

BUDGIES

Life span: 8-12 years.

Age Sold: Between 6 to 12 weeks when completely weaned.

Sexing: The sex of a baby budgie cannot always be guaranteed as their cere (flesh above their beak) often doesn't change colour until 3 months. Some babies will present as Blue (cock birds) or Brown (hen birds), however with the variety of colours, they are often a pale lilac/blue that can change colour as they mature. Lutino, Albino and some light colours often don't change colour even as adults, making it difficult to sex them.

Single or pairs: Budgies are a social bird and happy in pairs or more, therefore we do suggest to buy a pair if they are not for taming. However if you do want to tame and bond with the bird, it may be best to buy one and give it lots of attention. We clip their wings to make taming easier and when their flight wings grow back you can take to the vet or bring to us for clipping. Alternatively leave flight feathers and let the budgie have time out to fly around the house. Always close blinds or curtains to cover windows otherwise they can fly into the glass.

Taming/talking: To hand tame a pet Budgie takes time and patience. If your new Budgie was not purchased already tamed and it is a young bird, you can hand tame it yourself. Initially all you should do is position your chair right next to his cage during the evening, until your regular presence and voice has created a confidence in him. The next step in taming is to place your hand inside the cage talking quietly all the time, until he becomes accustomed to your presence and ceases to fly around the cage. Eventually he will walk across your palm, and will even perch on your finger. As baby budgies are sold with their wings clipped, it won't be long before you can take him out on your finger. "Tunnelling" (allowing the bird to climb up through your half closed fist) is another way to get your bird comfortable with your hands and feel safe. Both male and females can learn to talk with regular attention and simple words used repeatedly.

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| Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The larger the cage the better, with small spacing between bars. - We suggest for 1 budgie a cage no smaller than 14x18". - Open top cage great for tamed budgies to have time out of the cage. - For 2 budgies our 18x18" cage or flight cage recommended or the Large Parrot/Ferret cage is suitable for more than 2 birds. | |
| Food | Budgie seed | If feeding a seed only diet it can result in malnutrition, therefore fruit and vegetables, millet spray & certain grasses should also be given, along with either a tonic bell or Vetafarm Soluvet vitamins to add to water or on soaked seeds or veges. |
| | Pellet diet | We recommend Vetafarm Nutriblend mini or Vetafarm Budgie Crumbles as they are a completely balanced diet. Start by mixing with seeds to make transition easier – can be made into a moist paste, then eventually give the pellet on its own. |
| | Cuttlebone and calcium/tonic bells | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - important source of calcium which seed lacks - source of trace vitamins and minerals |

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| | Treats – Seed bells Aristopet budgie talking treat, Budgie delight | High levels of essential vitamins and minerals. Suggested to give a few times a week as a treat – but not for everyday as can be fattening |
| | Mineral bells | Iodine activates the metabolism |
| | Shell grit and grit buttons | Shell grit provides the budgie with a source of digestive stones and contains calcium – however should not be given wet because the moisture in the grit promotes harmful bacterial growth and causes contamination |
| | <p>Do not feed avocado, fruit seeds and pits, uncooked beans, chocolate, mushrooms, tomato leaves and stems, rhubarb, dairy, garlic, onion, caffeine, alcohol.</p> <p>Do not keep birds in the kitchen if cookware has Teflon or non-stick coating – when over-heated it can release toxic fumes which kill birds very quickly.</p> | |
| Cage liners | Shell grit and grit sheets | Can be another source of calcium however should be cleaned out regularly to prevent illness |
| | Sand sheets | Convenient, removes sharp claws |
| | Oz pet litter or Carefresh litter | Great odor control and longer lasting than sand sheets and grit. Non toxic or harmful if ingested. |
| Set up essentials | Mite and lice spray | Vetfarm Avian Insect Liquidator or Aristopet Bird Mite spray. Use as a regular maintenance procedure every month as a prevention for mites and lice – or spray if any signs of excessive itching. Mites and lice cause intense irritation, preventing the birds from the rest they require to remain healthy. Can result in feather loss and serious illness. |
| | Wormer | Vetfarm Wormout Gel or Worm-enda Plus. Worms cause occasional diarrhea and excessive emaciation. Birds should be wormed every 3 months by adding to their water for 3 days in a row. |
| | Cage cleaner | Stops the spread of disease and reduces the chances of re-infection if the bird does become ill. |

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| Perches | Different perch diameters within the cage are a good idea to vary the birds grip. Cages come with standard wooden perches and we suggest adding a cement or calcium perch to keep nails trimmed. Rope perches are handy to configure in different ways and are a soft perch for budgie's comfort. | |
| Toys & Accessories | Plastic, Wooden or Wicker Toys | Colourful fun toys with bells – budgies love to play and interact and it keeps them occupied and stops boredom. Some wooden or wicker toys give more mental stimulation and a challenge as are safe for budgies to chew on and can eventually destroy. It is suggested to have a few choices and rotate toys every couple of weeks to renew interest. |
| | Mirrors | Suggest not putting in straight away if taming the budgie. Once tamed, they can be added to reduce boredom as the budgie can chatter to its 'mate'. |
| | Swings | Great exercise – increases the birds balance and reduces boredom. They often 'roost' at night on a swing. |
| | Ladders | Fun to climb and play with. |
| | Happy hut | Some budgies will use – some not. They like for a quiet sheltered spot in summer and particularly in winter to protect from the cold |
| | Bird Bath | Your budgie will love a shallow bird bath and it also helps prevent feather disorders, resulting from dry feathers. |
| | Bird Gym | A great interactive play gym to give the budgie time out of the cage in a safe environment. Also our Wooden stands are a nice natural look with seed and water cup holders. |
| | Cage tidies and covers. | Cage tidies are available for all cage sizes to help contain seeds and pellets to the bottom of the cage. Depending where you position your cage, it is advisable to cover at night to protect from chills and give 'quiet time' to your bird. |