How to Clean a Songbird Bird Basket

1. Look at the cage tag- you want to know what kind of bird you’re looking at and if there are any special care instructions.
   a. If the tag says “Staff Only”- ask a staff member for assistance.
   b. If the tag says “Escape Artist”- complete this procedure in the bathroom.
   c. Do not tape cags on the shadecloth (it rips and ruins them), tape them directly on the basket
2. Grab a separate clean basket. This should have a layer of newspaper, paper towel, and 4 clips on the corners and a shadecloth on top. This is to hold the bird while you are cleaning their basket.
3. Safely transfer the bird from the dirty bin to the clean bin. Hold the bird with its wings tucked in, not too loosely, and not too tightly. If you uncomfortable handling a bird, ask a staff member for assistance.
4. Clip the clean basket (with bird) shut with the shadecloth on top. Place the new clean basket with the bird in it, aside.
5. Open the dirty bin. Remove everything from the bin, including the water bowl and food (seeds/worms) bowl.
6. Give them clean water and food that’s not contaminated and enough food.
7. Throw away the paper towel and newspaper lining but leave the branches/perches. Insert a fresh layer of newspaper and paper towel. Nancy recommends 2 layers of newspaper, and one layer of paper towel.
8. Place the food and water bowls along the edges of the basket. You don’t want them to perch over their food and water and poop in it.
9. Throw away old food and water. **Throw away water in the trash can, not the sink.**
10. If you’re unsure about a bird’s diet- **just ask a staff member!**

Remember: some birds won’t eat their worms if there too much medium. **Unsure? Just ask a staff member!**

11. Clip three of the corners of the basket you just cleaned.
12. Safely transfer the bird back into the cleaned basket through the unclipped corner.
13. Make sure they have their visual barrier over their shadecloth.
WATCH A VIDEO ON HOW TO
CLEAN A SONGBIRD BASKET
VIDEO LENGTH: 3:22
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