

Eastern Districts Budgie Club

Show preparation

There are many aspects to preparing a bird for the show bench. Here are a few to think about.

Initial Training

Get your birds used to being handled from a young age and get them used to the show cage

Show Cage Training

Birds that are used to sitting in a show cage at home will always look better at a show. Start from weaning time. Some breeders put an old cage with treats into the main flight so birds are completely used to entering them.

Plan your show team about 6 weeks before a show

Diet is really important

Spraying & Washing

Clean birds with healthy feathers will look great on the show bench.

De-spotting

Often birds have many more than the six black spots shown in the Standard. Extra spots need to be removed before exhibiting in a formal championship. This is an opportunity to 'pick your spots' to bring your bird closer to the Standard. There are some excellent U-tube videos that show you how to de spot. Alternatively bring along some birds to a club meeting as and for a demonstration.

Final Preparation

A few days before a show, if you have a bird with blood on the cap or wing, this can be absorbed out with a cotton wool pad dipped in milk, then clean water and dry with a hair-dryer. White faced birds can have Johnson's Baby Powder sprinkled on their cap to help hide any blemishes. You can put a small amount of Baby Oil on the bird's beak, cere and feet using a cotton bud to clean them up. Take care to only use a very small amount or you will oil your bird. The bird's tail is then dipped into a container of boiling water for about 5 seconds, then wipe off the excess water with a clean towel in the direction of the tail feathers.

Show-cage

Before placing the bird in the cage, check that the cage is in good condition and clean, as there is nothing worse than having an excellent bird presented in a disgusting cage and it doesn't create a good impression on the judge the first time he looks at the cage. Also make sure your cage is not 'marked' in anyway such as perches and feeders incorrectly placed (See Stewarding section).