

Toys

Budgerigars enjoy toys and need them for mental stimulation. Try to keep a few in the cage (while being careful not to clutter it) and rotate new ones in regularly to keep your budgie from becoming bored.



It is best to avoid mirrors and imitation bird figures as your budgie may bond to these thinking they are another real bird. This can cause problems during training because your budgie will prefer the other "bird" to you.

Most budgies enjoy toys that hang and make noise. Shredder toys are great for budgies as they love to chew, especially females.



Give your bird at least 2-3 toys to keep him/her busy. But, not too many - your budgie should be able to move about freely without bumping into any in the cage. Rotate toys weekly (suggested) to keep him/her interested.

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Absolutely Fish and Pets



Address: 160 Boat Harbour Dve, Hervey Bay Qld 4655
Web: www.AbsolutelyFishAndPets.com.au
Email: manager@absolutelyfishandpets.com.au
Ph: (07) 4194 1155

Will my budgie talk?

Many people ask the question will my budgie talk?

The answer to that question is "maybe"

There are different factors involved such as:

- Is your budgie the sole budgie?
- Is your budgie a male?
- Do you talk to your budgie all the time and repeat the same phrase over and over?

If you answered yes to the questions above then the chance of your budgie learning to talk is greatly increased.

Single budgies may start to mimic you. When your budgie starts to mimic your whistles and you hear a lot of twittering going on that sounds like talking then listen hard because he/she may be trying to talk.

When you repeat the phrase or the whistle over and over that you want your bird to learn it has a better chance of picking it up faster.

Talk to your bird when they are in a calm state. You will find they are quieter, then will tilt their head to listen to you.

Budgies will usually pick up the whistles first and then if they are going to talk that will be the next step.



Budgies



Budgies are found wild throughout the drier parts of Australia where they have survived harsh inland conditions for the last five million years. Budgerigars are popular pets around the world due to their small size, low cost, and ability to mimic human speech.



Choosing a Cage

Square or rectangular cages are best as they provide the most usable space for the budgie and make arranging the perches way easier.

In a wide cage, your budgie will make use of the entire space as they fly horizontally (from left to right) not straight up and down. Flat top cages provide a good place for your budgie to play when he/she is outside of the cage; playgyms, stands and baths can be placed on top.



Always buy the largest cage you can afford as budgies need a lot of space to play and stretch their wings, especially if they have to be in their cage for most of the day. 45cm x 45cm x 45cm is a good size for a single budgie. If you are going to get a 2nd budgie in the future consider a bigger cage to start.

If your cage that is too small, it will be hard to fit a variety of perches and toys in the cage and your budgie may become bored which could lead to health problems. When buying a budgie cage, make sure that the bar spacing is no more than 1cm. Anything larger could be enough for your bird to get his/her head stuck (causing injury or even death) or even escape.



A Good Diet

No seed mix or pellet is a "complete diet". Your budgie's diet should consist of roughly 30% pellets, 30% seeds, and 30% fresh foods like healthy fruits and vegetables.

Treats should be given sparingly and make up only about 10% of what your budgie eats.



Wash fruits and vegetables thoroughly before feeding them to your bird as pesticides are harmful to them.



Your budgie's water should be changed every day (as often as needed each day) to prevent the growth of harmful bacteria.

Cuttlefish Bone:

Helps keep your budgie's beak in good condition and they also provide your budgie with calcium.

Never give your budgie alcohol, avocados, apple seeds, or chocolate as these are toxic to budgies. Steer clear of dairy products as well.

Life expectancy:

On average budgies can live anything from 10 - 15 years. Very occasionally, budgies have been known to live well into their teens.



Budgie Health /Safety

Since birds are naturally curious you will need to take extra steps to assure it will not be able to access dangerous materials for be exposed to dangerous situation.

Cage Placement: Place your bird's cage at or a little below eye level, away from drafts, open windows and kitchen. Read about Dangers in the Kitchen. Budgies are sensitive to smoke and strong odors. Cover the cage at night to prevent drafts.

Baths: Provide a birdbath 2-3 times a week. You can offer a warm water bath or gently mist your bird with warm water from a clean spray bottle (not ever used for cleaning, or chemicals).



Cleanliness: Clean the bird's living space regularly. Do not allow dust, rust, old faeces, etc. to exist in this space. Make sure cleaning supplies are bird-safe. It is important to clean your bird's containers every day, even if the bowl or bottle looks full.

Smoke: Do not smoke cigarettes, cigars, or pipes in homes that have pet birds

Sunlight UV: Provide adequate unfiltered sunlight and shade. Allow outdoor sunlight (not through glass) for a minimum of 20 minutes a week. This promotes the development of vitamin D which assists in the absorption of calcium.