



Amazon



www.parrotclubofman.ca
email: info@parrotclubofman.ca
P.O. Box 68020 R.P.O Osborne Village
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 2X9 (204)942-2993

Amazon

Amazon parrots are a group of 27 different species and come in all colours of the rainbow. Their talking and singing ability is legendary.

Origin

Amazons are native to a wide area ranging from Mexico to South America. Those that dwell on some of the Caribbean Islands are among the most endangered parrots in the world. They are mostly green in colour and some have multi-coloured patches on their heads. They are also known as blunt-tailed parrots as they have short, rounded tails. These birds vary in size from the smallest of the species, the parrotlet, at 5 inches in length to the largest of the species at 15 inches in length. They have an average lifespan of 20 years for the smaller birds and up to 50 PLUS years for the larger birds. It is impossible to visually distinguish the sexes of these birds.

General Personality

Amazons can make fabulous pets despite their reputation for being aggressive, unpredictable and loud. Many Amazons have been known to have aggressive periods during the spring, but return to their normal happy self once that season passes. Their great talent for talking and singing seems to go hand-in-hand with loud vocalizing. An Amazon is normally very confident and able to take changes without becoming upset and is usually very happy to play and amuse himself. An excited Amazon will fan out its tail and strut across its perch with pin pointing eyes. Attempting to pick up your bird at this time may not be wise. It is very important to become familiar with your bird's body language.

Food

Amazons are prone to obesity and should be fed a balanced diet consisting of a quality parrot diet, fruits and vegetables. These birds also enjoy human food such as cooked pasta, rice, cereal, toast, etc. Sunflower seeds are high in fat and should only be fed as a treat. Grit or gravel is not necessary and should be avoided for most caged birds.

Housing

Your Amazon's cage should be as large as possible with enough room for the bird to flap its wings comfortably. Make sure the bar spacing does not let its head fit through. Natural branches that vary in thickness make good perches inside the cage. These branches relieve stress on your bird's feet and provide great chewing entertainment. To prevent boredom, make sure you have suitable toys for your bird to play with and change them often. Clean droppings from the cage bottom and perches daily.

Health Care

Wing trimming is essential for your bird's safety. The loss of a pet bird flying out an open door is devastating. Nail trimming is also necessary for proper grip on perches and a comfortable grip on arms and fingers. Most birds love to bathe whether it be in a dish of warm water, spritzed with a pump sprayer, under a dripping faucet or in the shower with its owner. Amazons should have a bath or shower at least weekly.

THE PARROT CLUB OF MANITOBA meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at St. Alban's Anglican Church, basement level, 486 Rathgar (off Osborne). Check community announcements or contact the club in case of changes. Several members of the Parrot Club of Manitoba have Amazons as pets and would be able to tell you how these birds are in the home environment.

Winnipeg veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine are:

- Dr. Heather McDonald of Centennial Animal Hospital
- Dr. Nancy McQuade of Winrose Animal Hospital
- Dr. Carolyn Eickhorn of Winrose Animal Hospital
- Dr. Birte Klug of Winrose Animal Hospital
- Dr. Andrew Davidson of Corydon Animal Hospital
- Dr. C. Skavinsky of Anderson Animal Hospital
- Dr. Lisa Sawka of Charleswood Veterinary Clinic