** THESE TEXTURED PERCHES HELP WITH NAIL AND BEAK GROOMING AND SHOULD BE USED SPARINGLY AS PART OF A VARIED ASSORTMENT. THEY SHOULD BE PLACED NEAR A FOOD OR WATER DISH SO YOUR PARROT DOESN'T STAND ON THEM FOR LONG PERIODS.
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QUAKERS



BAD PERCHES FOR QUAKERS

- **SANDPAPER-COVERED PERCHES:** THESE ARE FAR TOO ABRASIVE AND CAN CAUSE PAINFUL SORES, IRRITATION, AND BLEEDING ON YOUR PARROT'S FEET.
- **SMOOTH WOODEN DOWELS:** THE UNIFORM DIAMETER OF THE STANDARD DOWEL PERCHES THAT COME WITH MANY CAGES PUTS CONSTANT PRESSURE ON THE SAME SPOTS OF YOUR PARROT'S FEET, WHICH CAN LEAD TO PRESSURE SORES AND A SERIOUS BACTERIAL INFECTION CALLED BUMBLEFOOT.
- **SYNTHETIC ROPE PERCHES:** ROPES MADE OF SYNTHETIC FIBERS CAN BE DANGEROUS IF A BIRD CHEWS AND INGESTS THEM, AS THE FIBERS ARE NOT DIGESTIBLE AND CAN CAUSE LIFE-THREATENING CROP IMPACTION. STICK TO NATURAL FIBERS LIKE HEMP AND COTTON.
- **PLASTIC PERCHES:** WHILE EASY TO CLEAN, THEY CAN BE SLIPPERY AND OFFER NO TEXTURE FOR GRIPPING. LARGER BIRDS LIKE QUAKERS CAN CHEW AND SPLINTER THE PLASTIC, WHICH CAN BE DANGEROUS IF INGESTED.
- **FORAGED WOOD FROM TOXIC TREES:** MANY COMMON TREES AND PLANTS ARE TOXIC TO BIRDS. UNLESS YOU CAN CONFIRM THE SPECIES IS SAFE, DO NOT USE FORAGED WOOD. ALWAYS AVOID WOOD TREATED WITH PESTICIDES. SOME COMMON TOXIC WOODS INCLUDE OAK, CHERRY, CEDAR, AND OLEANDER.

