**Comments from Dr Neo**

Things to change/improve:

1. “Cage as big as possible”

* NEED to remind that it should be as wide as possible and not tall (as birds fly horizontally and not vertically up)

1. Diet – “remove after a few hours”

* Due to Singapore’s humidity 🡪 Change to remove within an hour for fresh food

1. Supplements

* Laying eggs – breeding 🡪 supplement them with calcium
* Moulting – stressful for time 🡪 use up energy 🡪 more nutritious food

1. Placement of cage

* Highlight about toxic fumes, especially Teflon

1. AVA bare minimum cage size

* I will not put that in as it is too small for a parrot to live in and might cause misunderstandings that it is acceptable for a bare minimum cage

1. Bathing

* Provide them a **choice** to do it daily or not
* Can be grouped under enrichment, mental health, toys, training)

Positive points:

1. Good to highlight misconception
2. Rest of the information is acceptable and accurate – no comments

Other note/Additional information:

1. Diet

* Seeds optional part of diet – part of natural diet 🡪 in pet trade not as good of source as seed is processed and may lack vitamins
* Difficult to impossible to convert them to full pelleted diet 🡪 Th

1. Water and food bowl

* Scrub and rinse well with mild detergent and water
* Better to use stainless steel bowl and not plastic 🡪 Parrot may chew or even digest plastic bowls
* Recommendation: Stainless steel bowls as they are easier to clean and maintain
* “Recommendations” sections

1. Placement of cage

* elaborate about toxic fumes – Teflon

1. Dr Neos recommendation for diet composition

* 10% treats, 10% seeds, 30-40% fresh food the rest pellets

1. Regurgitation (when is it normal?)

* Have to observe in relations to other health aspects
* If behaviour is fine (e.g. alert and not lethargic) and there is no change in body weight (e.g. weight loss) or appearance, then regurgitation is normal. Otherwise, it is a cause for concern and should seek veterinary help

1. Tip: Take a video when bird is behaving abnormally as they might behave fine in clinic. This gives vets a better idea of what is wrong with the patient.

Comments from Dr Neo (Resource session #2)

* Nice design and summary of basics of parrot care
* It is fine for parrot owners to cut their pet’s nails at home but they need to watch where the Quick (blood vessel in the nail) is
  + Reasons not to trim at home:
    - Bird perches may be contaminated with poop 🡪 If bleeding nail after nail trimming touches the dirty perch, it may lead to infection
    - It is recommended for birds with black nails or hard to handle birds to go to a professional groomer or vet instead. The quick is difficult to see in black nails.
* Points to change/:
  + Highlight that “vet’s recommendation” for parrot diet in the poster varies for different species.
  + Consider to remove eggplant from safe vegetables
    - Green parts of eggplant is toxic and eating too much eggplant can upset stomach
  + Consider to add “cooked” to pumpkin under safe vegetables as it is usually recommended to cook pumpkin first
  + Bath
    - Avoid bathing birds when it is raining.
    - It is good to provide sun for birds to dry off. However, ensure that the cage has shade or is partly shaded to provide choice for the birds.
  + Rephrase ‘rapid changes in temperature is unhealthy for the pet’ as it is untrue.
  + Avoid recommending parrot pellet brands
  + Its not very true that placing parrot cages higher than eye level will lead to the parrots thinking that they are more superior than their owners
    - Placing cage high up may decrease owners interaction with parrots as cage
* Suggestions:
  + Research more on pumpkin under safe food as Dr Neo usually recommends pumpkin to be cooked

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