

Parrot Nest Boxes

RBC Pro Nest Box Professionals Choice



Questions& answers:

From time to time, we get emails asking us questions on many subjects about breeding, handfeeding, incubation and many other questions. We get over 50 emails each day, sometimes more, and of course we just cannot answer them all personally, we instruct them to visit our website for our articles and videos that are helpful. But we do answer some and we post them here in hopes that it might help others. So here goes.

Email from T. Bledsoe, Miami ,fl:

Hello Royal Bird Company, we have a question, what size or how big should an african grey nest box be? we purchased a male and female sometime ago, they should be 4 years or older by now and we had a person build us a wood box, but it just seems too small, its about 24 inches square and x 30 long in the boot and is 30 inches tall and the entry hole is 10 x 10, its a boot shaped box, it just seems small due to both go in the nest, how big are your boxes that you use for greys??.

ANSWER: Wow...that's a big box. waaay too big....

Well, the question should not be how big should the nest be? The question should be how small should the nest be? Most birds will nest in hollows of limbs and trees in their wild native lands.

Where would a bird find a hollow tree the size you said? 24 inches square, 30 inches long and 30 inches tall, that is close to what we use for macaws, your nest is way way too big for greys, the nest should be tight, this way the birds feel secure, if the entry hole and the nest chamber is overly large they will feel that a predator may enter, so the tighter the better, the entry hole being 10 inches square is absolutely too big, our largest hole is 5 x 5 inches for most amazons and that is kinda large for small amazons, the birds want to feel secure in that other larger birds and predators cannot enter the same hole, and the nest we use mostly is our stubby boot and the classic style boxes, the classic is the most simple, its around 12 x 12 square and 24 tall, the stubby boot is 24 tall and has a 12 x 12 inches square and the boot is 18 inches and the entry hole is 4 x 4, this box is used when we think we need a little more room than the classic with birds that both like to stay in the box, however we have many pair of amazons and greys that do fine in the classic 12 x 12 x 24 tall box and this box is plenty large enough in most cases, the biggest mistake is that people try create a nesting box the way the humans want it to be and they need to understand and to know what the birds want and use in the natural world. again think about this, where would a bird find the size of nest you are trying to use, and understand that when birds feel secure they will use the box for nesting, i feel that your birds may just see your extremely large box as a resting or sleeping area.

However birds in captivity may nest in many size and designs of nest boxes. But if you are trying to breed and that is the goal, then maybe go with something else, or not, its up to the breeder to take responsibility and understand their birds needs and what they want and or need, in diets, breeding needs, and make the changes accordingly, what works for one person may not work for you, we spend hundreds of hours each year in study of our birds, we research each species and the needs of species and each pair, make video, make notes, collaborate with others each year, we then make changes as we see fit for our collection, and each pair may need something different than the next.

A good responsible breeder should always be researching, and thinking about what their birds need and make every effort to evolve and make changes in the way you do things, change is good, and good luck to you.

thanks. Mike Richard, RBC Director.

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We own and operate one of the largest, selective and most successful breeding farms on the east coast USA. today.

We are professional responsible breeders and we continue to educate people how to properly maintain their birds.