

## The Best Way To Raise A Parrot

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The first thing you need to know is that there is a time for the cage, and a time to fly free. If you keep your parrot cooped up all the time, you'll get screeches, scratches and moods. Never forget that as a bird, a parrot is evolved to fly free, and cage time is an unfortunate necessity, not the default condition. Be aware that strict control is essential at the early stage, as all birds, given the chance, will fly free. You need to educate the bird that this freedom is a privilege, and if abused, can be curtailed temporarily.

The next thing is that parrots are highly intelligent. You may even find they are smarter than the average cat! If you start training them young, you can teach them all sorts of things. Start by giving orders to climb onto the perch. If the parrot obeys, reward him with a treat. He'll soon get the idea. He will also start to respect you.

The way to think about it is like a toddler. Shouting and screaming never work. You need to just be consistent and nice to the bird - make it feel loved. Parrots definitely have the capacity for love, as Toby regularly shows. Just like a toddler, a parrot will occasionally try to hurt you with a nip or two. Use a firm 'No' command, or blow in his face if he persists - parrots hate that.

In extreme cases, you can use the 'naughty stair' technique. If your parrot really won't stop nipping, every time he does it, out him in the cage and cover it over for 10 minutes. He'll get the message, believe you me! Never EVER physically hurt your bird, or course.

The other main problem with parrots is screaming. If your parrot repeatedly screams, it's a sure sign he's bored. Provide some playthings, and put him near a window or the TV to help keep his active mind occupied. Remember, parrots are smart birds, and need mental exercise! Now please go vote for Toby at the <http://www.petmillions.com> contest. If Toby wins, I'll let him decide how to spend the million!!!

As part of being amused, parrots scream with all their might as a sign of boredom. To avoid too much of this, distract this parrot's habit by placing it close to a TV where it can watch. Provide playthings at a tender age and make sure not to neglect its need for fun.

### **Short note about the author**

Mike Simson is the proud owner of Toby, the best parrot in the petmillions.com pet contest. Feel free to vote for Toby - his ID is 1055

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