



Parakeets at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner**

Average lifespan: **10–12 years with proper care**

Average adult size: **7 inches long from head to tail**

Diet: **Granivorous (grain eaters)**

Minimum habitat size: **18" W x 18" D x 18" H**

Temperature: **65–80 F**

Fun fact → Parakeets are commonly known as budgies, particularly in the United States.



Parakeet Maintenance

- Spot-clean your parakeet's habitat daily, removing any soiled material and discarded food. Water and food bowls must be washed and re-filled daily, with substrate, bedding, and habitat liners replaced at least once a week.
- Only use cleaning agents formulated for pets when cleaning your parakeet's cage, as birds' respiratory systems are sensitive to aerosolized fumes.
- Parakeets like to occasionally bathe themselves, so they need a large water bowl in their cages.
- Clean bathing dishes daily and remove any wet bedding or food.

Supply Checklist

- Appropriately sized habitat (at least 18" W x 18" D x 18" H)
- High-quality pelleted parakeet food
- Millet spray (as a treat)
- Cuttlebone
- Cuttlebone/millet holder
- Treats
- Habitat paper or litter
- Food and water dishes
- Perches
- Toys
- Bird bath
- Grooming supplies
- Play gym
- UV light



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Handling

Parakeets are friendly, intelligent birds that can be hand-tamed easily. When properly socialized, they can enjoy daily handling and learn basic commands.

Health

A healthy parakeet will have bright coloration, clear eyes, and formed green/brown-colored droppings with a small amount of white and very little wetness.

Call a vet if your parakeet has any discoloration, looks lethargic, or loose/watery droppings.

Common illnesses in parakeets include:

- Low vitamin A
- Parasites
- Foot disorders
- Respiratory illness

Fun fact → A bird's flight feathers will naturally grow back, so to avoid escaping birds, pet parents should regularly trim parakeet wings.



Diet

- A high-quality pelleted diet offers balanced nutrition and should make up 60–70% of a parakeet's diet.
- Treats, vegetables, and fruits should represent about 30–40% of your parakeet's diet in total, with no more than 10% of the diet given as treats.
- Mineral blocks or cuttlebones should be provided as a source of calcium and trace minerals.

Fun fact

→ In addition to chirping and whistling, some parakeets imitate sounds, words, or phrases.

