

Green Cheek Conures

Pyrrhura molinae molinae

Introduction and Origin

Bolivia South America. Size: about 10 inches in length from beak to tail. Average Lifespan: 10-15 years in captivity, depending on quality of care.

The Green-cheeked Conure is a favourite of bird owners everywhere because of their sweet personalities and exquisite coloration! The Green-cheeked Conure is an intelligent, playful bird

who can be taught to say simple words and phrases! Although they can screech very loudly, they usually are one of the more quiet varieties of Conure. They need lots of sunlight, fresh

air, and time out of their cages for playing and cuddling with you! .

Their feathers are predominantly green, although the secondary and primary flight feathers are blue. A frontal band is present and it is narrow and mahogany coloured. The nape, throat, and upper breast are all greenish brown, but the nape may include some pretty blue feathers. Each feather on the Green-cheeked Conure's nape, throat, and upper breast is edged with a dull yellow-grey, giving the feathers definition and having the effect of scales typical to Conures. The ear covers, forehead and back of the head are all brown, and the abdomen is mahogany in colour. The tail underside is also mahogany, and the upper side has feathering of the same colour over a green base. This is largely hidden by the Green-cheeked Conure's tail-coverts. The under tail coverts have a blue hue to them. Green-cheeked Conures have the white skin around their periophthalmic ring that is typical to Conures, and their irises are brown. Their bills are grey, and they have a generally lovely appearance.

Getting Your Bird Home

Birds travel better in cardboard boxes or cages that provide good ventilation, but restrict visual stress. While travelling in the car, try to place the bird in a position out of direct sunlight, and away from noisy car speakers, which may cause stress.

When you arrive home ensure that your cage has been thoroughly cleaned with an avian safe disinfectant such as Avi-Safe® and before releasing the bird from the box, place everything it will require such as water, seed, toys etc into the cage. Once the cage is set up, place the bird



inside and leave him or her to acclimatise to the new surroundings.

At night cover the cage with a sheet or cage cover, to prevent drafts and reduce visual stress.

Green-cheeked Conures also love bathing, and will enjoy showering with you provided the water is not too hot! Apart from a bathing pan, Green-cheeked Conures need fresh water in their cages at all times.

Will my Green Cheek need a Feathered Friend?

Although Green Cheeks are naturally a sociable bird, a hand-raised bird will bond more closely to their human family members than their own species, so they usually don't seek the company of other birds. By keeping your bird as an only child (bird) it will remain more closely bonded to you, although if you worry it may be lonely because your away from home a lot, you can house two together, but you should try to obtain them at the same time, preferably from the same clutch or at least two birds of similar age.

Diet & Water

Green cheeks thrive on fresh fruits and vegetables, and do well in captivity when this diet is supplemented with quality South American Pellets. Be sure to offer your Green Cheek fresh greens daily with small portions of fresh fruits and vegetables such as diced apple, carrot, beans, peas, corn (Kernels or Cob), broccoli and leafy greens like spinach. This food should not be left in the cage for more than 4 hours and even less on hot days, as fresh fruit tends to spoil and this can lead to illness from the bacteria and yeasts that grow on spoilt fruit. Remember never to feed birds lettuce or avocado and to always remove the seeds from any apple. If fresh fruit

Green Cheeks

and vegetables cannot be provided daily a Vitamin supplement such as Soluvet® can be added to the birds water two or three times a week, a vitamin supplement will also help during the moult. To provide calcium and iodine requirements, cuttle bone, Calcivet, Avigrit and iodine bells can also be provided.

All birds should have a fresh supply of water, changed on a daily basis. Used glazed stoneware or terracotta bowls and position in the shade away from perches.



Health and Quarantine

Kellyville pets tries it's best to provide customers with healthy, quality hand-raised birds. To reinforce this we offer a 90day health guarantee with all hand-raised birds (See conditions on the Guarantee Certificate).

It is recommended that any new bird whether purchased from a pet shore or obtained by any other means, be quarantined for a period of no less than 30 days in a dedicated hospital/quarantine cage, which is isolated from all other pet birds. As prevention is always easier than cure, your bird should be sprayed with an insecticide such as Avian Insect Liquidator® every six weeks to kill and prevent mite and lice infestations. Worms can be fatal so treatment and prevention are a must. The use of a broad-spectrum wormer such as Worm-out Gel® will kill any worms present in the new arrival. Don't forget to repeat this worming treatment in a

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fortnight's time and routinely worm your birds every three months. If any bird appears unwell during its quarantine period, please seek veterinary advice.

(Please note that when worming Conures the medication should either be administered directly to the crop via a crop tube or if medicating the water, withhold fruit and vegetables for that day to encourage the consumption of drinking water.)

Colouration and Sexing

Green Cheeks are sexually monomorphic, meaning that both the cock and the hen appear almost identical in size, shape and colour, so sexing by visual signs cannot be determined. The only way to guarantee the sex of a Green Cheek is to have it surgically or DNA sexed by a qualified veterinarian. Even sexing birds by behaviour is not always accurate, as males will often preen and display to each other, while two hens have often be found sharing a nest and incubating infertile eggs.

Housing and Breeding

Today we are lucky to have many different sizes and styles of cages to house our birds. A cage with dimensions of 20" (W) x 20"(D) x 30"(H) will give your pet enough room to spread and exercise his/her wings without the risk of injury from hitting the wire sides. Cages that open at the top, providing a perch are ideal for hand raised birds as they offer more freedom, and interaction with their family. Always remember to cage your bird at night and when it can't be supervised, to protect him or her from accidents and injury.

Toys provide great mental stimulation for your pet, often relieving boredom, and can prevent the development of bad habits, such as feather picking, perch chewing etc. New objects such as toys, placed in the cage of older Conures can intimidate them, therefore we recommend

you make your bird accustom to new objects entering his or her cage from a young age. Young birds tend to learn faster, so by giving them a variety of toys, they will learn to play and keep themselves amused.

Further information on diet, hygiene, worming, vitamins, bird stress, licensing, Avian Vets and much more is available from the team at Kellyville Pets.

At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.

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