New Bird Wellness Exam & Husbandry Intake Checklist

> **Companion Reference Sheet for:** Avian Vet Near Me: What a First Bird Visit Should Cover
> Save this PDF to your phone or print a copy for field reference. This sheet does not replace an exam by a veterinarian. If your pet is in distress, call a vet now.

Key Takeaways

- Choose a veterinarian who regularly examines your bird's species and can explain how the clinic handles birds.
- Bring veterinary records, current food details, and notes about any changes in appetite, droppings, activity, or behavior.
- Tests are not automatic. Your bird's history and examination help the veterinarian decide whether testing could guide care.
- A parakeet benefits from preventive veterinary care, even when it appears healthy.
- This guide does not replace an examination by a veterinarian. You do not need to wait for visible illness to arrange preventive care.
- Ask how the clinic handles urgent problems and after hours emergencies before you need that information. Start with our directory of bird veterinarians.

Find a veterinarian with bird experience

Bird's situation	Common examination interval	Why the schedule may differ
Healthy bird	About every 12 months	Establishes a health baseline and supports preventive care.
Older bird or bird with ongoing concerns	About every 6 months, or individually	More frequent review may help monitor a changing health picture.

Discuss diet, housing, and daily care

Service	Cost information
Wellness examination	Ask the clinic
Fecal testing	Ask the clinic
Blood work	Ask the clinic
Radiographs	Ask the clinic

First Bird Vet Visit Checklist

☐ **Bring veterinary records.** Include prior test results, medication names and doses, and any relevant history from other clinics.

☐ **Bring current food information.** Note foods, portions, treats, supplements, and feeding times, or take photos of packages and labels.

☐ **Write down recent changes.** Record when changes in droppings, appetite, activity, vocalizing, or behavior began, and bring useful photos or videos.

☐ **Use a secure, well ventilated carrier.** Provide a stable perch or familiar liner, keep the environment calm, and ask the clinic for transport instructions suited to your bird.

☐ **Ask about preparation.** Do not fast your bird or change its routine before the appointment unless the clinic specifically instructs you to do so.

☐ **Plan for urgent care.** Call a clinic promptly about breathing difficulty, collapse, significant bleeding, or sudden inability to eat. Ask which facility accepts bird emergencies outside regular hours.

Arrange routine preventive care before a problem develops, and make an emergency plan while your bird is stable. Our emergency care listings can help you identify facilities to ask about bird emergencies and after hours arrangements.

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