

# Dove

Doves are special, special creatures.

I raised my own doves BECAUSE if you are around when the very young dove is just learning to fly you can teach him EASILY that the only safe place to land is on a human being.

It takes two people standing about 1-2 foot apart. With one finger you press up on the doves breast until he stands on your finger several times and then you take him out of the cage and two people take turns letting him step up on your finger then you gingerly move your arm so he loses his balance and has to land on your friends forearm. If the bird truly is at the right age it takes about three days to get him to fly from your finger to your partners forearm. I have had birds that in all their lives landed only on human beings. Just one dove can entertain dozens of children who line up on opposite sides of an auditorium and “fly” the bird toward the other end of the Auditorium. The idea is to attract the bird to land on you...how to be your most appealing self. Usually the still quiet child wins which is a great message to him and to the loud children as well. I recommend getting started with a domestic white dove available at pet stores or from a trusted private breeder...see the internet or American Dove Society. Caring for doves is simple. I generally use several layers of newspaper for the bottom of the cage. It may not be what your pet store recommends but has worked very well for me for many years. For one pair of birds I clean the cage once every five days. They like the temperature above 65 degrees but a slightly heated garage is usually acceptable.



Once at a Salvation Army Day camp we were “flying” a dove and a ten year old came into the room just in time to see the bird landing. His eyes opened wide and he said with awe “God’s Bird”. It was the first time in his life he had seen a dove but he knew it from pictures and the real thing did not disappoint.

**Doves are the soul of gentleness.** They like it calm with no sudden movements. I always thought mine preferred a little Christian Music in the background. Even the sound the make is calming...at least to me. I have “flown” my birds out of doors because they were all “trained” to land on human beings. This is always a risk as they may escape and not be inclined to return. If this happens but their cage out of doors with some food in front of it. Children with a tendency to be rowdy might learn a little gentleness in caring for a dove.

**Scripture:** *John 1:32 (NIV) Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a **dove** and remain on him. Doves really are that gentle...so gentle that God Uses them as an example of how the Holy Spirit comes into our hearts.*