Reviewed December 2024
found on the Arcadia website www.arcadiabird.com/guide. A bird lamp should be fitted above the cage to
reflect light downwards as a bright light hitting the side of the bird can cause eye irritation. ▪ Different toys should be added and changed regularly to entertain birds. A variety of enrichment ideas can be
found at www.northernparrots.com. It is, however, important to bear in mind that many pet shop toys can be
easily demolished, so only sturdy toys should be used. When purchasing toys or cages always make sure that
they are “zinc-free” as zinc toxicosis is increasingly seen in captive birds. Be careful as some fixings can contain
zinc, yet the toy is sold as zinc free. Household items such as keys, old paintwork, and lead weights can contain
heavy metals and be potential sources of toxicity. If planning to be out of the house for a long time, it is also a
good idea to leave a radio program on at a low volume to give the birds some stimulation. x Free flight is an essential requirement and birds should be given the opportunity for exercise daily. It is
important to ensure that the room they are allowed to fly around is totally secure with all windows, doors and
chimneys blocked off, heaters and fans turned off and any potentially poisonous house plants removed. If
started young, birds can be easily trained to perch on a finger and returned to the cage. x The cage or aviary should be cleaned out at least once a week to help prevent disease and a suitable disinfectant
used, such as F10 disinfectant.
COMPANIONS