

# Sun Conure

*Aratinga solstitialis*

**FACT  
SHEET**

## Introduction and Origin

Endearing, charming, playful and personality plus packaged into a vibrant bundle of feathers.

The sun conure possesses a multifaceted personality that will delight the experienced bird owner and pique the curiosity of the inexperienced nonbird person. They can best be described as curious, inquisitive, active and playful. They love attention and closeness from their owners.

## A Big Bird in A Small Package

A flock of sun conures flying across an evening sky was once said to have resembled a beautiful sunset. Hence, the name sun conure was

assigned to the species. The sun conure's body colour possesses a yellow-orange glow with a distinct resemblance to gold. The brilliant blend of yellow, orange, red, blue and green colours means sun conures outshine most other birds in appearance.

Conures originate from North of the Amazon River in north-east South America. they live in tropical and subtropical grasslands and lightly timbered areas. They are becoming rare due to loss of habitat and illegal trapping for the bird trade. They will grow to about 30cm in length from beak to tail and their average lifespan is 15-20 years in captivity.

## 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, Sun Conures need fresh water in their cages at all times.



## Will my Sun Conure need a Feathered Friend?

Although Sun Conures 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

Sun Conures 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 Sun Conures 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 spoiled fruit. Remember never to feed birds lettuce or avocado and to always remove the seeds from any apple. If fresh fruit and vegetables cannot be provided daily a Vitamin supplement

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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 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

Sun Conures 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 Sun Conure 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 minimum 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.**

**Learn more  
from the team  
at Kellyville Pets**

At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.

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