

BIRDHOUSE BOARDING

How to Prepare Your Bird for Boarding

Preparing a bird for boarding is all about reducing stress, keeping routines familiar, and ensuring the facility has everything it needs to care for your bird safely. Here's a step-by-step guide that makes the process smooth and reassuring.

1. Schedule a Pre-Boarding Health Check

A quick wellness check helps ensure your bird is healthy and ready for a temporary stay.

- Confirm your bird is eating, drinking, and behaving normally
- Check nails, beak, and feathers
- Make sure your bird is free of respiratory symptoms
- If your bird takes medication, prepare clear instructions

Tip: If your bird hasn't seen an avian vet in a while, this is a good time for a routine checkup.

2. Keep Your Bird's Routine Stable Before Boarding

Birds thrive on predictability.

- Maintain normal feeding times
- Keep sleep schedules consistent
- Avoid major changes (new cage, new diet) right before boarding

A stable routine makes the transition much easier.

3. Pack Familiar Items

Familiarity reduces stress dramatically. Include:

- Your bird's regular food (especially if they're picky)
- Favorite toys or foraging items
- A familiar perch
- A small blanket or cover that smells like home
- Treats they love

These items help your bird settle in quickly.

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4. Prepare Clear Care Instructions

The boarding facility should know your bird's preferences and needs.

Provide:

- Feeding schedule
- Treat allowances
- Sleep habits
- Handling preferences
- Any behavioral quirks (e.g., "doesn't like hands near tail," "loves head scratches")
- Emergency contact info

The more detail, the better the care.

5. Practice Short Separations

If your bird is very bonded to you, short practice separations can help.

Try:

- Leaving the room for longer periods
- Having a trusted friend watch your bird for an hour or two
- Letting your bird spend time in a travel cage

This builds confidence and reduces anxiety during boarding.

6. Get Your Travel Carrier Ready

A safe, comfortable carrier makes drop-off smooth.

- Clean the carrier
- Add a familiar perch
- Include a small toy
- Line the bottom with paper towels
- Do a few "practice rides" so your bird gets used to it

A calm trip sets the tone for a calm stay.

7. Label Everything

Make sure all items are clearly labeled with your bird's name.

Label:

- Food containers

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- Treat bags
- Toys
- Carrier
- Medication

This prevents mix-ups and keeps your bird's routine consistent.

8. Stay Calm at Drop-Off

Birds read your energy.

- Speak softly
- Keep movements slow
- Avoid long, emotional goodbyes
- Trust the staff — your bird will sense your confidence

A calm handoff helps your bird settle in faster.

9. After Boarding: Transition Back Home

When you pick up your bird:

- Give them time to rest
- Re-establish their normal routine
- Offer extra hydration and fresh food
- Keep the environment calm for the first day

Most birds bounce back quickly once they're home.

Birdhouse Boarding

Safe. Caring. Avian-Focused.

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