

THE BULLETIN BIRD

NOVEMBER 2025

HARRISON'S BIRD FOODS NEWSLETTER

Behind the Scenes...

NUGGIES treats are back! You may notice a slight change in the shape, but they are just as nutritious and yummy as ever as they continue to support bird health and diet transitions.

Made with organic ingredients and free from corn syrup,

Nuggies are the ultimate treat to complement our certified organic diet range, providing a healthy, tasty snack for your feathered companions.



From The Doctor's Desk

By Bianca Murphy, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian)

Parrots possess tetrachromatic vision, meaning they have four types of color-detecting cone cells in their retinas compared to humans' three, allowing them to perceive a broader spectrum that extends into the ultraviolet range that we cannot see. While humans see three primary colors (red, green, and blue), parrots have an additional UV-sensitive cone that reveals vibrant colors and patterns in feathers, food, and their environment that are completely invisible to us.

For example, what appears as brown Harrison's nuggets to humans actually appears purple to parrots due to these visual differences.

This extraordinary color vision plays a crucial role in mate selection, as many bird species have UV-reflective plumage patterns that help them identify healthy potential partners and communicate with flock members.

Understanding that parrots experience such a visually rich world helps explain why toys, foods, and stimulating environments are so important for their psychological well-being in captivity.



TOXIN ALERT

Many oven-safe and microwave "steam" bags can release fumes when heated that are generally safe to humans but toxic to birds. Birds have incredibly sensitive respiratory systems.



When in doubt, leave it out!

Safe alternatives are glass, ceramic, or stainless steel utensils

Unsafe options are roasting bags, slow-cooker liners, microwave steam bags, anything "non-stick."

*Shuster et al., 2012 - PTFE toxicosis in chickens
Shuster KA, Brack KL, Dysko RC, DiRita VJ, Bergin IL (2012). Polytetrafluoroethylene Toxicosis in Recently Hatched Chickens (Gallus domesticus). Comparative Medicine 62(1):49-54.
Case series of chicks dying from PTFE-coated heat lamp bulbs; necropsy shows severe pulmonary edema and hemorrhage. Authors note that PTFE toxicosis is known to cause pulmonary edema and hemorrhage in pet birds after exposure to overheated nonstick cookware and highlight birds' extreme sensitivity to inhaled toxicants. PubMed+1

A BRIEF FOCUS

The Environmental Working Group (EWG) is a trusted nonprofit that helps consumers identify products made with safe, clean ingredients without harmful chemicals. The EWG originated the "Dirty Dozen" and "Clean Fifteen" lists for produce, which help you choose the safest vegetables and fruits for your birds with the least amount of pesticides.

They have also set up guidelines for evaluating other products that are best for your body, home and planet. Products listed as EWG Verified™ means they meet the Environmental Working Group's strict standards for health, transparency, and environmental responsibility.

Check them out at EWG.org.



An Interesting Tidbit

Heavyweight champion boxer Mike Tyson has had a lifelong passion for raising and flying pigeons. He began raising them as a child in Brooklyn and has owned hundreds, and possibly thousands, of birds throughout his life. He referred to pigeons as his first real friends, providing him an escape from bullying during his childhood.

