

## General Care

Bathe your parakeet twice a week by misting him down using a spray bottle of lukewarm water. Always be sure to keep your bird out of drafts, especially while drying. You can also provide a bird bath for your parakeet.

To begin training your parakeet, work with him to accept your finger as a perch. Have him step from one hand to the next. To keep your parakeet from flying away from you, some experts recommend trimming some of the primary feathers on each wing. Ask your pet store or veterinarian to show you how. These feathers will grow back after molting. After your parakeet has been trained, full flight will better allow him to interact with you.

The cage should be spot cleaned as needed, with thorough cleaning and rinsing on a weekly schedule.

\*NOTE: Wing trimming is not advised if there is even a slight possibility that another household pet (dog or cat) will come in contact with him.

*This information is designed as a basic guide. There are several books and online resources available which provide in-depth information on parakeets and their care.*

## Enjoy Your New Pet!

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# Caring for Your Parakeet



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## About Parakeets

Originally from the Australian grasslands, parakeets have been domestically raised for the past 100 years. Originally green with black striations and a yellow face, parakeets are now available in a multitude of color varieties including yellow, blue, violet, and albino.

Their ease of care, affection towards people, cute comical antics, and ability to talk have made parakeets one of the most pleasurable pets for all ages. Their average life span is 6-10 years.

## Preparing Your Parakeet's Home

When choosing a cage for your parakeet, allow enough room for him to spread his wings and move about. The cage should be at least 15" in width, but the wider the better. Parakeets like to fly horizontally, so you want to make sure you are providing enough room for them to enjoy their new home.

The spacing between the bars of the cage should be no wider than ½". You don't want the bars to be wide enough to allow the bird to squeeze his head through. A pull-out tray at the bottom of the cage will make weekly cleaning easier.

Remember that the cage is your bird's home and security blanket. It should have sufficient space for climbing and flapping wings, as well as room for toys, mirrors, swings, bells, chews, hanging treats,

fruits, vegetables, and an assortment of perches and branches.

Parakeets are very social, therefore locate their cage in a room with plenty of family activity. Avoid placing the cage near the air conditioning or heating vent, in direct sunlight, or near a stove.

The cage bottom can either be covered with a special cage bottom absorbent paper or one of the commercially available litters.

## What Else Do I Need?

There are many toys and exercise accessories available that will provide hours of enjoyment. Rotate the toys so your parakeet always has fresh and interesting experiences.

Another useful accessory is a "T" perch or bird playpen. These are helpful for training and playing with your parakeet. We do not recommend a mirror until your bird is already trained and affectionate.

A cage cover is helpful when you put your bird to "bed" at night, and a cage stand will help protect your parakeet from the other pets in your home.

In addition, purchase the proper tools for nail trimming.

## Diet

Your parakeet needs fresh food and water daily. The staple diet should be a commercially prepared pelleted food for parakeets, in addition to a parakeet seed mixture. This mixture contains several seeds that are essential for basic nourishment. You should supplement your parakeet's staple diet with specialty foods such as spray millet, treats, and conditioners.

In addition, your parakeet will benefit and enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables such as carrot, apple, pear, green beans, leafy dandelion, and romaine lettuce. This varied diet will also provide him with the nutrition and amino acids his high metabolism requires.

Parakeets also need a vitamin and mineral supplement on a daily basis. A mineral cube and cuttlebone hung in the cage will give your bird access to calcium and other essential minerals. In order to keep your bird's continuously growing beak in proper alignment, hang a beak conditioner in the cage.

All food dishes, cups, and feeding devices should be thoroughly cleaned and rinsed as they are refilled.