



Bird Shipping Recommendations

Veterinarian:

Make an appointment & have your bird examined by your local veterinarian for all required paperwork. Your bird will need a health certificate within 10 days of the flight to travel. This is required by the airlines. If you are moving internationally, you will need to consult the Shipping Checklist for the country you are moving to (provided by PetRelocation).

Travel Crate:

- 1. Perch** - It's best to have the perch no higher than an inch from the bottom. This way, a bird won't fall hard or get caught under the perch during turbulence.
- 2. Floor** - Line the bottom of the carrier with newspaper or crumpled then tamped down paper toweling so that the bird has a better foothold if it stays on the bottom. Fill the bottom of the carrier with seed (and/or pellets if that is their diet). It works as a good bedding liner and gives them nourishment if they want to eat during the flight.
- 3. Outside of Crate** - For birds that are large and can chew through most material, be sure to line the carrier with hardware cloth. The ventilation must be covered with a strong wire mesh to protect your bird's beak from coming out of the holes. Covering most of or the entire cab with a lightweight cloth like burlap will also reduce stress upon the bird(s). We recommend using Velcro to attach "curtains" on either side of your bird's travel crate as well as over the door. Container must be able to be inspected by airline, though.
- 4. Food Bowls** - Place cubes of juicy fruits in the container attached to the door - grapes, apples, oranges, etc. This will provide the bird(s) with liquids during the flight and any layovers. Use another bowl attached to the door for water.



An example of a bird travel crate, modified with a perch in the center. Note the wire mesh covering the vents of the door, to protect the bird's beak. Also note the food & water bowls attached to the door.

One of the most important steps you can take to ease the stress of travel for your bird is to make sure it becomes familiar with its crate. Since it is important that your bird be as relaxed as possible during the flight, familiarization with the kennel is essential. Put him in it several times so he can get used to the change of environment.



Food & Water Recommendations:

The goal is to make sure your bird is well hydrated prior to his flight!!

It's important that you condition your birds for at least a week before shipping. Babies on formula don't need any extra vitamin supplements, but an older bird may. Fortify them all with a stress reduction preparation such as Ornabac™. This is a granular powder to be administered to their soft foods for at least a week before shipping and a week afterward shipping. The lactobacillus and low ph level will help avert bacterial infections resulting from stress. The B-Complex vitamins will help with the stress level itself. You can administer this freely to babies as well as adults.

The other option for feeding your bird the day before is to offer him his usual food but spray it with water to increase the moisture content. Just make sure you remove any uneaten food as soon as possible so that he does not eat rotten foods.

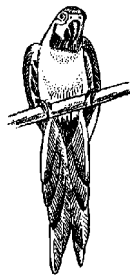
Water – offer him his usual amounts of fresh water all the way up to the morning or day of the flight.

Heat Source:

Heat packs are good ways to keep your bird warm during his travel. You can break these open just before putting him in his carrier for his flight. We recommend taping these to the top on the inside of the carrier so they will not be loose in the crate with your bird and will not risk burning him.

Exercise:

Let your bird get plenty of playtime just before shipping so he will rest better during the trip.



By following the tips above, your bird will have a safe & happy travel experience!

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