



Introduction Guide To The Care Of Budgies/ Budgerigars

Scientific Name: Melopsittacus undulatus

Life Span: Approx 10-15 years in captivity

Size: Approx 6 inches

Appearance: Adult females = a brown cere (above beak) Adult males = blue cere (except yellow, albino or pied which may have a pinkish/purple cere). Budgies under 6 months of age can be very difficult to sex as their ceres all generally look a pinkish purple colour. However, females sometimes have white rings around their nostrils. Colours: Budgies occur in a variety of colours such as blue, green, grey, pied, lutino and albino, they are naturally green and yellow with black, scalloped markings on the nape, back, and wings, but have been bred in captivity with colouring in blues, whites, and yellows, greys, and even with small crests. Budgerigars are popular pets around the world due to their small size, low cost, ability to mimic human speech, and playful nature

Temperament and Handling: It is very useful to be able to handle your bird and budgerigars are very easily tamed. Encourage them to take food items from you by offering treats and then progress to getting them to perch on your hand or finger. If frightened budgerigars can give a nasty nip so if you need to pick up a budgerigar who is not tamed it is best to gently cover the bird with a cotton tea towel to protect your fingers. Budgerigars are usually easier to pick up in dim light. Budgies are very intelligent and can learn to speak (if kept alone) and do tricks. Males are generally better talkers.

Housing: Budgies can be kept in cages indoors or aviaries outside. If kept in cages they will need regular exercise outside of the cage. They like the company of their own species so should be kept in pairs or small groups (all obtained at the same time). Two males will get on just as well as two females or a mixed pair. They will only breed if provided with a breeding box. Budgies enjoy playing, so should be provided with plenty of toys to keep them stimulated. They also like to bathe regularly so a bird bath should be placed in their cage.

Heating and Lighting: (see above)

Feeding: A good quality budgie seed mix as a staple diet, supplemented with millet sprays, small pieces of fruit and vegetables, and egg food (such as E.M.P). Cuttlefish, iodine blocks and grit should also be available at all times.

Please note that this is only an introductory guide based on our opinions and experience, we advise you to continually research and learn as much as possible from as many sources as you can, every animal is different and new care and information is always being developed and found 😊