




Fun fact  Doves are a symbol of peace. They coo instead of squawk.

Dove at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner friendly**

Average lifespan: **10+ years with proper care**

Average adult size: **Up to 12 inches (varies by species)**

Diet: **60–70% high-quality pellets, limited seeds and fresh foods**

Minimum habitat size: **At least 2' L x 3' W x 30" H for a pair**

Temperature: **65–80 F**



Enclosure Setup & Maintenance

- Provide a cage that is longer than it is tall so doves can fly back and forth. Bar spacing should be no wider than $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. Keep the cage off the floor in a draft-free, well-lit area away from other pets. Maintain temperatures between 65–80 F.
- Line the removable tray with paper-based bedding. Add perches of different materials, $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter and at least 5 inches long. Avoid overly wide perches and never place them above food or water bowls. Provide toys made of soft wood, cardboard, or paper to prevent boredom.
- Spot-clean daily and deep-clean weekly. Move birds to a secure space before cleaning. Wash bowls with warm water and unscented soap. Rinse all cage parts thoroughly and let everything dry before reassembling.

Supply Checklist

- Spacious flight-style cage
- Paper-based bedding or liner
- High-quality pelleted dove food
- Millet spray (treat)
- Food and water dishes
- Separate large bathing dish
- Calcium grit (crushed oyster shells)
- Variety of perches
- Soft enrichment toys
- Spray bottle mister



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Diet

Feed high-quality pellets as 60–70% of the diet. Offer fruits, vegetables, and millet as treats (no more than 10%). Whole seeds should be limited to prevent obesity and nutritional deficiencies. Provide digestible calcium grit daily in a separate dish.

Never feed avocados, chocolate, or onions. Change drinking water daily and offer a separate bathing dish.

Health

Schedule yearly veterinary checkups. Healthy doves have smooth feathers, clean beaks, and strong appetites.

Contact a vet if you notice eye discharge, feather damage, appetite loss, lumps, foot injuries, loose stool, or mites. Even small changes can signal a problem.

Fun fact ↪ Their beaks are softer than parrots', so they need softer toys.



Fun fact ↪ Most pet doves are diamond doves or ring-necked doves.