

Syringe Feeding of Baby African Greys

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Beech's Nest Bird Ranch
Pleasant Garden, N.C.

At Beech's Nest Bird Ranch our African Grey babies are handfed from time of hatch using catheter-tip syringes. For the first 24-48 hours we use a 1cc syringe, graduating in size to 3cc, 12cc, 35cc and 60cc as the babies grow in size. By the time a baby is about two weeks old it is being fed with a 60cc syringe which has a tip about one inch long.

Syringe feeding allows the baby's food to directly enter the crop, eliminating many problems associated with spoon feeding, most commonly aspiration.

We have found that African Greys are very particular about the temperature of their food. We feed at 105° F. The ease and speed of the syringe allows the food to be given at a constant temperature. We experience virtually no problems with the birds spitting back food, which

they almost always will do if their food is too cool.

An additional plus to syringe feeding is that it very closely emulates a parent bird's beak entering the mouth of its baby.

Each baby is fed with a clean syringe. All syringes and feeding utensils are easily rinsed and kept in a disinfectant solution between uses. This is an efficient way to eliminate the transference of bacteria.

Our babies are fed exclusively Kaytee Hand Feeding Formula and all breeders are fed exclusively Kaytee pellets. We have experienced very satisfactory results using the combination of Kaytee food and syringe feeding. We are proud to say that our babies' growth rate and overall health are excellent. ➔

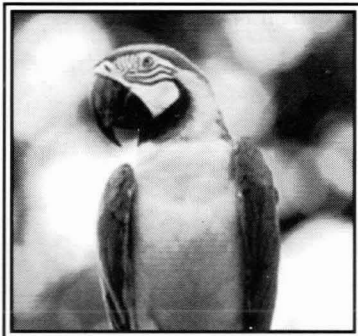


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