

## **Amazon Parrot (*Amazona*)**

**Characteristics-** Amazon parrots are originally from Latin America. These generally colorful green parrots are quite intelligent and may develop a good vocabulary. Most Amazons do not exhibit external gender markings. We do recommend DNA Sexing of your pet no later than three years of age. We recommend buying only fully weaned pet parrots.

**Behavior-** While Amazons can be very affectionate, mature Amazons exhibit a large behavior change during spring breeding season. Our Good Citizen Program helps keep Amazons oriented as a properly socialized and well-behaved flock member.

**Diet-** Parrot "mixes" are not balanced diets. These seed blends are loaded with fat, deficient in vitamins, minerals and proteins. Factory enrichment of these seed mixes doesn't lead to a balanced diet. Recommendation: Feed 80-90% of caloric intake with a formulated diet (pellets, crumbles), such as Harrison's or Roudybush. Other national brands available include: Zupreem, Exact, Pretty Bird. Feed 10-20% of the caloric intake with: scant amount of seed, fresh leafy or orange-colored vegetables, starches (rice, bread, pasta, banana), small quantities of people food items (food groups from the kitchen). Restrict access to fatty foods.

**Environment-** Amazons enjoy toys; stick to safe, sturdy commercial products. Amazons tend to be couch potatoes (and need low fat diets), but free flying in the house for exercise is hazardous. Uncaged Amazons should be closely supervised because they commonly ingest dangerous substances. We recommend newspaper or equivalent for cage bottoms. Good room ventilation is very important.

**Health-** Mature Amazons are sometimes affected by bacterial or fungal infections.

Mature Amazons experience a high incidence of liver disease and may be more susceptible to certain infections. Overgrown beaks are a sign of liver disease or malnutrition.

### **Health Screening-**

New young Amazons- we recommend: A complete blood count, a Chlamydia (Chlamydia) test, sometimes a gram stain or culture sometimes viral screen- depending on bird source and physical exam findings.

Mature Amazons- The mature parrot profile, which includes a complete CBC/chemistry profile, bacterial and fungal culture AND a whole body xray under sedation is recommended

