

Precautions in the home

- Dogs & cats attack and bite
- Hot stove, pots, and hot food burn
- Ceiling fans can break legs and wings
- Slamming doors can kill a loose budgie
- Birds can drown in open toilets
- Electrical wires can kill if they are chewed
- Strong chemical smells can kill or damage tiny lungs
- Some paints, plastics, treated wood and natural plants contain toxins: be careful what he chews. Watch space sizes in toys like ladders: if their head fits they could get stuck!
- Budgies quickly chew through window screens: escaped budgies do not survive in the wild.



Visit your local feed supply/pet store for care advice plus medical, home and nutritional needs: caging, feed, toys & accessories, medications & supplements.

Fun facts

Budgies are native to Australia

They usually mate for life and show affection by preening and feeding one another.

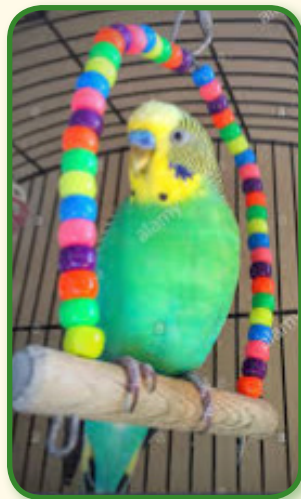
A female budgie's cere (nose area) becomes crusty and brown when she's ready to lay eggs.

A male's cere is blue.

They nest inside trees, logs and posts.

They enjoy mid-day naps that last up to 45 minutes.

Budgies see colours in the UV spectrum, which they take full advantage of when mating and foraging.



There is so much more information about your companion bird online. Google 'Happy Budgie Pictures' and get inspired!



Bird
Sanctuary &
Rehabilitation Centre

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BELIZE BIRD RESCUE

*Looking after your
Australian Parakeet
("budgie")*

Congratulations on your pet bird!



Budgies, also known as Australian Parakeets are one of the most common pet birds in the world. Give them special care and attention and treat them as a member of your family and they will be your rewarding companion for many years.

Want a Parrot? Get a Parakeet!

It is illegal to own a wild Belizean parrot, so we strongly recommend the 'budgie' or Australian Parakeet as a rewarding pet bird.

Parakeets are members of the parrot family. They make wonderful companions, are extremely intelligent, they talk and can learn tricks. Check out *Disco the Parakeet* on YouTube for inspiration! They are flock birds and chatter to each other all day. Multiple females without males may fight. Males are the best talkers

Diet

Parakeet and grass seeds. Vegetables including carrots, cucumber, pumpkin, zucchinis, cauliflower and lettuce. Green herbs like basil, broad leaf thyme (Cuban Oregano) parsley, cilantro. Grains like couscous, oats, wholegrain pastas, brown rice. Fresh nuts, cooked beans, sunflower seeds, sesame seeds and roast almonds.

NEVER give avocado, cabbage, citrus, potato, onion, chocolate, garlic, dairy, salt or sugar.

Enclosure

Budgies are active and love to fly: the bigger the cage, the happier the budgie. Use half-inch mesh or smaller for home-made cages.



Add natural branches and rope perches, and cuttlebone and wood to chew on to keep their beak trim.

Toys such as mirrors and swings. No metal objects or wires and no rusty spots as this poisons the bird. They love toys they can climb and chew on!



Clean the cage regularly and make sure there is always fresh water to drink and bathe in, plus food and a mineral block.

Tricks and Training

Hand Taming: rest your hand close by to get him used to you. Don't grab him. Gradually move your hand closer until he is comfortable.

Step-up: place your finger at the base of his chest and offer a treat with your other hand. When he jumps on your finger give him the treat. Eventually he will just step up every time.



Whistling: start repeating two or three simple whistles in a row. Eventually he will copy and progress to more difficult tunes.

Talking: Start with a simple phrase like "pretty boy" and repeat it as often as possible. Eventually he may start to repeat it.

Use treats to reward good behaviour. They love millet spray.

Health

Visit your vet or seek professional advice when:

- 🌿 The colour or texture of his normal poop changes or is sticking to his feathers.
- 🌿 He's puffed up for minutes at a time with both feet down, or loses balance or is trembling or breathing heavily.
- 🌿 He stops eating, or becomes really thirsty.
- 🌿 He's always sleeping, or his eyes are half-closed or shut most of the time.
- 🌿 He has runny eyes or nose, or swelling/infection especially in the feet, eyes and throat.
- 🌿 He limps or doesn't use one foot. Feet infections from poor perching can kill your bird.
- 🌿 His breast (or keel) bone sticks out and feels sharp, or if you can't feel his keel because of fat.
- 🌿 He is losing weight.
- 🌿 There's excessive scratching, plucking or bald patches.
- 🌿 He has a scaly deposit on his face or legs.
- 🌿 You think there is an egg stuck inside a female (legs splayed, difficulty breathing/pooping, fluffed and sleepy, swollen abdomen).

Vitamin deficiencies cause multiple issues. Your local feed supply or pet store should carry a vitamin supplement to add to the water.