

### **Responding to Disasters Involving Birds and Aviaries**

Do not leave your birds where they can be exposed to fumes for fires or chemicals. Birds are highly sensitive to smoke and fumes. They succumb to smoke more quickly than most other animals.

Check your bird for injury and exposure to chemicals. If you have any concerns about the health of your birds, contact a veterinarian. If you think or know that your bird has been exposed to chemicals, contact your veterinarian before treating it yourself.

Many avians and exotics will show signs of disease (respiratory, gastrointestinal, etc.) several days after a stressful episode. This is common in birds. Any bird showing signs of lethargy, loss of appetite, depression, or injury should be evaluated by a veterinarian. If the animal is bleeding, apply direct pressure with a small piece of cotton cloth until you can get help. Do not remove the cloth because the bleeding may start again.

If you have to move to new surroundings, do not remove your bird from its cage. When birds are frightened, they may become aggressive or may fly away.

If electricity is available, many birds benefit from having a heating pad under their cage in times of stress. Blankets placed over the cage can minimize stress.

(Modified from Dr. V. Joseph, Bird and Pet Clinic, Roseville, California, and FEMA: Animals in Disasters, Independent Study Course, 1998.)