

INFORMATION

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Short Guide to Keeping **BUDGERIGARS**

Originating from Australia, the budgerigar is the most widely kept companion bird in the world. Budgies are easy to tame and will quickly mimic human speech. Their average life span is seven to eight years.

FEEDING:-

Budgies need minerals and greens in constant supply as a supplement to the staple food; Do not use lettuce. Always wash the greens before feeding. Carrots and apples are a good treat. Use iodine blocks regularly. Make sure there is a regular supply of grit as this aids digestion in the gizzard. Cuttlefish bones are a good supply of calcium which may be deficient in the diet.

CLEANLINESS:-

Sand sheets are best used and should be replaced approximately twice a week. Sheets should be scraped of droppings daily.

Perches should not be positioned over food/water bowls. Natural branches used as perches will help prevent pressure sores on the feet due to the different sizes of grip. The cage as a whole should be disinfected thoroughly and fairly regularly (once a week) to avoid mites etc.

TAMING:-

The more time you spend with your budgie, the more tame it will become. Start by introducing your hand into the cage parallel with the perch and nudging the birds feet until it feels confident enough to perch on your fingers (with a young bird, this shouldn't take too long). When totally used to this, the bird can be let out of the cage, though it may be wise to clip the wings first. Books or your veterinarian should be consulted about this. * Toys should be introduced into the cage to prevent boredom and feather plucking.

TALKING:-

Simply repeat one simple phrase every time you see the bird and soon enough it will mimic you. The more you do this, the faster its vocabulary will grow.



HANDLING:-

The head should lie between the 1st and 2nd fingers of the left hand, with the back and wings restrained in the palm of the hand. **DO NOT GRIP THE NECK TIGHTLY!** The bird, if held correctly, should not be able to bite.

SEXING:-

The sex is determined by the colour of the cere (just above the beak).

Adult Hens = Brown

Adult Cocks = Bluish

Young Cocks = Usually darker and more purplish than females.

AGE:-

The barring on the head extends to the cere on juveniles, but is clear in adults.

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