

## **Macaw**

**Characteristics-** Macaws are originally from Latin America. These colorful parrots are quite intelligent and some may develop a good vocabulary. Most Macaws 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-** Early training of your macaw as a “Good Citizen” member of the family flock can lessen the chance of stress or behavior problems such as aggression, screaming or feather damaging behavior.

**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). Limited nuts are recommended for macaws: almond, macadamia, walnut.



**Environment-** Some Macaws enjoy toys; stick to safe, sturdy commercial products. While exercise is beneficial, even wing clipped Macaws can escape from an owner. We recommend newspaper or equivalent for cage bottoms. Good room ventilation is very important. Do not house Macaws near Cockatoos or African Grey Parrots.

**Health-** Young macaws are sometimes affected by bacterial, fungal, or yeast infections.. Mature macaws may develop a variety of unrelated medical problems. Regular checkups are important.

**Young Macaw Checkup-** In addition to a thorough physical examination, the following laboratory tests are recommended to screen your young Macaw:

Complete Blood Count- examines the blood cells for internal infections

Chlamydophila Immunoassay- test of swab the agent, which can be contagious to other birds and to humans

Culture- sensitive and complete test for diagnosis/treatment of bacteria/yeast

### **Mature Macaw Checkup**

Complete Blood Count and Chemistry Panel- to screen for signs of infection and to check organ function.

Culture- a thorough screen for bacteria and fungus.

Whole Body Xrays with gas sedation