



# BUDGIE CARE GUIDE

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# BUDGIES ARE INTERACTIVE BIRDS & EASY TO LOOK AFTER

**"Budgies have the ability to memorize hundreds of words & can live up to 10 years"**

## HOUSING

Budgies require an adequate size cage. Cage size will be determined by the number of budgies you wish to keep.

The cage or aviary should be large enough so they can spread their wings, a rectangular cage is the best shape for this.

To ensure you keep a clean and well kept cage, you will need to place newspaper at the bottom of the cage, this will catch the birds droppings, and allow you to change the paper regularly.

The cage should also include a water and food bowl. Budgies also love to bath themselves, so you can add a bowl of water to the bottom of the cage to allow them to do this.

Budgies are inquisitive by nature and require a variety of toys to play with as well as a number of perches and swings. This will assist to fend off boredom,

## FEEDING

Budgies eat a budgie seed mix or pellets. Pellets contain all the essential nutrients and vitamins they require. In addition you can add some variety to their diet by adding leafy greens a few times a week.

They also enjoy small amounts of fruit, once a week, and the addition of cuttlefish will not only boost their calcium levels but it is also great for their beak.

## HEALTHCARE

Health in budgies is about prevention. They can be prone to contracting parasites i.e. lice/mites or worms, and they can have respiratory and digestion problems.

Respiratory problems can normally be avoided by providing them a good quality diet and ensuring their cage/aviary is clean.

If you think your bird has parasites, come and see one of the friendly Happy Pet Place staff for guidance on what product to use.

Budgies also require iodine and calcium in their diet, this can be supplemented by providing them with calcium & iodine supplements.

## TALKING BUDGIES

Budgies have the ability to say hundreds of words. Both male and female budgies can talk.

Generally wait until your budgie is 3 - 4 months old before you begin. You will need to be patient, as it will take time. Ensure you provide your budgie with lots of positive affirmation for their concentration and when they start speaking.





## HOW DO YOU SEX A BUDGIE?

Budgies can be sexed at 4 months of age. before this time, it can be more difficult to tell.

Sexing a budgie can be determined by the colour of their 'cere'. This is the area above their beak.

As a general rule, young males will have a cere which is more pink/purple in colour, and as they mature (around 4 months) the cere will turn a dark blue.

A young female cere will be blueish/white with defined white rings around the nostrils. As the female matures (around 4 months) the cere will slowly turn a brown colour.

The photo above demonstrates the colour of the cere in adult budgies. Whilst the photo on the front of this care guide shows you the cere of a young male budgie (Note: young budgies also have dark lines that run from the top of their head to their cere. These lines disappear as they mature.

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR BUDGIE SET UP

