



## Did You Know?

**Birds are  
NOT  
protected  
under  
animal  
cruelty  
laws.**



**In Defense  
of Animals  
[www.idausa.org](http://www.idausa.org)**

# Know?

- Bird farms (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?
- The average person who buys a pet parrot does not have adequate understanding of a parrot's wild traits such as chewing, biting, and screaming.
- Parrots' wild traits are reasons that some birds are abused, starved, neglected, and abandoned, and expected to live their entire lives in covered cages, garages, and basements.
- Many pet birds don't receive necessary 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 – similar to elephants and chimpanzees – many pet birds spend their entire lives alone without the companionship of another bird.
- Many birds are victims of physical abuse and negligence.
- 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 over-population of unwanted parrots.
- Many animal shelters do not know how to properly care for birds, nor do they have the proper facilities to house birds. Many do not accept surrendered or homeless birds.

- Many people who purchase 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, and so most middle-aged bird guardians will not outlive their birds.
- Small birds can live to 45 years.
- Avian rescue groups estimate that pet birds are in at least five different homes before they either die prematurely or reach a permanent home.
- Parrots are wild animals and are not domesticated. Regardless of care, some parrots will start biting and can become dangerous when they reach sexual maturity – anywhere from age 5 to 10, depending on the species and/or the individual bird's personality.
- 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.
- Pet birds are reaching crisis levels of overpopulation.
- Parrots inherently need to chew and like to play, yet many pet birds are never given toys nor 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 that die of starvation and thirst because someone forgot to feed and water them, is not uncommon.
- Spaying and neutering is not an option for birds due to the health risks and lack of advanced medical knowledge.
- Millions of birds are bred annually for the pet trade, while homelessness, suffering, and mortality rates of captive birds are reaching epidemic proportions.
- Exotic birds, some endangered, are still being captured and taken out of the wild for the pet trade.

**Only a small handful of people are working to protect the rights of captive birds. Captive birds desperately need your help.**

*To learn more about the pet bird crisis and how you can help, please visit the following websites:*

**USA**

[www.avianwelfare.org](http://www.avianwelfare.org)  
[www.theangryparrot.org](http://www.theangryparrot.org)  
[www.fosterparrots.com](http://www.fosterparrots.com)  
[www.mytoos.com](http://www.mytoos.com)  
[www.ravenshaven.org](http://www.ravenshaven.org)

**UK**

[www.apa.org.uk](http://www.apa.org.uk)  
[www.nlpr.co.uk](http://www.nlpr.co.uk)  
[www.gregparrots.co.uk/page3.html](http://www.gregparrots.co.uk/page3.html)

