

Care Guide



Parakeet

(melopsittacus undulatus)

Facts:

Average adult size: **7 inches long**

Average life span: **10 to 20 years with proper care**

Diet: **Herbivore**



Parakeets, also called Budgerigars, are small members of the parrot family. They can become good mimics.

Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- High-quality, fresh, commercial bird food.
- Grit – supply in a separate bowl.
- Do not feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

Water

- Clean, fresh, chlorine-free water, changed daily.

Frequency of Food

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

Housing:

- Parakeets acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to drop below 65°F or to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.
- A habitat approximately 18"W x 18"D x 18"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart, makes a good home for one parakeet. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 4" long and 3/8" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Parakeets can be kept alone to bond with pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other.
- **Different types of birds should not be housed together.**

Habitat Maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly with a 3% bleach solution; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.

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- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.
- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Provide lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Clipping flight feathers, when done correctly, can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian specialist on what is best for your bird.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

Health

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

Normal Behavior

- Parakeets are talkers, but their little voices are sometimes hard to hear.
- Active and need daily time out of their habitats to interact with family.
- Keep in pairs if unable to devote daily interaction time.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Litter or Paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grit | <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Water Dishes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-quality Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Millet Spray | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Bath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone | <input type="checkbox"/> Play Gym |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treats | <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perches | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins |

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