# AGUIDE TO VETAFARM PELLETS

We make our foods using only Australia's best and freshest ingredients.

### **VETAFARM PELLETS**

When a Vetafarm food is used as the majority (80%) of the feed, no other supplementation is required for your bird. All the necessary protein, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals are incorporated into the pellet. Feeding Vetafarm pellets is a great option to ensure that your bird/s are having their nutritional requirements met.



Vetafarm's avian veterinarians and nutritionists have formulated a number of species-specific diets for those birds who have a more detailed nutritional requirement. Whether you've got a budgie or a macaw, we have a diet to suit. FOR COMPLETE NUTRITION IN YOUR BIRDS, VETAFARM PELLETS SHOULD MAKE UP APPROXIMATELY 80% OF THE BIRD'S DIET.



### **FEEDING**

All Vetafarm pellets should be fed in a clean, dry dish placed where it cannot be contaminated by droppings, water or cage substrate. If the feed does become contaminated, always replace with a fresh serving.

### **HOW MUCH DO I NEED TO PROVIDE FOR MY BIRD?**

As a guide, most cage and aviary birds will consume about 10% of their body weight in pellets per day. As an example, a 100g cockatiel will consume approximately 10g of pellets per day.

#### **FRUITS AND VEGETABLES**

Fruits and vegetables should also be made available to encourage interaction, and provide variety and stimulation within the diet. Ensure that you are only feeding 20% of fruit and vegetables, as recommended in the chart above.

### **USING VETAFARM PELLETS AS A SUPPLEMENT**

Vetafarm pellets can also be used as a supplement to seed-based or home made mixtures. When using within a mix, make sure that the Vetafarm pellet component is being consumed.

### **WANT TO CONVERT TO PELLETS?**

On the next page you will learn some simple techniques to convert your bird from a seed-based diet to nutritious, delicious Vetafarm pellets.



## HOW TO CONVERT

### YOUR BIRD TO PELLETS

### **WET MIX BLEND**

- 1. Mix Vetafarm pellets with seed at a ratio of 50:50 in the bird's regular feed dish.
- 2. Add enough hot water to make the mix sticky, and push down into the bottom of the bowl. Your bird will pick through the damp mix to eat the seed, but will get a taste for the pellets at the same time.
- 3. Reduce the seed content over a period of 5 days, until it is just pellets remaining.

Important: Mix must be replaced daily because of the water content.



If your bird rejects pellets, it may simply be because they don't recognise them as food. With some work, there are a few ways you can get your bird to convert to Vetafarm pellets - even if they are a fussy eater!

### **DRY MIX BLEND**

- 1. Mix Vetafarm pellets with seed at a ratio of 50:50 in the bird's regular feed dish.
- 2. Feed, without adding any water in to the mix. This way can be less effective and slower than conversion by wet mix as the birds can easily pick out the dry seeds without getting a taste for the pellets.



### **HOT TIPS:**

If you have hand-raised birds that have been weaned onto Vetafarm pellets, their chicks will wean directly to pellets, in many cases, faster than they would take to seed.

All Nutriblend pellets are equal nutritionally, but have different flavours. This is why your bird might eat all the pellets of one colour before the others.

Persistence is key! Some birds convert quickly, whilst fussy eaters may take a much longer time. Be consistent, be patient and your feathered friend will be eating pellets in no time.

### **WANT MORE INFORMATION?**

For more tips and information visit www.vetafarm.com.au