

Bird Safety Corner

Kitchen, Part 1

This month we'll focus on the kitchen, probably the most hazardous place in the house for our companion birds. Dangers lurk everywhere (cue scary music).



Stoves are hot and can burn little feet that run across or land on them. Be especially wary of modern glass-topped stoves which don't look hot to the touch after the burners have been turned off. Even we humans get fooled by these and we know about stoves!



Open pots of water can be death traps. Parrots don't swim and can drown in even a few inches of water. Once a bird falls into water, it may be too wet and panicky to fly out, and the insides of pots don't usually have perches to climb up on (at least mine don't). If the water is boiling, they can be scalded or worse. The same goes for sauces, like that delicious pot of homemade tomato sauce you've been making (ok, it's store-bought, but we won't tell). Unless you're planning on serving parrot cacciatore tonight, keep your bird away!



Let's talk about those sponges and scrubbies used to mop up and clean all the drips, spills, and dirty dishes in your kitchen. They won't burn or drown your bird and they certainly look inviting as a play thing, right? Who wouldn't want to gnaw on those soft, fibrous, chewy things that are clearly meant to be parrot toys or Mommy and Daddy wouldn't try to keep them away from us? Well, think about where they've been. Then think about that stuff dripping down your bird's throat. 'Nuff said.

Next time we'll look at killer nonstick cookware.

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