

# Why I Feel GOOD about Breeding

*By Dave Covert*

I thought I would share my personal philosophy on breeding almost anything. While I have bred a number of exotics, from wallabies, to mongooses, to hedgehogs, rats/mice, and snakes, I am going to be avian specific.

I came to understand that, with the exception of man, all life on this planet has but one true desire; to get its genes into the next generation as many times as it can. That's it... that's all it really wants. To do that, it needs security from predation, healthy food, clean water, and an environment correct for survival of young (i.e., don't reproduce out of season, it is dangerous and costly). Those can be hard to come by, maybe only a few months per year, but if all 4 are obtained, Job One is possible. Let the breeding begin! After breeding, the desire is to do it again keeps them going and waiting for the next opportunity.

So that's it... breed and wait to breed again. That's all there is in an animal's dream chest. Everything is seen through the lens of 'how can I survive to breed again'?

So, a pair of birds in my (and almost certainly, your) aviary have hit the frick'n jackpot. They have a 'super being' that for some unfathomable reason has decided to grace them with the first 3 requirements in abundance. No more struggling to survive in the jungle 8 months of the year and then spending a very taxing 4 months growing and feeding a brood. Now they spend 8 months goofing off in their enriched stress-free enclosure, safe from all harm, with lots of food and water with nary a concern about making it to the next season.

They are the "trust fund babies" of the animal world. They want only one thing, and I give them the opportunity to do it as much as they want. I study aviculture to provide the 4 requirements in the best manner I can.