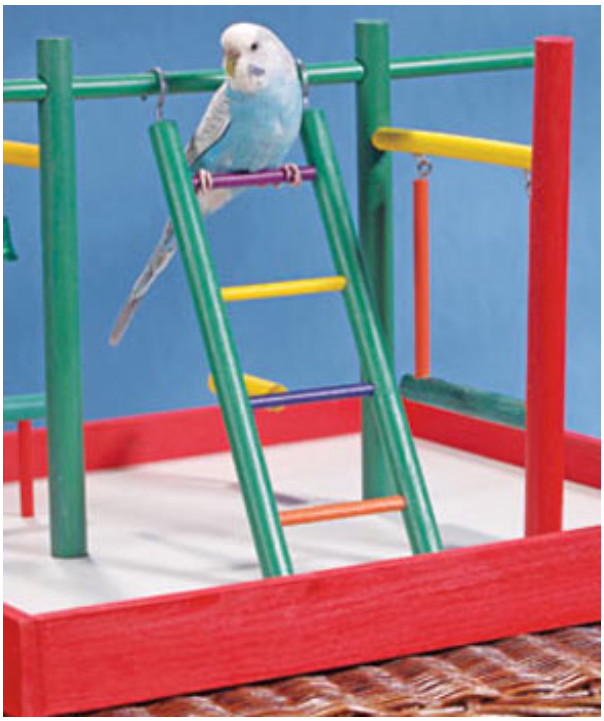
Single-Person Bond, How to Prevent

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

PERCHED FOR SUCCESS



One of our technicians came back from a seminar recently with a good solution for the following problem: birds that bond to only one person. He'd been talking with another seminar attendee, a woman named Shari, who'd successfully bonded her conure, Scarlet, with every member in the household.

Shari's approach was twofold: she assisted teaching Scarlet to "step up" onto a perch and be handled by every family member in the household, and she also assigned each family member a specific task in Scarlet's care to ensure regular contact.

Her oldest son became Scarlet's shower buddy. Birds bathe frequently in the wild to help keep their feathers clean, free of debris, and also to aid preening. Scarlet goes into the shower with him, where she ruffles her feathers and splashes happily from her suction cup perch made exclusively for the shower.

Her youngest son was assigned outside-cage play duty. Almost daily, he takes Scarlet into their den to play on a large, tabletop swing perch and playstand. He takes the opportunity to expose Scarlet to his favorite music while he entertains her.

Her husband's job is to rotate the variety and location of perches in Scarlet's cage on a weekly basis. Varied perch surfaces and diameters can help stimulate leg muscles, prevent cramping, and help with beak and nail health. He removes Scarlet, places her in a flight suit, and puts her on her cage playtop. He makes sure there is at least one nail and beak manicuring perch, as well as a natural wood perch and a toy perch such as a swing perch.

Scarlet is a well-adjusted bird that joyfully steps up out of the cage for any family member and allows handling without resistance or biting. The entire family wins by participating in bird caretaking.

Perch Sizing Guide

Perch Diameter	Bird Species to Benefit
½" - 1"	Canaries, Finches, Parakeets
¾" - 1½"	Cockatiels, Conures, Lories, Lovebirds, Pionus
1½" - 2½"	Amazon Parrots, Cockatoos

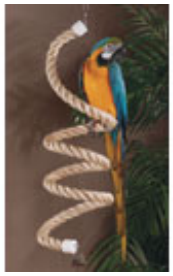
STICK TRAINING | *How to Teach Your Bird to A*

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*

2" - 3"	Large Cockatoos, Macaws	Many bird owners tell us that they experience the most success birds to accept handling by other people through "stick training. taught to "step up" onto a stick, can be picked up by nearly anyo may also help curb biting in aggressive birds.

Our Recommendations: Fun & Functional Perches Outside the Cage

Wooden Cage Perches make a great tool for teaching "step up," to help your bird accept handling by people other than the primary caregiver.



Natural Sisal Perches are veterinarian recommended to help curb habitual feather plucking.

*Unauthorized use of any images, thumbnails, illustrations, descriptions, article content, or registered trademarks of **Foster & Smith, Inc.** is strictly prohibited under copyright law. Site content, including photography, descriptions, pricing, promotions, and availability are subject to change without notice. These restrictions are necessary in order to protect not only our copyrighted intellectual property, but also the health of pets, since articles or images that are altered or edited after download could result in misinformation that may harm companion animals, aquatic life, or native species.*