

# Exotic animal facts for pet parents!



## Even exotic animals need to see the veterinarian



Did you know that birds, small mammals and reptiles need physical exams yearly just like dogs and cats? Annual health exams can help detect issues before they arise.

## Go high-tech

Did you know that birds, small mammals, and reptiles can have bloodwork, radiographs (x-rays), ultrasounds, and even MRI's done to help diagnose certain diseases?



## Do your homework

Did you know that it is important to research a pet before you purchase it? Exotic pets are different in the type of foods they eat and the environments they require. If you are just starting out, know that some species are easier to care for than others.



## Trim those chompers

Rabbits do not only have incisors (teeth in the front), they have peg teeth behind their upper incisors and they have molars (teeth in the back of their mouths). Rodents' teeth continuously grow and if they do not occlude properly, the teeth may need to be trimmed.



## "Lay" this problem to rest

Birds can become egg-bound, which is considered an emergency. This occurs when they are not able to pass an egg, possibly due to nutritional issues or the egg being too large to pass through the vent. Radiographs can help detect this problem.



## Lighten the mood

Depending on the type of reptile you have, they may need special lighting (UBV and UVA) to help synthesize vitamin D3 to its proper form. Improper lighting is one problem that can lead to metabolic bone disease.



## "Fix" these issues

Rabbits should be neutered around 6 months of age to prevent additional young, tumors in the reproductive organs, and some behavioral issues.



## Wash your hands

Reptiles can have harmful bacteria (Salmonella is just one) that can be transmitted to humans. You should always wash your hands after handling any type of reptile or animal in general.



## Feed 'em right

Every species of bird is a little different, so the diet varies. Some birds are carnivores, like hawks. Other birds, like parrots, eat more of a varied diet which can include formulated pellets, vegetables, fruits, and seed. It is important to know what type of bird you have so you feed the appropriate diet to decrease the incidence of diseases like atherosclerosis. Bloodwork and radiographs can help detect this disease process.

