

PET BIRD GROOMING

As with all pets, keeping your pet bird well groomed contributes to their overall health and well-being. **Bird grooming** includes keeping their wings, nails and beaks trimmed and frequent bird baths or “showers”.

Wing Clipping

Wing trimming helps protect birds from accidental escape, flying into windows or ceiling fans and other dangers. Smaller birds, such as canaries and finches that stay in the cage, do not need their wings trimmed. Trimming provides safety and a more easily tamed bird. Trim the flight feathers of both wings every 6 to 10 weeks. Start with a slight trim to allow the bird time to adjust to limited flight, gradually trimming a bit more. It is important to not cut the blood feathers or pin feathers, causing bleeding. Have an experienced bird specialist demonstrate proper bird restraint, wing clipping and first aid procedures before attempting yourself.



Nail Trimming

Caged bird nails tend to overgrow, risking catching a nail on carpet or sweaters and even making it difficult to perch. A veterinarian or bird specialist can show you how to safely trim your bird’s nails. You can then continue to keep them trimmed once or twice a month. Some bird owners trim 1-2 nails at a time every few days, trimming just the tip and gradually going shorter. Always keep Kwik Stop on hand in case a nail is clipped too close and bleeds.

Beak Care

Birds’ beaks normally wear down evenly. An uneven beak should be trimmed to prevent problems with eating or preening. An avian veterinarian can safely shape the beak and help determine a cause.

Showers, baths, misting

Periodic bathing keeps your bird’s feathers healthy, and restores and maintains a brilliant sheen to the plumage. Most birds enjoy bathing while others prefer to be misted. Some will even enjoy joining you in the shower. After the bath, allow your bird to dry in a warm room so it does not become chilled or stressed. Your bird may like to be “blow-dried” on the low heat setting held at least 10” away.

While **bird grooming**, observe your bird to catch any early warning signs of illness.