

© 2008 Laura Wade

# Diet Conversion

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**T**here are many methods of introducing new foods into your bird's diet. This handout will provide you with important information to ensure the best health for your bird. Please read the *Nutrition Guidelines* handout for more detailed information.

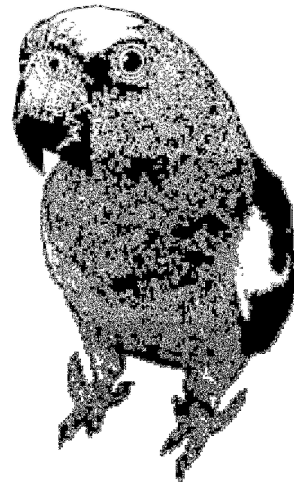
We recommend pellets as a prominent percentage of your bird's total diet. This may vary depending on the species and condition of bird. Although the packaging from *Harrison's* bird foods company recommends 100% pellets, please follow your veterinarian's recommendations.

Pelleted diets are specially formulated to create an optimal balance of nutrients. Because nutrition is an important component of medical care, your veterinary team is dedicated to helping you integrate pellets in a safe way. We carry *Harrison's* certified organic pellets, which are only available through veterinarians.

There are several other high quality pellets available. A list of local pet shops that carry these pellets is included in the bird folder you receive at your first appointment.

We advocate a gradual introduction of pellets. *Never* convert your bird to pellets "cold turkey." This is especially important for small birds, like budgies and canaries. If they don't eat the new food, they may starve to death. Some birds may eat the new pellets immediately, but often, it takes several days to weeks for this to occur.

If your bird is sick, do not try to change its diet until it feels better. Birds that are sick will not want to eat food they are not familiar with. Although your bird may be sick from a dietary deficiency it is important that you make changes slowly. Diet changes will take several weeks to months before you notice an improvement in clinical health.



© 2008 Laura Wade

It is very important that your bird is weighed several times during the conversion progress to ensure it is maintaining proper weight. Please bring your bird to be weighed on \_\_\_\_\_.



*Specialized Care for Avian & Exotic Pets*

10882 Main St Clarence NY 14031

(716) 759-0144

buffalobirdnerd.com

© 2008 Laura Wade, DVM, Dipl. ABVP