

W.A.E.S.

Wasatch Avian Education Society

September: 2018



**Our speaker for September meeting is Nick Kirk, DVM, from Parrish Creek Veterinary Clinic.**

**From the Parrish Creek website:** Dr. Nick Kirk grew up in the Nashville area and graduated from Belmont University in 2012 with a degree in Biology. He received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Tennessee in 2016. During school, Dr. Kirk focused on avian medicine and has spoken and attended AAV conferences for 5 years. Since graduation, Dr. Kirk has worked in emergency medicine as well as continuing his work in avian medicine through private practice. Dr. Kirk's interests include avian and exotic medicine, emergency medicine, surgery, and behavioral medicine. He shares his home with his fiance Mandi, an amazon parrot named Billy Rubin, two dogs Melody and Castiel, and their cat Pepper.

Dr. Kirk spent two years in an animal ER, so he is going to talk to us about bird emergency situations and what to do until you can get to the doctor. It should be very informative—please join us!

### Monthly Meeting

September 8, 2018

7:00 pm

**Salt Lake County  
Complex**

2001 S. State Street

Room N1100

(North Building)

Our meetings are free and open to the public. Come meet other parrot enthusiasts.

Refreshments & Raffle  
Table

Come see what our  
volunteer

Flock is all about.

### Message from the President:



### DOES THIS CAGE MAKE ME LOOK FAT ??

Your bird needs a more than a cage...Keep in mind that the word cage tends to imply confinement. Your bird needs a safe and comfortable "home". It seems there are endless choices but there are a few guidelines that will help narrow the choices.

cont.

**WHERE WILL THE CAGE GO?** The area should be away from windows and drafts, yet in an active part of your home to enable your bird to be part of the family and not isolated.

**WHAT SIZE IS RIGHT?** It is very important to keep the size of your bird in mind. While it is perfectly fine to keep a Finch or Canary in a small space, larger birds need larger cages, and it is always better to buy the largest cage you possibly can for your bird. Keeping a bird in a cage that's too small can lead to undesirable behaviors such as screaming, biting, psychological disorders, and feather plucking, to name a few. A good cage should be large enough for your bird to walk around comfortably, and fully extend and flap their wings. Don't forget to take into account the space that will be lost when you add your bird's perches, food bowls, and toys! Too large a cage may intimidate your bird. They should always feel that they have safe and secure home.

**DOES THE BAR SPACING MATTER?** Smaller birds require cages with bars no more than a half inch apart, to prevent them from squeezing through or becoming stuck between the bars. Most birds are quite the escape artists! Those who own larger birds should look for bars that are placed horizontally rather than vertically, to give your bird a means of climbing and exercise.

**WHAT ABOUT THE SHAPE?** The style of the cage is also an important factor. According to some veterinarians, round cages may be detrimental to birds' psychological health, so angled cages are preferable.

**WHAT ABOUT QUALITY?** Does the cage appear sturdy and solid? Are there any loose parts or sharp edges? The best cages are made of stainless steel, which is non-toxic, easy to clean, and will not chip. The primary function of a bird's cage is to protect it - make sure that your bird's home does not pose any hazards to his health and well-being.

A properly designed bird cage normally gives bird and owner many years of use and enjoyment. You should remember that your bird will spend a great deal of time in his cage, and much like us, will appreciate some decorations to look at! Fill your bird's cage with colorful toys, perches, and accessories to ensure that he is well entertained.

Geri Driggs  
President, WAES

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