



Bird Ready-Kit

- ✓ Bird Travel Carrier with bird's name, species, and your contact info
- ✓ Your contact information
- ✓ Your veterinarian's contact information
- ✓ Frontal and profile pics of your bird
- ✓ Leg Band and Microchip numbers
- ✓ Bottled water for 14 days
- ✓ Food for 14 days
- ✓ Bird-safe Disinfectant
- ✓ Roll(s) of Paper Towels
- ✓ Bath towel(s)
- ✓ Bird Harness
- ✓ Spray bottle or mister
- ✓ Medications, if your bird requires them
- ✓ Parrot Calming Formula
- ✓ First Aid Kit
- ✓ More spacious cage to transfer into for comfortable away from home lodging



First Aid Kit

- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Tweezers
- ✓ Pliers, cornstarch, or hemostatic products
- ✓ Disposable gloves
- ✓ Magnifying glass
- ✓ Pen light
- ✓ Wire cutters
- ✓ Nail clippers
- ✓ Bird-safe lubricants
- ✓ Gauze
- ✓ Nonstick pads
- ✓ Bandage rolls
- ✓ Wooden sticks
- ✓ Cotton swabs
- ✓ Syringes / eye droppers

TIPS FOR EVACUATING YOUR PET BIRD

By: Dr. Wendy MacKinnon, VCA Loomis Basin Veterinary Clinic

Importance of Bird Evacuation

When a fire is near, it is important to have a plan in the event that you have to evacuate your pets, including your birds. Be very aware of possible smoke inhalation, as birds' lungs are highly sensitive to smoke and are more susceptible to lung damage than dogs and cats are. Their respiratory systems are very delicate, and heavy ash can quickly damage their health. For this reason, it is important to be prepared for an evacuation.

If it's possible, prepare beforehand.

Even if you don't think it will reach your home, it is still a good idea to have an emergency bag packed if there is a nearby fire. This bag should contain a variety of items including:

- Enough food and water for a few days
- Dishes for food and water
- Multiple towels and sheets
- Toys
- Paperwork you may have on your bird
- Any medications, regular or occasional, your bird takes
- Carrier and/or box (discussed below)
- Paper towels (for cleaning purposes)
- List of emergency contacts (e.g. relatives, veterinarian, etc.)

If it is an emergency evacuation, do the best you can. You do not want to risk your own safety while trying to find all the things in the above checklist. If nothing else, grab your bird in a carrier and some water. You will likely be able to purchase everything else again, including medication, once evacuated.

Transporting Your Bird

If possible, it is recommended that you transport your bird in an appropriate sized pet travel crate with a fresh towel in the bottom. Your bird should have room to stand up and move around, especially since evacuations can be stressful for your pets. If a carrier is not available, you can use an appropriately sized cardboard box with holes punched in the top in the case of an emergency. Please be aware, though, that some birds such as parrots do have the ability to chew through a cardboard box. Whatever carrier or box you use to transport your bird can be secured in the car using a seatbelt. Make sure your bird has access to plenty of water, even during the transportation process. Again, keep in mind the smoke exposure. Once you are in the car, turn on your Air Re-Circulation feature if your car has it, which will keep smoke-filled air from entering your car. If you feel your bird may be inhaling smoke, you can dampen a sheet or other item you have made out of thin material (e.g., shirt) and place it over the carrier. This will help keep the smoke out of their cage, but it will still allow some air in so that your bird continues to get oxygen.

Take Your Bird to Safety

If you cannot take your pets wherever you will be staying, there are typically organizations/businesses that will open their doors in the event of emergencies. Check with those involved with relief aid, such as the American Red Cross (<http://www.redcross.org/ca/sacramento>) for possible contacts. Because of the sensitivity of birds' lungs, it is important to keep them indoors as much as possible. Keep a close eye on your pet bird. If your bird is acting strange or you are concerned about smoke inhalation, take him/her to a veterinarian to be examined. Lastly, remember to take care of yourself. While pets are part of the family, it is important to think of your own safety first.