Tips to boost your bird's comfort while traveling

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

This spring and summer, expand your bird's horizons with a trip or two. And keep your feathered tourist happy and healthy with these helpful tips.

- Buy the biggest travel cage you can afford, with space for food, water, a perch, and a toy. The Fold 'n Go is ideal. Be sure, however, that the cage isn't too large for your car or airline size restrictions.
- Acclimate your bird to his travel carrier long before you leave. Take several short trips before your big vacation.
- Cover your bird's cage or offer a veterinarian-recommended supplement while traveling if your bird suffers motion sickness.
- Schedule a checkup and ask your veterinarian for a vaccination list and signed health certificate. Also, groom your bird before leaving.
- Ask your veterinarian for information on the legality of transporting your bird between states or countries.
- Be sure your airline and your destination(s) accommodate birds.
- Pack the "birdie essentials" (see below).
- Stick to your regular routines as much as possible for meals, play, and sleep.
- Create a list of avian veterinarians located on the way and at your destination.
- Stop frequently to allow your bird to get out of his cage and interact with you.
- Plan to spend lots of time with your bird upon arrival.
- Prepare for climate changes, if necessary. Headed for heat? Bring a water misting bottle. If cold awaits you, pack blankets and/or a cage cover.

Before you take your bird on the road or into the wild blue yonder, take the necessary steps to enjoy the happiest, healthiest, and most memorable trip possible.

BIRDIE ESSENTIALS

- Your bird's medications and a copy of her medical history and vaccinations.
- A First-Aid Kit.
- A play gym, if you can't bring your bird's regular cage.
- A seed guard.
- A soft travel-cage toy, such as a Natural or Parrot Piñata.
- Food and water crocks - attachable Smart Crocks are very travel-friendly.
- Bottles of the water your bird normally drinks.
- Cleaning supplies such as Poop-Off and Cage Wipes and Cage Liners.
- A Flight Suit with Lanyard.
- Bird Bath Spray and a misting bottle for water.

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- A supply of your bird's regular food and treats.

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