

Daily Routine for Conures, Quakers & Kakarikis

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For those interested in learning more access our Clients Only webpage using the username and password provided above.

MORNING

Exercise

✓ Release your bird from its cage and encourage vigorous flight exercise as these are highly energetic birds whilst preparing the morning meal of fresh fruit and vegetables. Encourage your bird to be included in the food preparation and create learning situations. These birds like to be the centre of attention and respond best to clicker training when they must work to get a click and food reward. This training stimulates the same mental behaviour required for searching, locating and remembering where food is found in wild parrots (see our webpage or ask Tailai about clicker training). Supplements may be mixed into a passionfruit and given at this time as a treat.

Breakfast

✓ Call your bird in for its morning meal. Conures, Kakarikis and Quakers prefer diced vegetables such as capsicum, zucchini, celery, sweet potato, pumpkin, peas, carrot, corn, beetroot and soft fruits such as passionfruit, watermelon, orange, apple and pear. Dice fresh fruit and vegetables into small (0.5 - 0.8cm segments) portions to encourage foot holding eating ability. Vary your bird's meals according to what is in season and always ensure fruit and vegetables are fresh, clean and free from pesticides. Some food items can be presented on a stainless steel skewer to encourage foraging behaviour.

Cage Preparation

✓ Remove all fresh fruit after one hour and replace with a bowl of small seeds seed mix and insert millet spray, fresh native branches and blossoms (e.g. Grevillea) inside the cage as these birds love chewing. Together with their favourite toy (e.g. balls) these provide time consuming entertainment during the day.

Return to cage for foraging/rest

✓ Day time hours are spent inside the cage. Fresh branches and native blossoms are provided as a foraging activity and a favourite toy (e.g. strong ball) for entertainment.

✓ This is a natural time of rest and socialisation. If at home during the day, this is an ideal time to talk to your bird and teach it new words, songs or dances.

Exercise & Training

✓ From mid to late afternoon, release your bird from its cage and allow supervised free flight. Play games, sing, dance or talk with your bird as you prepare the evening meal as your bird will respond well to clicker training and quickly learn new tricks during this time. These birds are very comical and love such games as Peekaboo and Hide & Seek.

Dinner

✓ Remove any remaining seed treats and branches from the cage and call in for a shared evening meal. Provide a smaller but similar meal as the morning feed. Place the cage or your bird's feed station alongside the family dinner table and eat your evening meal together. A shared meal is a most important time of the day for your bird.

Evening Socialising

✓ Conures, Kakarikis and Quakers become very vocal and active at dusk and need to be gently talked to in order to "wind down" for the day. This is a good time to reinforce the days training by going over new games and words learnt earlier in the day.

Roosting/Bedtime

✓ Remove all foodstuff from the cage and implement nightly bedtime routine.

EVENING

What to Provide

Supervised free flight

Clicker training & interaction

Morning fruit and vegetable meal (5mm diced) meal



Set up hardwood branches & seed treats for daytime foraging activity

Afternoon supervised free flight



Games, singing & dancing exercise

Shared meal with humans

Social interaction

Remove all food from cage

Cover cage & give bedtime treat



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