

Bird Wing Trimming

If you are considering trimming your parrots wings we advise you to consider the necessity to do so first as if your bird lives with potential predators wing trimming puts them at risk of being attacked on the ground.

We encourage microchipping and free flight recall training or harness training as a first recommendation rather than wing trimming or taping to prevent lift. However if reduction of speed or lift is required for your birds safety we would then recommend taping the wings as a trail, this allows your bird control of flight direction and landing but with less height and speed. This is often a good recommendation for young birds capable of flight but that frequently crash into walls or doors because they have not yet mastered direction and speed.

Two people may be required in order to tape or trim the birds wings, one to hold and one to trim.

- The first person may use a towel to hold the bird (especially large birds) or just their hands if comfortable to do so, in order to immobilise them
- The second person will then extend the wings out to examine them to ensure that there are no new feathers currently growing as cutting these 'blood' feathers will cause them to bleed profusely and will require treatment.
- If there are no new feathers growing the wing trim can be done by cutting the outermost 4-6 primary feathers from outside to inside just below the level of the upper wing coverts. When using tape encircle the group of 4 or more feathers circumferentially at the same level.
- Start by cutting 4 primary flight feathers on both wings and then perform a flight test. If the bird is still able to get vertical lift while flying progressively trim one more feather from each wing until no lift is achieved and only graceful flight to the ground occurs.

