

CARE ♦ PETS

Animal Hospital & Wellness Center

The Best Care For Your Companion

Winter/Holiday Tips for Healthy Birds

Winter means cold, blustery days and nights with furnaces, fireplaces, holidays, company, cooking and potential health threats for birds. It is important to plan ahead for your bird's warmth, comfort and safety during winter months.

- Cages and Play Stations Place away from cold, drafty windows and doors.
- Temperature Turned Down at Night Consider adding:
 - A) An accessory heat source in your bird room. There are several space heaters available that are energy efficient and safe for birds.
 - B) A cage cover to the cage if you do not do so already.
 - C) A "Heated perch" to the cage. (Make sure your bird cannot reach the electric cord.)
 - D) A birdie "hut" to the cage. There are many available on the market.
 - E) A combination of these things.
- Dry Heated Air may contribute to drier skin and feathers. Mist and bathe regularly. Add a humidifier to your bird's living space. Provide plenty of fresh, clean drinking water at all times.
- Unfiltered Sunlight will not be available. Prevent Vitamin D deficiency by feeding a good quality, fortified, pellet diet and providing an artificial source of UVB radiation. These things are necessary for many birds year round as they may not be exposed to the out-of-doors at all. Feeding a quality diet will, also, help maintain a healthy immune system.
- Fumes Scented candles, smoke from fireplaces, and fumes from non-stick cookware can all be life-threatening to your bird.
- Escape Even birds with wing trims can flutter well enough to obtain loft and soar out of an open door...especially during excitement of welcoming guests and family.
- Decorations Make sure your holiday decorations are "birdie safe." Electric cords, live mistletoe and shiny ornaments may be too enticing for your bird to resist a nibble.
- Food Chocolate, avocado, caffeine and alcohol are definite No-No's. Safe bird treats should be readily available.