

IS IT OKAY TO KISS MY BIRD OR LET THEM SHARE MY DINNER?

This is a common question. Many of the pet birds that come into my clinic are in the habit of kissing their owner. Most bird owners think their bird is so sweet and loving that it seems natural to want to kiss them. The biggest danger in kissing is the risk to your bird's health. While they will not catch our viruses like colds and flu, they frequently get yeast or bacterial infections from the normal yeasts and normal bacteria that are present in our saliva and on our skin and hands. These organisms are very different from those that birds would be exposed to in the wild and so they have not developed good immunity to fight them.



Likewise there are organisms that birds carry than can make people ill – the most important being *Chlamydophila psittaci* which causes the disease Psittacosis. I would recommend you teach your bird to kiss you on the cheek and never letting him eat food that may have been contacted by your saliva.

If you must kiss your parrot, just rub noses like an Eskimo, or do the “high society” kissing on the cheek technique.

Taken from www.petdirectory.com.au