



INTRODUCTION TO FORAGING

In the wild, parrots learn essential foraging skills from their parents and flock mates, they can spend anywhere from 4-8 hours a day foraging. In captivity, it becomes our responsibility to provide similar opportunities.

Once your bird has mastered the basics, we can explore new and more challenging options!



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“Foraging material” can be anything that is safe for birds such as paper, wooden blocks, leather strips, essentially left over bits and pieces of your birds toys.

STEP 1



Start with the small bowl and place treats inside, no layers will be added at this time.

STEP 2



Once your bird understands that there are treats inside the bowl add 1 layer of foraging material. Make sure the treats are visible to the bird.

STEP 3



Add a full layer of foraging material and sprinkle a few treats as a topper. Continue adding additional layers each time your bird succeeds.



STEP 4



Once your bird has mastered the small cups, grab a bigger bucket and then a bigger bucket! Choosing similar ingredients to fill your new bucket is a great clue for your birds to go AHA! These buckets can be hung inside the cage or, if your bird is struggling, lay the bucket on its side for easy access.

WEIGH YOUR BIRD DAILY TO ENSURE THEY ARE EATING ENOUGH FOOD DURING TRANSITION.

Gradually increase foraging to access food. Use these instructions as a guide:

1. Week 1 provide $\frac{1}{4}$ total feeding through easy foraging and $\frac{3}{4}$ free fed.
2. Week 2 provide $\frac{1}{2}$ total feeding through easy foraging and $\frac{1}{2}$ free fed.
3. Week 3 provide $\frac{3}{4}$ total feeding through easy foraging and $\frac{1}{4}$ free fed.
4. Week 4 provide full amount through easy foraging.

Over the following weeks/months incorporate more difficult foraging puzzles mixed with easy foraging puzzles.

Weigh your parrot weekly to ensure they are maintaining a healthy weight.

