

***Please take the time to thoroughly review this declaration form before you commit to signing, as it outlines the terms and conditions, along with the necessary standards of care for adopting a bird from SOS Illawarra Bird Sanctuary & Rescue.***

***We reserve the right to decline an adoption if we believe the conditions outlined in this document will not be fulfilled.***

### **The Expenses of Bird Care – A Surprising Reality**

Many people are taken aback by the costs associated with bird ownership, especially since they were previously promoted as inexpensive and low-maintenance pets.

When assessing your ability to commit to bird care, consider the following expenses:

- Veterinary care – Annual health check-ups are essential for all adopted birds.
- Quality housing.
- Enrichment.
- Grooming.
- Diet.

You can potentially reduce veterinary costs by implementing proactive health care strategies, such as offering a balanced diet and ample enrichment opportunities.

### **Time**

Birds are sociable creatures that thrive on daily interactions, companionship, and established routines. Certain species form monogamous pairs and often spend their time in sizeable flocks.

It's essential to dedicate time each day to engage with your bird, as this will foster a rewarding relationship that can last a lifetime — some birds can live for over 100 years! Therefore, it's crucial to ensure you can commit to your bird's lifespan and make arrangements for its care in your absence.

### **Diet for Birds**

Birds require a diverse diet that is abundant in vitamins and minerals. Relying solely on dry seed diets, which are often high in fat and deficient in essential nutrients, has been shown to lead to various health and behavioural problems. High quality seeds should typically be offered as treats alongside a balanced diet of pellets, fresh fruits, and vegetables.

### **Important Notes:**

- Avoid toxic foods such as avocado, chocolate, and coffee, as these should never be given to birds.
- Always provide fresh, clean water to captive birds.

## Enrichment for Birds

In the wild, birds dedicate most of their day to solving problems, foraging for food, interacting with foliage, grooming, and socialising with other birds. Similarly, birds in captivity require daily mental and physical stimulation to prevent boredom and promote learning.

As the caregiver, it's essential to provide your bird with a variety of perches in different sizes (including natural branches), foliage and flowers for chewing and climbing, captive foraging devices, and non-toxic toys that are regularly rotated.

## Maintaining a Healthy Environment for Your Bird

Harmful bacteria often thrive in dirty and unhygienic spaces, making regular cleaning essential to ensure a safe and healthy home for your feathered friend.

Certain species, like Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and Galahs, have powdery feathers that can quickly spread dander dust throughout your living areas, increasing your cleaning responsibilities.

Basic daily care tasks include, but are not limited to:

- Changing the cage paper lining.
- Cleaning food and water cups, toys, and the cage itself using an avian-friendly (non-toxic) cleaning product, such as Vetafarm Avi-care or vinegar combined with warm water.
- Replacing or cleaning soiled and damaged perches and toys.
- Providing fresh branches, foliage, and flowers.

## Grooming Guidelines for Birds

Grooming procedures, such as nail trimming and wing clipping, are sometimes necessary. However, these tasks should only be carried out by a skilled and experienced handler.

Attempting to perform these procedures yourself can harm the bond between you and your bird.

Flight is a crucial adaptation for birds, allowing them to escape from fear-inducing stimuli. Removing this ability (for instance, through excessive unilateral wing clipping) can heighten the risk of fear-driven aggression, which is seldom observed in the wild.

SOS ILLAWARRA Bird Sanctuary & Rescue supports light bilateral wing clipping in certain situations. The purpose of this approach is to enable the bird to fly at approximately half its normal height and speed, thereby reducing the risk of injury within the home and chances of escape.

## Space Considerations for Bird Cages

A suitably sized cage can occupy a considerable amount of space in your home. When selecting a bird cage, ensure that it allows the bird to stretch its wings freely without any obstacles. The cage should include:

- At least two perches.
- Three bowls for food, water and fresh food.
- Enrichment items such as toys, foraging devices, and foliage.

These elements contribute to a comfortable and stimulating environment for your feathered friend.

## **Understanding Noise Vocalisation in Birds**

Noise vocalisation is a natural behaviour that should be anticipated. Most birds can produce loud calls, some of which are melodious, while others may be less pleasing to human ears. These vocalisations are not limited to wild birds; excessive vocalisation is a frequent behavioural concern for birds in captivity.

To help mitigate this issue, it's important to educate yourself on **positive behaviour modification techniques** and **captive foraging**. If you're uncertain about how to proceed, consider reaching out to us for advice guidance.

## **SOS ILLAWARRA Bird Sanctuary & Rescue: Commitment to Avian Adoption and Colonising of surrendered birds.**

At SOS ILLAWARRA Bird Sanctuary & Rescue, we are deeply committed to the adoption and colonising of the birds that have been surrendered to us. It is crucial for our organisation, the new caregiver, and the bird itself that the proper procedures are adhered to.

### **Standards of Care at SOS**

SOS adheres to the following care standards:

- **Health Examination:** Birds deemed appropriate for rehoming and colonising by SOS always undergo a thorough health examination.
- **Blood Testing:** For birds at risk, a blood test for PBFD is conducted by an avian veterinarian or through our primary sponsor, Atlantis Pets.

### **High quality, balanced seed and formulated Diet**

The bird will be transitioned to a quality balanced seed and formulated diet consisting of Murphy's or Vetafarm quality pellets and Forage bird food. It is anticipated that any caregiver will offer this same diet, along with fresh foods, throughout the bird's lifetime.

### **Grooming Services:**

- Bathing
- Nail Clipping
- Wing Clipping and Wing Corrections

### **Behaviour Modification**

Addressing prevalent behavioural challenges such as screaming, biting, and destructive feather plucking — which are often seen in surrendered birds — while ensuring ongoing behavioural assessments carried out by staff.

### **Enrichment**

- Stimulating and non-toxic toys: Focus being on tactile and visual enrichment.
- Foraging opportunities: Providing a variety of food options, including pellets, fruits, vegetables, and nuts (offered as treats only) for dietary enrichment.
- Social interaction: Ensuring plenty of scratches and cuddles for social enrichment.
- Exercise: Allowing supervised time outside of their cage for physical activity.

Are you prepared to uphold these standards of care?

**Y / N**

## SOS Illawarra Bird Sanctuary & Rescue Bird Adoption Acknowledgement & Agreement

### **Adopter's Acknowledgement**

I acknowledge that SOS Illawarra Bird Sanctuary & Rescue diligently strives to collect and verify all available information and history about the birds in their care. I understand that while the Sanctuary takes all reasonable steps to ensure the bird's health and well-being, no health guarantees are provided.

### **I recognise that:**

Birds may carry diseases that are not visually detectable at the time of adoption. SOS Illawarra Bird Sanctuary & Rescue cannot be held liable in the event the bird becomes ill, dies, or transmits illness to other household members or animals after adoption.

### **Commitment to Care**

I am aware that this bird may have experienced neglect, abuse, or trauma before arriving at the Sanctuary. As such, I understand that the bird may require:

Additional time to adjust to its new environment. Consistent, positive socialisation and training. Patience, compassion, and a stable routine.

I hereby commit to caring for this bird with empathy and responsibility, and I will never use negative reinforcement or any form of training that could compromise the bird's physical or psychological well-being.

### **Rehoming Fee**

I understand and agree that the rehoming/adoption fee is non-refundable, under any circumstances.

### **Right of First Refusal**

If its decided the bird can no longer be cared for by you, SOS Illawarra Bird Sanctuary & Rescue retains the right of first refusal, which includes situations involving desired release, selling, transferring ownership, or in the event of your passing.

### **Adopter Information**

**Full Name** .....

**Address** .....

**Phone** .....

**Email** .....

**Bird Name/ID** .....

**Signature** .....

**Date** .....

**SOS Representative Name** .....

**Signature** .....

**Date** .....



ID: SOS  
Office use only

illawarrabirdrescue@gmail.com  
www.illawarrabirdsanctuaryrescue.com  
ABN: 31106076770



## SOS ILLAWARRA BIRD SANCTUARY & RESCUE ANIMAL ADOPTION FORM

### Personal Details

Full Name	
Address	
Contact Number	
Email Address	

### Previously/currently cared for birds

Species	Status (still in your care/deceased/re-homed)	Time in your care	Diet

Are your birds health checked annually by an avian veterinarian?

Y / N

Name of your avian veterinarian or veterinarian clinic


Have your birds been screened for Psittacine PBFD?

Y / N

Do you have other pets in your home?

Pet Type	Breed	Age

Are all your pets wormed and vaccinated regularly?

Y / N

### Adoption Details

Desired Species	Reason for your choice

Do you have a cage or aviary to house this bird?

Y / N

If yes, can you provide the approximate dimensions please.

H cm	W cm	D cm
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Please attach images of the cage the bird will be housed in.

Was this cage or aviary used to house a sick or deceased bird?

Y / N

If yes, was an avian veterinarian consulted?

Y / N

What was the diagnosis? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live in a rental property?

Y / N

If yes, have you acquired permission from your landlord to keep a bird on the premises?

Y / N

If applicable, have you required the necessary licence from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services?

Y / N

Do you live with other people?

Y / N

Do all household members agree with you keeping a companion bird on the premises and agree with our principals.

Y / N

Do any members of the household require further education or support relating to bird behaviour or nutrition?

Y / N

How would you address a potential behaviour problem in your bird? Eg: biting, screaming, feather destruction/plucking.


Describe the relationship you would like to develop with your companion or aviary bird:


List in dot point form what you consider to be the essential needs of a companion or aviary bird:


**Is this bird to be a gift for someone else?**

**Y / N**

**Is this bird intended to be a pet for a child?**

**Y / N**

**What is the child's age?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you intend to breed from this bird?**

**Y / N**

By signing this Adoption Form, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the terms and conditions listed in the SOS ILLAWARRA Bird Sanctuary & Rescue Avian Adoption Declaration form. I hereby also declare that the information I have provided is accurate and truthful. I also acknowledge that any intentional dishonesty may result in the rejection of this application or any future applications for avian adoption.

**Please Print Name** .....

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....

Please send your completed Adoption form to [illawarrabirdrescue@gmail.com](mailto:illawarrabirdrescue@gmail.com) or deliver it directly to **Atlantis Pets, Unit 36, 10 Sylvester Avenue, Unanderra**.

We appreciate your interest in adopting a bird through **SOS ILLAWARRA Bird Sanctuary & Rescue**. Your application will be reviewed, and you can expect to be contacted soon.

Thank you for your patience, as we are a not-for-profit organisation run entirely by volunteers. While we strive for a prompt turnaround, processing times may vary based on the number of birds available for adoption.

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**ADOPTION APPROVED**

**ADOPTION DECLINED**

