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Faculty of Veterinary
and Agricultural
Sciences

The role of Veterinarians in aviculture and the significance of aviary birds in veterinary practice

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The role of Veterinarians in aviculture and the significance of aviary birds in veterinary practice.

- Birds are the 3rd most common pet behind cats and dogs.
- Vets can offer advice in husbandry, nutrition, behaviour, medicine and surgery, welfare, disease risk and management, quarantine and much more.



Taxonomy

- Over 9000 different species spread across several different orders and families.



Taxonomy

- Psittiformes (parrots)
- Recognised by hooked beak and prehensile feet.



Taxonomy

- Passerines (largest most diverse group)
- Perching birds.



Taxonomy

- Galliformes (gallinaceous birds)
- More terrestrial birds.



Taxonomy

- Anseriformes (waterfowl)
- Mostly webbed feet and suited to living on water.

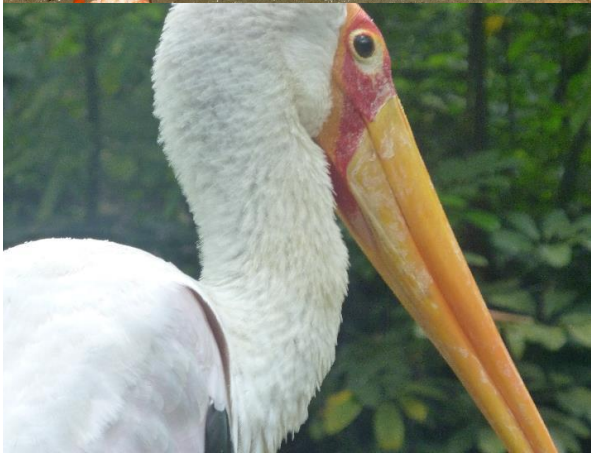
Taxonomy

- Columbiformes (pigeons and doves)
- Similar features to Passeriformes



Taxonomy

- Many others – that include birds of prey, sea birds etc.



Structure of aviculture in Australia,
common species, and their features

1. Pet bird community

- Parrots are one of the most kept type of pet birds.

1. Pet bird community

- Common species include
 - Budgies
 - Cockateils
 - Cockatoos
 - Lorikeets
 - Eclectus
 - Conures
 - Macaw



1. Pet bird community

- Selecting a bird to buy
 - Characteristics of a healthy bird



1. Pet bird community

- Basic health care
 - Initial health check for new birds



2. Backyard poultry (pets and small egg production)

- Source of birds
- Basic health care
- Vaccination
- sexing



3. Bird breeders

- Define aims of breeding program
 - Breeding for quantity or quality
 - Breeding for traits
- Hand rearing
- Identification
- Health care as it relates to breeders
- New concepts in breeding









4. Pigeon fancier and racers

- Basic health care



5. Conservation (rare and endangered species)

- Differences with management to other breeders.

6. Wildlife rescue

- Health care principles vary to pet birds



7. Falconry

- Restricted in Australia

