

# CARING FOR YOUR BUDGIE



Essential information for your new pet

## CHECKLIST

- High Quality Feed for Budgies
- Aviary or cage with plenty of room
- Cage cover for night time
- Grit to cover housing floor
- Perch
- Water and food dishes
- Bird bath
- Bird toys to keep your budgie stimulated
- Cuttlefish or mineral treats for your budgie's beak health and shape
- Worming treatment
- Mite and lice spray
- Pet safe disinfectant for cleaning aviary
- Treats



## NEED MORE PET CARE ADVICE?

Contact your local Pets Domain store and talk to our friendly staff.

### STORE DETAILS

STORE:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

# CARING FOR YOUR BUDGIE



## BASIC INFO

Budgies are beautiful and intelligent animals which makes for a wonderful companion and live for approximately 5-10 years. There are a variety of colours of budgies, with the most common has a green body and yellow face. Budgies grow an average of 17cm (including tail).

Your budgie will love daily interaction with you. Every budgie will have their own unique personality, but common behaviours include preening themselves, stretching, using their beaks to scratch, singing, bathing themselves, grinding their beaks, and being playful and curious.

## FEEDING YOUR BUDGIE

It is vital that your budgie gets the required nutrition for growth, health, and adult development. Choose a good quality bird seed or pellets to provide all the nutrients and vitamins required for healthy development, and assists in the prevention of disease. Feeding the right food throughout your budgie's life will assist in fighting various health problems.

Provide cuttlefish or mineral stones at all times for your budgie as it's a great source of calcium and helps with your budgie's beak health and shape.

Grit is essential in your budgies diet to help breakdown seeds in it's gut, and help with egg shell formation when breeding.

Avoid feeding your budgie avocados, fruit seeds, rhubarb, chocolate, onions, raw or dried beans, eggplants, cherries, beetroot, cabbage, and oxalis.

Always keep fresh water available for your budgie and change daily.

## AVIARIES & PERCHES

Budgies are usually housed in aviaries or cages, however, aviaries are the preferred housing option as they provide a lot more room for you budgie to exercise. When choosing a cage, try and choose the biggest cage you can allow space for, and enough room for your budgie to stretch it's wings. Your budgie shouldn't be able to fit it's head through the bars, and the cage should be strong enough so your bird won't be able to bend or chew through the bars.

Make sure the aviary or cage is placed in a well ventilated area and away from any drafts and direct sunlight.

Cover the flooring of your budgie's aviary with grit and clean the aviary at least once a week, including emptying and replacing the grit.

Most cages and aviaries come with a perch, but usually the perches are smooth so it's good to add a perch that is fairly rough to help nails from over growing and lesions forming on the skin. Perch covers and mineral perches are available from our stores.

## TOYS & EXERCISE

It is important to provide your budgie with toys and puzzles within their housing. As budgies are very intelligent animals, they need stimulation to keep them from boredom. For tame budgies, it is vital to let your budgie out of the enclosure to help maintain fitness and keep your budgie from becoming overweight.

## HANDLING

As budgies can get stressed quite easily, it is ideal for your budgie to get used to you over several days. Don't try and grab your budgie straight away, instead put your hand in the aviary or cage with some food, and eventually your budgie will step on your finger.

## HEALTH

Budgies that live in aviaries should be wormed every three months, and indoor budgies need to be wormed at least twice a year.

To prevent mites and lice, treat your budgie every 6 weeks with a mite and lice spray. Spray your budgie according to the instructions on the bottle, and on the cage and toys. Be sure to remove any food and water prior to treatment.

Vet visits may be required when your budgie is looking ill. Keep a close eye on your budgie for any of the following symptoms: not eating, puffed up feathers, sleeping excessively, throwing up, abnormal droppings, sitting low or at the bottom of the aviary/cage, and discharge from nostrils, eyes or beak.

Common illnesses and diseases associated with budgies include:

- Malignant Tumors, Lymphomas, and Fatty Tumors. These may be cause from seed only diets, and can be benign or cancerous.
- Scaly Face, which are little organisms that can live on your budgie and weaken the budgie's health.
- Goiter is from a lack of iodine, and causes the thyroid gland to enlarge.
- Megabacteria is a large organism which causes a budgie to lose it's strength, energy and appetite very quickly.