



**Pets, Pet Supplies & Grooming**

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**ANIMAL CARE SHEET**



## Parakeet

Budgies require a bigger cage than you may think. Pet shops have sold deceptively small cages all too often, cages with only a square foot of space... barely large enough for the bird to turn around, much less fly from side to side. You should buy the largest cage you can afford.

The minimum dimensions should be: 24in. X 24in. X 18in. And of course, since birds don't fly straight up and down, they prefer a wider cage. Some cages are very tall, but still only a foot in diameter, this is not enough room for a budgie. Although they can live in small cages, they can not thrive in small cages. If you can't afford at least the minimum cage, you shouldn't get a budgie.

## **Food**

Parakeets should receive a mixture of pellets, seeds, veggies (grated usually), fruits, dried fruits, and a few healthy table scraps (like pasta without the sauce and if you eat meat, leave that out on your bird's portion).

## **Water**

Water bottles are preferable to water dishes because they stay cleaner, birds can not throw debris in them and cause bacterial growth which can lead to diseases.

## **Grooming**

Your bird will preen its own feathers, but you must offer it a bird bath occasionally. If your bird does not like its bird bath at first, don't panic, keep trying. Or try a different type of bird bath.

You also will need to clip their nails occasionally. The bird will also sharpen its beak on the cement perch. You will also need a cuttlebone, to provide beak work and calcium for the bird. They also like wooden toys to chew up.

## **Life Span**

Budgies live about 7 to 12 years.

## **Size**

Budgerigars are very small parrots, at only about 7 inches from head to tail.

## **Sexing**

The cere on a male is blue, on a female it is brownish.

## **Safety**

Make sure to keep your house or the room you choose the bird to be in, safe. Do not put the bird in the kitchen or garage, because of the fumes and many dangers. If you do not choose to clip your bird's wings, make sure it cannot escape the room when it is flying free.

## **Taming & Training**

For training, you may or may not choose to clip your bird's wings. I have found it best to clip the wings while teaching your bird basic commands, but then once they are well behaved, they can be allowed to fly around the room. One very necessary command is the step-up command. You can teach your bird the step-up command by pressing a perch against its abdomen, and as it steps up, you say, "Step-up" and then give it a reward. Have it jump from perch to perch.

Finally, you can simply say "Step-up" and it will jump onto your hand. Birds are very smart and can learn many things.

## More Info

Parakeet - Wikipedia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parakeet>

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budgerigar>

- <http://animal-world.com/encyclo/birds/parakeets/parakeets.htm>

- <http://chirpykeets.webs.com/about.htm>