

# YOU AND YOUR PET

## Chevy is high octane fun

**JUDITH-ANNE KOLU**  
Upper Credit Humane Society

Chevy is a three-year-old male Jack Russell who was surrendered, and he is aptly named as he is like a perfectly stylish, black and white, high octane, rip roaring car! Chevy is a Jack Russell's Jack Russell. This adorable pint-sized "busybody" is definitely someone's bundle of joy.

Chevy is charming right from the first glance, when he greets you with his special "greeting dance" standing on his hind legs and hopping around, wiggling his tail with delight!

Chevy certainly enjoys life to the fullest. He exercises his voice with joy and exuberance, and his quick mind makes sure he is into everything; he embraces every new challenge and will certainly show his inquisitive side frequently.

This little package is friendly, clean, knows his commands, adores his walks where he runs ahead sniffing the ground with gusto! Fun-loving Chevy will chase a thrown ball endlessly, retrieving it with agility and skill, then politely dropping it at your feet eager for the next throw. He often demonstrates stunning acrobatics as he re-catches his beloved ball in mid-flight. A sight to see!

Chevy, though high energy, has the endearing Jack Russell personality, you cannot feel unhappy while watching his joyous antics. When left alone in the tennis court exercise area, he stands at the door begging for someone to come and play—he barely clears the wooden baseboard on the door so all you see is the top of his head and his eyes, but the message is very clear: 'Here I am...let's go and go and go!'

This charming little fellow must go to an active home, and it would be a plus if the new family were familiar with the nature of the Jack Russell and realize that though petite in



Chevy is a three-year-old Jack Russell.

stature this breed has the heart and persistence of a lion!

Chevy is suitable for an adult only or young adult family who would enjoy his endearing spirit and zest for life...but definitely no cats or children.

If you want to take 'Chevy to the Levy' call the Shelter 519-833-2287 to meet him and bring your laugh with you...because you will need it!

## Make sure your new feathered friend has a clean bill of health

**TRESA ERICKSON**  
Special to The IFP

Wings a-flutter and chirps galore. You just love birds and you're ready to take the plunge and buy one for yourself. As a new bird owner, one of the first things you must do is take your bird to a veterinarian for an exam. Of course, this won't be just any old exam.

Exams for birds differ considerably from those for cats and dogs. Whatever veterinarian you choose should be familiar with birds and know what to look for. Experts recommend you find a veterinarian who is a member of the Association of Avian Veterinarians and schedule an exam within three days of purchasing your bird.

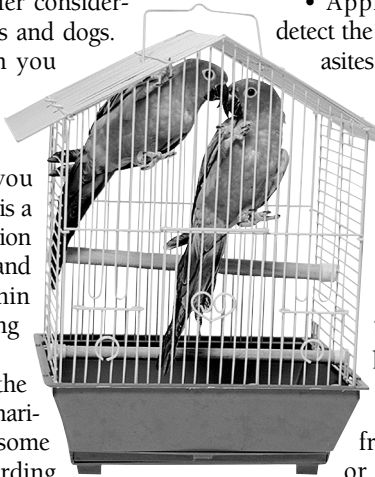
Before they conduct the actual exam, the veterinarian will probably have some questions for you regarding your bird's history. They might want to know where the bird was caged, what it was fed and more importantly, how much contact it had with other birds. Depending upon where you purchased the bird, you may or may not have answers. Just be honest and do your best.

After the veterinarian has some idea of the bird's history, they will start the exam. The veterinarian will check the body conformation, posture, attitude and character of respiration of your bird and mention any abnormalities they see in its beak, cere, ears, eyes, feathers, nares, oral cavity,

bones, muscles, abdomen, skin and vent. They will also weigh your bird and monitor its weight at every exam thereafter. The weight of adult birds should remain fairly constant. Excessive weight gain or loss could indicate a health problem.

Depending upon what they find, the veterinarian may recommend tests after the exam. Some of these include:

- Appraisal of droppings to detect the presence of internal parasites or other diseases
- Blood tests to detect the presence of blood parasites, imbalances in biochemical functions, organ dysfunction and any number of diseases
- Chlamyophila test to detect the presence of psittacosis or parrot fever
- Radiographs to detect the presence of fractures, foreign bodies or tumors, as well as the size and relationship of internal organs, and the condition of the lungs and sacs



• Tissue or fluid samples to detect the presence of abnormal bacteria or yeast growth

• Virus screening to detect certain viral conditions

Birds are so different from cats and dogs that many first-time owners don't notice when they are not feeling well. That's why it's important to schedule annual exams for your bird with a professional who is experienced in spotting the signs of aviary disease.

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