

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- habitat cover
- book about button quails
- high quality, fortified seed mix for button quails
- millet spray
- cuttlebone
- cuttlebone/millet holder
- treats
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of toys
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on button quails.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all button quail are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your button quail and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a button quail and should consider not having a button quail as a pet. For more information regarding button quails and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# button quail

*coturnix chinensis*



## care sheet

**Also known as Chinese painted quail, button quail are the smallest of the quails. Like all quail, they are ground dwellers, with feet unable to perch on sticks or branches.**

### button quail facts:

- average adult size: up to 4 inches long, head to end of tail
- average life span: 4+ years with proper care
- diet: omnivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

### diet

A well-balanced button quail diet consists of:

- High-quality, fresh, game bird diet or equivalent should make up 60-70% of diet, fresh vegetables and fruits; grit should also be offered in a shallow bowl large enough for the bird to sit in.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your button quail:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Ensure water and food containers are placed one to two inches above the

habitat floor to prevent contamination by bedding or feces.

- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

### housing

- Button quails acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.
- The habitat should be rectangular and at least 8 cubic feet, with solid flooring. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible. A flight habitat is strongly recommended
- Provide several hiding places.
- Habitat top should be fabric or soft material to prevent injury when the button quail jumps.
- Female button quails may be kept together with a single male; do not house males together. Different types of birds should **not**

be housed together.

- Button quails should be socialized daily by the pet parent or kept in pairs to bond with each other.

### normal behavior

- A male button quail kept without females may crow constantly.
- Male button quail are territorial and generally should not be kept together.
- Communicate with a variety of relatively quiet sounds, including crowing, clicking, and chirps.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace dishes and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with

lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.

- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Provide a shallow bowl large enough for the bird to sit in, add chinchilla dust or a similar product for dust bathing.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure correct diet.
lice or feather mites	restlessness, scratching, feather picking.	consult with an avian veterinarian and clean habitat.
avian pox	lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.	isolate bird and consult an avian veterinarian.

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized flight habitat
- habitat cover
- book about canaries
- high quality canary food
- millet spray
- cuttlebone
- cuttlebone/millet holder
- treats
- grit
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- bird bath
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on canaries.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all canaries are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your canary and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a canary and should consider not having a canary as a pet. For more information regarding canaries and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# canary

*serinus canarius domesticus*



## care sheet

**Canaries are well known for their beauty and varied colors. Male canaries are loved for their sweet singing. Canaries do well when kept singly or in pairs. Includes yellow canaries and red-factor canaries.**

### canary facts:

- average adult size: 3-4 inches long, head to end of tail
- average life span: 10+ years with proper care
- diet: omnivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

### diet

A well-balanced canary diet consists of:

- Specialized pellets should make up 60-70% of diet; red-factor canaries need specialized food to maintain color, fresh vegetables and fruit and moderate amounts of fortified seeds
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your canary:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

### housing

- Canaries acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.
- A flight habitat approximately 18"W x 14"D x 18"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for one canary. A flight habitat is strongly recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 3" long and 1/4"- 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning, to avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Canaries can be kept with at least one other canary, preferably more; do not

house male canaries together. Different types of birds should **not** be housed together.

- Canaries should be socialized daily by the pet parent or kept in pairs to bond with each other.

### normal behavior

- Male canaries are known for their singing; females chirp rather than sing.
- They need room to fly in their habitat.
- A male canary kept in a habitat with mirrors may not sing.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with

lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.

- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

**If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.**

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure correct diet.
lice or feather mites	restlessness, scratching, feather picking.	consult with an avian veterinarian and clean habitat.
mites(scaly face and leg disease)	white deposits on eyes, beak, legs, and feet.	consult with an avian veterinarian.
avian pox	lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.	isolate bird and consult an avian veterinarian.

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- habitat cover
- book about cockatiels
- high quality cockatiel food
- millet spray
- cuttlebone
- cuttlebone/millet holder
- treats
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- bird bath
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements
- play gym

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on cockatiels.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all cockatiels are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your cockatiel and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a cockatiel and should consider not having a cockatiel as a pet. For more information regarding cockatiels and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

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# cockatiel

*nymphicus hollandicus*



## care sheet

**Cockatiels are small, crested members of the parrot family. They are known for their mellow nature. Gray is the most common color, but also available in fancy, lutino, and pied color variations.**

### cockatiel facts:

- average adult size: 11-14 inches long, head to end of tail
- average life span: up to 25 years with proper care
- diet: herbivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

### diet

A well-balanced cockatiel diet consists of:

- Specialized pellets should make up 60-70% of diet, fresh vegetables and fruits and small amounts of fortified seeds.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your cockatiel:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food.

### housing

- Cockatiels acclimate well

to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

- A habitat approximately 18"W x 18"D x 24"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart, makes a good home for one cockatiel. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible; a flight habitat is strongly recommended.
- Perches should be at least 5" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Cockatiels can be kept alone to bond with pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other. Different types of birds should **not** be housed together.

- Birds should be socialized daily by the pet parent.

### normal behavior

- Cockatiels are known for mimicking repetitive sounds and noises.
- Bond easily with their human companions.
- Parent-raised cockatiels will require some time to acclimate to human handling.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner twice weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.

- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Clipping flight feathers is not necessary, but when done correctly it can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian veterinarian on what is best for your bird.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
chlamydia	appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.	seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
conjunctivitis	red eyes, tearing; closed, puffy eyes.	consult with an avian veterinarian and wipe eyes with warm water.
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure proper diet.

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*



## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- habitat cover
- book about doves
- high quality dove food
- millet spray
- grit
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- mister spray bottle
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on doves.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all doves are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your dove and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a dove and should consider not having a dove as a pet. For more information regarding doves and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

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# dove

*geopelia spp and streptopelia spp*



## care sheet

**Small, graceful birds of the pigeon family. They are gentle and affectionate birds known to make a soothing cooing sound.**

### dove facts:

- average adult size: 7 1/2 to 12 inches long, head to end of tail
- average life span: 10 to 25 years with proper care, depending on species
- diet: herbivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

## diet

A well-balanced dove diet consists of:

- High quality, fortified seed mix for doves should make up 60-70% of diet and fresh vegetables and fruits.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

## feeding

Things to remember when feeding your dove:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food.

## housing

- Doves acclimate well

to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

- A habitat approximately 24"W x 24"D x 24"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for one dove; a flight habitat is strongly recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 4" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Doves can be kept alone or in small groups, but different types of birds should **not** be housed

together.

## normal behavior

- Doves make a cooing sound
- Calm nature has made them a universal symbol of peace.
- Enjoy stretching, preening, sunbathing, and require daily attention from people.
- Ensure a dark area for your dove's night sleep.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

## habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious

medical issues if ingested by your bird.

- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

## grooming & hygiene

- Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

## signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

## red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*

## common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure correct diet.
pneumonia	difficulty breathing; caused by bacterial, viral or fungal infection.	consult with an avian veterinarian.
trichomiasis	masses in mouth and throat area, decreased appetite, loose droppings and shortness of breath.	consult with an avian veterinarian.



## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- habitat cover
- book about finches
- high quality finch food
- millet spray
- treats
- grit
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- bird bath
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on finches.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all finches are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your finch and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a finch and should consider not having a finch as a pet. For more information regarding finches and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# finch

*includes gouldian, orange weaver, society, spice and zebra finches*



## care sheet

**Finches are small, gentle birds that come in a dazzling variety of colors. Finches should always be housed with at least one other finch, preferably more.**

### finch facts:

- average adult size: 3-8 inches long, head to end of tail, depending on species
- average life span: 5-10+ years with proper care, depending on species.
- diet: herbivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

*Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.*

### diet

A well-balanced finch diet consists of:

- Specialized pellets should make up 60-70% of diet, fresh vegetables and fruits and small amounts of fortified seeds.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your finch:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food.

### housing

- Finches acclimate well

to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

- A rectangular flight habitat, approximately 24"W x 14"D x 18"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for up to 3 finches. A flight habitat is strongly recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 3" long and 1/4-1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Finches can be kept with at least one other

finch, preferably more. Depending on species, some finches can be housed with other types of finches. Different types of birds should **not** be housed together.

- Birds should be socialized daily by the pet parent.

### normal behavior

- Finches need the company of other finches to thrive.
- Most finch species make frequent, pleasant chirping.
- Finches need room to fly in their habitat.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with

lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.

- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure correct diet.
lice or feather mites	restlessness, scratching, feather picking.	consult with an avian veterinarian and clean habitat.
mites (scaly face and leg disease)	white deposits on eyes, beak, legs, and feet.	consult with an avian veterinarian.
avian pox	lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.	isolate bird and consult an avian veterinarian.

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately size habitat
- habitat cover
- book about lovebirds
- high quality lovebird food
- millet spray
- cuttlebone
- cuttlebone/millet holder
- treats
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- bird bath
- mister spray bottle
- grooming supplies
- vitamins
- play gym

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on lovebirds.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all lovebirds are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your lovebird and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a lovebird and should consider not having a lovebird as a pet. For more information regarding lovebirds and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# lovebird

*agapornis spp*



## care sheet

Lovebirds are curious, energetic and charming birds originating from Africa. Keeping a lovebird socialized requires a serious commitment to daily interaction. It is highly recommended to keep lovebirds in pairs. Includes eye ring, fischer's, black masked and peachface lovebirds.

### lovebird facts:

- average adult size: 5-7 inches long, head to end of tail
- average life span: 15+ years with proper care
- diet: herbivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

### diet

A well-balanced lovebird diet consists of:

- Specialized pellets should make up 60-70% of diet, fresh vegetables and fruits and small amounts of fortified seeds
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your lovebird:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

### housing

- Lovebirds acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme

temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

- A habitat approximately 18" W x 18"D x 24"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for a pair of lovebirds; a flight habitat is strongly recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 4" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Lovebirds can be kept alone to bond with pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other. Different types of birds should **not** be housed together.
- Birds should be socialized daily by the pet parent.

### normal behavior

- Single lovebirds bond best with owners, but keep in pairs if you cannot devote enough daily interaction time.
- Love to chew, so ensure plenty of toys to chew on.
- They can be territorial, have a unique chatter and a naturally loud call.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly
- Replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.
- Do not use a lot of cleaning

agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Lovebirds love to take baths, so at least twice weekly provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Clipping flight feathers is not necessary, but when done correctly it can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian veterinarian on what is best for your bird.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

***If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.***

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
chlamydiosis	appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.	seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure proper diet.
feather plucking	bird plucks own feathers.	consult with an avian veterinarian and relieve boredom with attention, new toys, or space.
avian pox	lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.	seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
psittacine beak and feather disease	abnormal feather color, feather loss, beak deformities.	

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- habitat cover
- book about parakeets
- high quality parakeet food
- millet spray
- cuttlebone
- cuttlebone/millet holder
- treats
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- bird bath
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements
- play gym

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on parakeets .

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all parakeets are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your parakeet and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a parakeet and should consider not having a parakeet as a pet. For more information regarding parakeets and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# parakeet (budgie)

*melopsittacus undulatus*



## care sheet

**Parakeets, also called budgerigars, are small members of the parrot family. They can become good mimics.**

### parakeet (budgie) facts:

- average adult size: 7 inches long, head to end of tail
- average life span: 10 to 20 years with proper care
- diet: herbivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

### diet

A well-balanced parakeet diet consists of:

- Specialized pellets should make up 60-70% of diet, fresh vegetables and fruits and small amounts of fortified seeds
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your parakeet:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

### housing

- Parakeets acclimate well to average household

temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

- A habitat approximately 18"W x 18"D x 18"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart, makes a good home for one parakeets. A flight habitat is strongly recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 4" long and 3/8" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Parakeets can be kept alone to bond with pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other. Different types of birds should **not** be housed together.

### normal behavior

- Parakeets are talkers, but their little voices are sometimes hard to hear.
- Active and need daily time out of their habitats to interact with family.
- Keep in pairs if unable to devote daily interaction time.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.
- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as

the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Clipping flight feathers is not necessary, but when done correctly it can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian veterinarian on what is best for your bird.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
chlamydia	appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge, green stool.	seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool is not formed. Multiple causes from diet change to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure proper diet.
feather plucking	bird plucks own feathers; may be due to boredom, poor diet or other illness.	consult with an avian veterinarian and relieve boredom with attention, new toys or new space.
mites (scaly face and leg disease)	white deposits on eyes, beak, legs, and feet.	consult with an avian veterinarian.



## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- habitat cover
- book about small hookbills
- high quality small hookbill food
- millet spray
- cuttlebone
- cuttlebone/millet holder
- treats
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- mineral block chews
- bird bath
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements
- play gym

## sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on small hookbills.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all birds are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your bird and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a bird and should consider not having a bird as a pet. For more information regarding birds and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) and [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet).

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# small hookbill

*includes caique, myers, pionus, red-shouldered, red-bellied, and senegal parrots*



## care sheet

**Friendly and affectionate birds, each small hookbill has unique personality traits, depending on the species.**

### small hookbill facts:

- average adult size: 8-12 inches, head to end of tail, depending on species
- average life span: 15-30+ years, depending on species
- diet: herbivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** *The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.*

### diet

A well-balanced small hookbill diet consists of:

- Specialized pellets should make up 60-70% of diet, fresh vegetables and fruits and small amounts of fortified seeds
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your small hookbill:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

### housing

- Small hookbills acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.
- A habitat, approximately 24"W x 24"D x 30"H (caiique, senegal, red-bellied and myers parrots) or 30"W x 30"D x 36"H (red-shouldered and pionus parrots), with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/4" apart, makes a good home for one small hookbill. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 9" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Small hookbills can be kept

alone to bond with pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other. Different types of birds should **not** be housed together.

### normal behavior

- These birds need human daily interaction.
- Some species can be quiet and shy, others can be playful and loud.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner two times weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.
- Do not use a lot of cleaning

agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Mist the bird with fresh, chlorine-free, lukewarm water.
- Clipping flight feathers is not necessary, but when done correctly it can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian veterinarian on what is best for your bird.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.*

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
chlamydiosis	appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.	seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure proper diet.
feather plucking	bird plucks own feathers. May be due to boredom, poor diet or other illness.	consult with an avian veterinarian and relieve boredom with attention, new toys, or more room.
polyoma virus	anorexia, lethargy, weight loss, sudden death.	seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
psittacine beak and feather disease	abnormal feather color, feather loss, beak deformities.	seek immediate avian veterinary attention.