

What is Environmental Enrichment?



Environmental enrichment is just that, enriching the environment in which our birds live. Picture a parrot in the wild, foraging for food, interacting with flock members, avoiding predators, nesting and exploring new territories. Then consider the parrot in captivity, a very different picture... but it doesn't have to be that way! With a little ingenuity, time and a few readily available items your bird can have a much more enjoyable world in which to live.

Your aim should be to achieve the following;

An increase in the range of normal (wild) behaviour patterns that your bird displays

A reduction in the frequency of abnormal behaviours that your bird displays

A positive increase in the way your bird uses the environment in which it lives

An increase in your bird's ability to deal with stresses and challenges in a more normal way

An increase in behavioural diversity

We have put together some ideas to help you achieve this. You will see that the ideas are categorised as Social, Occupational, Physical, Sensory and Nutritional. These are generally accepted as the five types of enrichment. In broad terms they can be described as follows;

Social could be contact with people, other birds or indeed other species and non-contact through auditory or visual stimulation.

Occupational can best be thought of as exercising either the mind or the body.

Physical is the enclosure or environment, its complexity, size and the elements it contains.

Sensory aims to stimulate the senses, auditory, visual, olfactory, tactile and taste.

Nutritional is the delivery and type of food and treats.

Be Inventive, but above all **KEEP IT SAFE!**

We would always recommend that birds are supervised when exposed to enrichment items.