

CARING FOR YOUR SMALL PARROT



Essential information for your new pet

CHECKLIST

- High Quality Feed for Small Parrots
- 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 small parrot stimulated
- Cuttlefish or mineral treats for your bird's beak health and shape
- Worming treatment
- Mite and lice spray
- Pet safe disinfectant for cleaning housing
- Treats



NEED MORE PET CARE ADVICE?

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

STORE DETAILS

STORE:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

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BASIC INFO

Small Parrots are beautiful and intelligent animals which can make for a wonderful companion and live a long life, with Cockatiels to 15 years on average. Common breeds of small parrots include cockatiels and lovebirds.

Your small parrot will enjoy interacting with you every day. Some will sing, and others may be more quiet. They're pleasurable to view and are quite charming.

FEEDING YOUR SMALL PARROT

It is vital that your small parrot 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 small parrot's life will assist in fighting various health problems.

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

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

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

Always keep fresh water available for your small parrot and change daily.

AVIARIES & PERCHES

Small parrots are usually housed in aviaries or cages, however, aviaries are the preferred housing option as they provide a lot more room for your small parrot to exercise. When choosing a cage, try and choose the biggest cage you can allow space for, and enough room for your small parrot to stretch its wings and fly. Your small parrot shouldn't be able to fit its 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.

Place the housing option off the ground in a well ventilated area, and away from any drafts and direct sunlight.

Cover the flooring of your small parrot'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

Include toys and ladders within the cage or aviary to help stimulate your small parrot. You can rotate the toys and ladders around every fortnight to make things more interesting and different. If your small parrot is tame and you trust it outside of the cage, let it out of the cage for a little while. Never leave your small parrot unsupervised outside of the cage.

HEALTH

Small parrots that live in aviaries should be wormed every three months, and inside small parrots need to be wormed at least twice a year.

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

A healthy small parrot will have smooth, well groomed feathers, eat and drink regularly, be active, beak and feet look normal, bright, dry eyes, and dry nares.

Vet visits may be required when your small parrot is looking ill. Keep a close eye on your small parrot 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 small parrots include:

- Malignant Tumors, Lymphomas, and Fatty Tumors. These may be caused from seed only diets, and can be benign or cancerous.
- Goiter is from a lack of iodine, and causes the thyroid gland to enlarge.
- Megabacteria is a large organism which causes a bird to lose its strength, energy and appetite.