Healthy Handling: Birds

Although rare, birds can transmit bacteria, such as *Chlamydophila psittaci*, which may infect humans. Signs of *C. psittaci* infection in birds include: watery eyes & nostrils, listlessness, weakness and bright green droppings. If your bird exhibits any of these symptoms, take it to a veterinarian for evaluation.

Make sure that everyone handling birds, including children, follows these precautions:
- Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling birds.
- Never use food-preparation areas to clean bird habitats or anything in their habitats. If you clean the habitat in the bathroom, disinfect the area completely afterwards.
- Clean the habitat, food and water bowls in a well-ventilated area.