

# Did you know?



**Pet birds are not protected under animal welfare laws.**

Bird farms – also called bird mills – look very much like poultry farms, fur farms, and puppy mills, and the conditions are similar.

Although pet birds are the third most popular pet in America, the average person doesn't know how to properly care for them nor do they have adequate knowledge of parrots' wild traits such as chewing, biting, and screaming. These wild traits are reasons that some birds are abused, starved, neglected, and abandoned, and live their entire lives in covered cages, garages, and basements.

Many pet birds do not receive veterinary care, and most veterinarians do not have the necessary skills to treat birds.

Some species of parrots have intellectual and reasoning abilities equal to that of a five-year-old child.

Although birds are extremely sensitive, social creatures and need companionship, many pet birds spend their entire lives alone without the companionship of another bird.

There are few legitimate avian rescue groups. Some avian "rescue" facilities accept unwanted birds, but sell and/or breed them for profit, which contributes to the overpopulation of unwanted parrots.

Many animal shelters do not accept surrendered or homeless birds.

Many people who purchase pet birds do not consider a birds' life span as it relates to their own life span. A well cared for, medium to

larger sized parrot can easily live 60 to 80 years. Most middle-aged bird guardians will not outlive their pet birds.

Even small birds can live up to 45 years.

Avian rescue groups estimate that most pet birds are in at least five different homes before they either die prematurely or reach a permanent home.

Even domestic-bred birds can become aggressive and may bite when they reach sexual maturity.

Parrots can transmit diseases to humans.

Many birds languish their entire lives in cages so small that they can't spread their wings or get proper exercise, and have never flown.

Parrots inherently need to chew and like to play, yet many pet birds are never given toys or have anything to chew on.

Some captive birds resort to self-mutilation and develop neurotic behavior, or go insane because of boredom and loneliness, due to a captive environment.

Many birds suffer from malnutrition because they are fed a seed-only diet, which is nutritionally inadequate. Reported cases of birds who die of starvation and dehydration because someone forgot to feed and water them, are common.

Parrots, many endangered, are still being captured and taken out of the wild for the pet trade.

**Millions of birds are bred annually for the pet trade, while homelessness, suffering, and mortality rates of captive birds are reaching epidemic proportions.**

[www.idausa.org/facts/exbirds.html](http://www.idausa.org/facts/exbirds.html)



In Defense of Animals