



# *Paws, Claws & Wings*

*Physical and Behavioral Rehabilitation for Animals*



## Budgies

### Vital statistics:

Origin: Australia  
Size: 17 to 20 cm  
Longevity: 10 to 15 years  
Weight: 30g



### General:

Budgies are small seed eating parakeets with long tails. Budgies make great pets as they are relatively 'low maintenance' and can be very gentle and docile. Their ability to speak and mimic also makes them very popular. As with most birds, males do learn to talk, whistle and mimic better than females. If budgies are kept in pairs they do not get bored as easily but as they will form a pair bond with each other, they will not bond as closely with the owner. It is fine to keep a budgie singly but the bird must have interaction and time outside the cage with the owner at least once a day. Budgies are active and playful birds and need to be stimulated mentally and physically. They are quieter than larger birds but still can be quite noisy. Budgies are sexually dimorphic; the males have blue ceres while the females have light brown to tan ceres. Due to the different colour variations now bred, this is not easy to see in some colours. Budgies can cause a pneumonia caused by hypersensitivity in some people, this is quite a rare occurrence though.

### Diet:

Half of a budgies diet should be a high quality pelleted food with the other 50% consisting of fruit, vegetables and seed. Fruit and vegetables can include: apples, corn, beetroot, cauliflower, broccoli, brussel sprouts, apricots, carrots, pears, peaches,

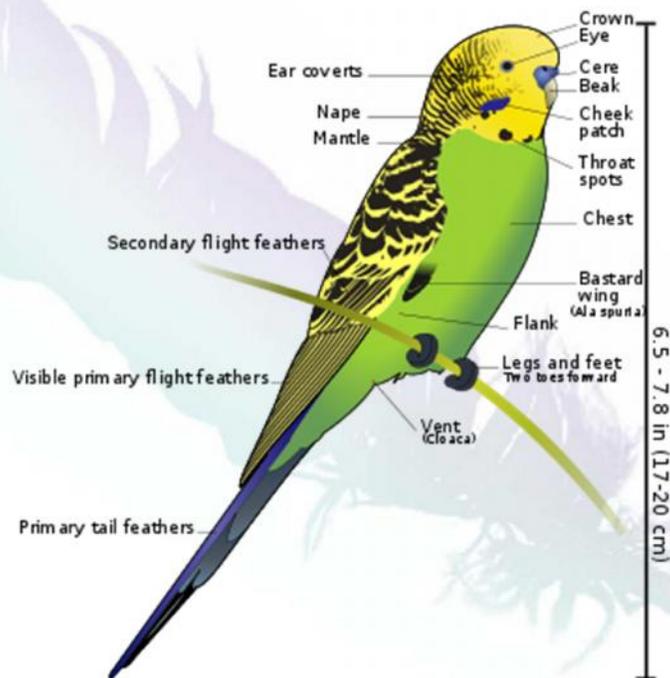
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oranges. Never feed: lettuce, avocado, rhubarb, choc, alcohol or caffeine. Millet sprays can be given as a treat but not as a part of the diet.

## Housing:

Get the largest habitat that you can. Absolute minimum 45cm wide by 45cm deep by 60cm high for 1 budgie. The cage bars must be no wider than 1cm apart. Perches should have different textures, widths and lengths to stop arthritis, exercise the feet and keep the nails trimmed, this is easily accomplished by using natural non-toxic branches and twigs (these will also be chewed and played with). Ensure the cage is in an area where there is shelter from draughts and direct sunlight. Keep your cage near the family so the bird can see and hear what is going on. Toys are essential for budgies and as they have a natural need to chew wood toys, cuttlefish, paper and mineral blocks can be used to fulfill this urge and also ensure that the beak is kept trimmed.



## Care:

Paint fumes, fumes from non-stick cookware and any pesticides can be deadly to a budgie so ensure that the bird is kept away from these. When the budgie is out of its cage, ensure that the area is safe (no electrical cords, toxins, other pets ect.)

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## Colouration:

Standard budgies are green with black bars but they have now been bred to produce a variety of colours (blue, turquoise, violet, white, yellow, grey, pied and other combinations).

Some of the rarer variants are being bred with cockatiel-like crests. Juveniles have bars across their foreheads that disappear as the bird ages and dark irises that gradually lighten to grey.

## Show / English Budgies:

The show budgies are twice as large as the standard budgie, and have puffier head feathers (sometimes covering the eyes and beak). These budgies usually only have a lifespan of 7 - 9 years and are more prone to illness. Most pet budgies are similar to wild budgies.



Sr. Emmylou Rivers