Double Gellow-headed Amazon

Health and record keeper





Congratulations on adopting your new feathered companion. Here are a few basic recommendations we've compiled to guide you in becoming the best caregiver possible for your companion parrot. We encourage you to continue your parrot care education with numerous resources available to provide optimum care, health and enjoyment for years to come.

Record for: \_

Bringing your Double Gellow-headed Amazon Home

The Double Yellow headed Amazon is one of the largest of the amazon species kept as a companion. Displaying its beautiful colours, large vocabulary and vast array of tunes, rarely shy, it usually loves to entertain. However, this strong personality does not come without consequence! Training and mentorship must be instilled and maintained. Double yellow heads can become extremely hormonal, versatility of lifestyle and living quarters can help prevent territoriality. Enrichment as well as occupational devices such as toys and foraging opportunities are essential in satisfying your amazon's gregarious nature. Obesity is common amongst this species, weight monitoring is essential as part of a responsible health care program.



They welcome challenging occupational therapy such as foraging toys and weaving materials. They enjoy daily bathing, plenty of exercise and training. We recommend that you have your parrot sexed (blood sampling for DNA sex determination) to give you additional guidance for its future behavior and health preoccupations.

# *"Versatile living quarters" for your parrot*

In order to prevent cage bonding and territorialism, your bird should be equipped with a variety of habitats to provide versatility throughout the day and a distinct retreat for the night. This will also challenge him mentally, prompting and encouraging his instincts for adaptability and independence. Unfortunately many birds are not provided with versatile living quarters, regrettably living in a single cage dwelling day and night can have irreversible consequences that often lead to hormonally triggered undesireable behaviors and health concerns.

#### Day Cage

The day cage is perhaps the most important investment you can make. It should be a spacious, stimulating environment allowing for plenty of light and air. Ideally the space within the day cage (actual total use able area to allow some exercise especially if this will be the only living quarters) should be at least 10 times the size of your bird with its wings opened or as large as you can accommodate within your living space. The dimensions can vary based on the design of the cage and the other living quarters offered.



An exercise gym and a separate training stand are also recommended.

#### Sleeping Cage

Your bird should also be provided with a sleeping cage, covered at night and placed in a quiet retreat within your home to allow undisrupted sleep for your feathered companion. A "starter" cage, purchased for weaning and fledgling chicks can always be converted to the sleep (or boarding) cage once is not longer needed for its original purpose.

It is recommended that caregivers provide their parrot with 10-12 hours of undisrupted sleep to maintain a healthy lifestyle. You'd be surprised at how quickly undesirable behaviours can be managed and eventually modified when your pet is provided with a comfortable and secure nighttime retreat. To promote an undisturbed sleep, the sleeping cage should be covered at night and located in a quiet and safe location, away from disturbances and predators (i.e. cat or dog, family entertainment room, and/or electrical devices that can make sudden noises (furnace, refrigerator).

#### Socialization

It's also important to socialize your bird. A wellsocialized parrot is curious and gregarious, takes an interest in its surroundings and thrives on attention. To help socialize your pet, you might want to consider taking him along to family events or for strolls through your neighbourhood. This can be achieved through the use of an avian harness such as the "Aviator", bird stroller, or parrot backpack.



We strongly recommend that you begin desensitizing your bird to an avian harness at a young age (medium for Double Yellow-headed Amazons). Partial flight feather grooming should also be discussed with your avian veterinarian, as this may be necessary to prevent any accidental uncontrolled flight.

#### Visual Enrichment

"Bring" the flock to your feathered companion with videos intended for this purpose. Numerous amounts of wild bird footage has been compiled for companion parrots to virtually participate in social flock vocalization and communication. This boredom buster will also encourage & teach foraging skills, preening activities and social hierarchy.

#### **Transportation**

Another method of transporting your parrot is by the use of an avian transport carrier. From his first car ride to his new home, to annual vet check-up, to grooming appointments, to "play dates" with other feathered friends - a carrier plays an essential role.





# My Double Gellow-headed Amazon Profile and Health Records

These forms and charts can help you record and monitor your bird's specific lifestyle, the care you are providing and the relationship he has with his family, flock and environment. These details of your parrots` life can provide valuable information to your veterinarian, bird sitter or future adoption family. Should your pet require hospitalization or boarding, a copy of your birds profile will be useful to the clinic or bird sitters. The answers to these questions could be valuable when consulting for medical and behavioural concerns. The complex nature of these birds should not be limited to these questions. We encourage you to add as much information as possible to your parrot's profile forms. Conserve this information along with the birth certificate, feathers, photos and any health related documents.

## INFORMATION

Name:	Hatching date:
This bird was rehomed with limited information available $\colon$ $\Box$	
Species:	Latin name:
Band #: Opened Closed	Physical characteristic of ID:
Microchip #:	Chip manufacturer:
Breeder: Captive bred	Neonate diet fed:
Average weight:g Sex: DM DF Duknown	
Sexing Method: Sexual dimorphism DNA Surgical sexing Has layed	l eggs
History (source, previous owners, quarantine, parent ID, etc.):	

## EXAMINATION

Tested for: Polyomavirus	Pacheco's Virus	Psittad	cose Chlamydia	D PBFD	<b>Borna</b> : Type				
Sample taken from:  Geathers	Blood	□ Nail	Vein	Environmental	swab Droppings				
Samples submitted by: To which lab:									
Past vaccinations: (register all record	Past vaccinations: (register all records and conserve all documents): Dolyoma Dolyoma								
Diet provided - specify as much	detail as possible	(quantity eaten	, brands, frequency	/ offered, etc,)					
Formulated diet:					/	%			
Sprouting grains, seeds, nuts:					/	%			
Ueggies & fruits:					/	%			
Supplements (vitamins / calcium	n):				/	%			
Water source & quality: Daily Intake:									

## **MEDICAL HISTORY**

Check-mark the following (if your Double Yellow-headed Amazon has previously encountered & required medical attention for):								
Respiratory problems	Bacterial infections	Allergic reactions						
Egg binding or related peritonitis	Feather damaging behaviour	Parasitic infection						
Bumble foot /pododermatitis	Eye infection	□ Intoxication						
Yeast / mycosis infections	Cloacal papillomas	Skin disorder						
Ear infection	Trauma	☐ Fractures						
Others:								
Which avian veterinarian have you consulted:								
Tel #: Yearly visits: 🛛 Yes 🖓 No Frequency:								



My Double Gellow-headed Amazon Profile and Health Records

## ENVIRONMENT

Day cage unitensit	DC. Longethe	Width:	Height	
Cago manufacturor				
-		Width:		
-		ight light is provided near sl		
	-		leeping quarters	
Activity center	ave (check all that apply)			
Activity center	Play gym	Activity tree	ird safe room	Other Cage Flock lifestyle in bird safe room
Types of perchases		Polyresin		□ Concrete/Self Grooming
Cotton rope				
	-			
Pesticide free:	ies Li Unknown Are	the perches of varied		es 🗀 No
Does your parrot o	of Choward		auency & enjoyme	ent:
		ting / showering / bat		
• •	-	How long for each	-	
-		-	-	
Exposure to natura	<b>il sunlight</b> : LI Yes L			No Number of hours per day:
The number of her	we of undisturbed a	loop por pight	Number	of hours of daytime nap:
				· ·
_	_		eat your bird to a	sleeping cage at night?  Yes No
Access outside of t	he cage unsupervise	ed: 🛛 Yes 🖾 No		
De ee weween weweet k				
DOPS VOUR DARROT D	ave a cage mate?		ace when?	what species?
	-	-		what species?
Are they reproduc	tively active? Yes	□No <b>if yes, since w</b>	vhen?	
Are they reproduc	tively active? Yes	□No <b>if yes, since w</b>	vhen?	
Are they reproduct Are there other bir	tively active? Yes	□No <b>if yes, since w</b>	vhen? es, specify numbe	r:
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My Double Gellow-headed Amazon Profile and Health Records

BELIAVIO	IR AND CHARACTER TRAITS
DEFIAVIO	IN AND CHANACIEN INAILS

Biting:    Yes    No    Frequency:    Rarely    Occasionally    Frequently      With whom & under what circumstances?	
Screaming: Tyes No Frequency: Rarely Occasionally Frequently	
Under what circumstances?	
Talking abilities: $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No       Number of Words:       Vocabulary:	
Language(s) understood:	
Weave when offered weaving material? 🛛 Yes 🖓 No	
Towel trained and comfortable wrapped in a towel (in case of an emergency intervention)? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No	
Caretaker is familiar with signs of distress, illnesses and basic first aid techniques? $\Box_{ m Yes}$ $\Box_{ m No}$	
Enjoys visual enrichment such as: Television, Tradio, windows specify:	
Is your parrot trained to step up on a scale perch for weight monitoring? $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No	
Frequency of weight monitoring:	
Do you record the weight of your bird: 🛛 Yes 🖓 No	
Feather damaging behaviour:  Yes  No Where and since when:	
<b>Do you bring your bird outdoors?</b> $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No <b>Do you use a harness</b> : $\Box$ Yes $\Box$ No	
Does your bird have an outdoor flight cage? $\Box_{\text{Yes}} \Box_{\text{No}}$	
Are flight feathers groomed? Tyes No Frequency & degree (# of flight feathers equally on each side):	
Does your parrot perform tricks?  Yes No Explain:	
Behaviour around children:	
Behaviour around strangers:	
Behaviour around other birds:	
Behaviour around other animals:	
Weight monitoring is recommended at least once a week to monitor health and evaluate	3 po
the dietary needs, prevent obesity and adjust the exercise program of your feathered	The second
companion. For more accuracy, always weigh your bird in the morning before his first meal.	A
If you note a significant weight loss over a short period of time, consult with your avian	17
health professional for advice	111



Buyers Guide

Your new feathered companion will bring years of joy to your life. It is your responsibility to make sure your bird enjoys a healthy, happy lifestyle. Use this handy checklist to help you keep track of necessary equipment, treats and toys.

The checklists have been divided into five categories, **Nutrition & Supplements**, **Cage & Cage Accessories**, **Toys & Exercise**, **Perches**, and **Health & Training**. Each category provides a detailed list of products that are key to providing a long and healthy life for your bird. Not all items are required at all life stages of your bird. The following legend is simply there to guide you with your future purchases and can be kept as a reminder of what you have on hand and will need/want in the future.

	NEEDED	OPTIONAL	DAY	NIGHT	CARE
Essential items are an absolute must at the time of acquiring or adopting your bird.	Needed items should be provided to your bird over time as lifestages, agility and dexterity progress in order to offer an optimal lifestyle.	Optional items are suggestions and may be required according to your and your bird's lifestyle, interests and choice needs.	Recommended for use in your birds day cage. A separate day and night dwelling will favor versatility, prevent cage bonding, territorial behaviors and hormonal activity.	Recommended for use in your birds sleeping cage. A distinct, separate sleeping cage is recommended to provide optimal rest and versatility.	Care items are indispensable and should be considered in order to provide responsible health monitoring, first aid assistance and behavioral training.

## **NUTRITION & SUPPLEMENTS**

OPTIONS		NEEDED	OPTIONAL	DAY	NIGHT	CARE
Extruded diet (Tropican)	х			x	х	
Enrichment diet (Tropimix)			х	х		
Seed mix			х	х	х	
Vitamin / mineral supplement (Prime)			x	х		x
Cuttle bone & beak conditioner			x	x		
Oyster shell			х	х		
Probiotics			x	x		х
Mealworms (live or canned)			х	x		
Clay supplement (Clay-cal)			х	х		x
Spray millet			Х	x		х
Charcoal			х	х		х
Healthy treats		х		х		



Buyers Guide

CA	GE & CAGE ACCESSO	RIES					
	OPTIONS		NEEDED	OPTIONAL	DAY	NIGHT	CARE
	Day cage		х		х		
	Sleeping cage (weaning cage)	x			x	х	x
	Cage cover		х		x	х	
	Sleeping tent			х		х	
	Food dishes for formulated or seed diet	х			x	x	
	Stainless steel / ceramic dishes (water and soft food)	х			x	х	
	Water bottle		х		х	х	
	Cage bottom paper liner (or litter if grill is used)	x			x	x	
	Seed Guard			x			
	Food clip / Skewers		х				
	Sand perch covers			Х	х		
	Mirror			х	x		
	Bird pacifier			х	х		
	Bird room accessories (ropes etc)	X	х		х		
	Nesting material & nest		х				
	Full spectrum lighting			х	х		
	Water misting bottle			х	х		
	Bird Bath			х	x		
	Shower Perch			х	х		
	Post misting basking lamp		x		x		х





Buyers Guide |

## **TOYS & EXERCISE**

OPTIONS		NEEDED	OPTIONAL	DAY	NIGHT	CARE
Transporter (carrier)	х					х
Training stand			x			
Flight harness			х			
Activity center/ play gym			x			
Outdoor flight			x			
Bird stroller or back pack for travelling			x			
Exercise toys (swing, net, bouncing perch)		x		x		
Elementary foraging materials	х		x	х	х	
Intermediate foraging toys		x	x			
Foraging box & foot toys		x		х		
Advanced foraging toys		x		x	x	
Educational toys			x	x		
Destructible toys			x	x	х	
Indestructible toys			х	x		

# PERCHES

OPTIONS	ESSENTIAL	NEEDED	OPTIONAL	DAY	NIGHT	CARE
Natural branch perch	х			х	х	
Rope perch	х			х	х	х
Plastic perch	х			х	х	х
Self-grooming perch			х	х		
Ergonomic perch	х			х	х	
Manzanita / java perch			х			
Wooden dowel perch			х			
Rope bouncing perch		х		х		



Buyers Guide

## **HEALTH & TRAINING**

OPTIONS	ESSENTIAL	NEEDED	OPTIONAL	DAY	NIGHT	CARE
Feather conditioner			х	х		
Auditory & visual enrichment (DVDs, Cds)			х	x		
Emergency first aid kit		х				х
Weight monitoring scale & Perch	х					х
Rotary tool, cutter, nail file (nail grooming)			х			х
Reference books and DVDS		х				

Lifestyle Monitoring Charts...

#### *My parrot's weight chart Why is this Important?*

A responsible avian caretaker's health management program should include weekly weight monitoring. Keeping records of your companion's weight might highlight a health concern or suggest a diet re-evaluation. Furthermore, a weight management program can guide you to be proactive with your bird's exercise program. Should your bird suffer from any illness, this data keeping will help your veterinarian to quickly evaluate the condition of your bird.

### **Chick's primary lessons**

This primary lesson progress chart is intended to be used along with the **EARLY PARROT EDUCATION PROGRAM**<sub>e</sub>. Caretakers should be knowledgeable and skilled to mentor and ensure the safety and well being of the bird throughout these lessons.

To learn more about the Early Parrot Education Program, visit <u>www.hari.ca/avian-care/early-</u> <u>parrot-education/</u>

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NUTRITIONAL EDUCATION Weared on extruded diet brand: Introduced to cut freah fulls/veg.t Introduced to hulled seeds:		= /	)(		
his Primary Lesson Progress Chart is intended mocrification coversions should be involvedgeable if the bird throughout these lessons, less interlocates may progress differently from othe our avain versionarian the health of all choice or feo	and skilled	to mentor a	nd ensure	the safety an	d well being
AVIAN OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS	-	-	22	-	Bannan Ba
TOWEL TRAINED	(TOWE	CRADE	LING)		
Desensitize to different wird colours of towels					
Preening with wet warm towel around the neck &					
Preening with dry towel around neck & back					
Preening with dry towel around neck & back Prays "peen-a-boo" under towel					
Plays "peer-arboo" under towel					
Plays "peen a boo" under towel forages under towel					
Plays "pear-arboo" under towel forages under towel Cudded in towel, upright position					
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## My parrot's body & mind chart

Should your avian companion start an undesirable or unusual behavior, use this chart as a preliminary assessment of the potential cause of the behavioral change. Before rushing to your avian vet, be sure to answer all questions

and then take them along with you. You will probably save valuable time, energy and money by understanding your companions behavioral condition.

You might wonder about questions in the charts, after all your bird's problem is behavioral and we are asking you questions relating to health and essentials care. The reason is quite simple, the body and the mind are intertwined so tightly that one doesn't go without the other. Just think of how you can act differently when you are not eating or



sleeping properly for awhile, sometimes what you need is not a psychologist's help but a nutritionist's help or simply a new mattress!

We've tried to cover all angles but remember that nobody knows your companion as much as you do, feel free to add any other questions and comments you think are important and pertinent. It might be a good idea to consult with a behaviorist but take the time to reflect upon the situation and try to analyze it yourself first. Sometimes, just putting things on paper helps us to understand things that seemed incomprehensible before, perhaps you might find the answer to your problem relatively easily.

