

## Parakeet

Average Size: 7" in length

Life Span: 20+ years with proper care

### Diet and Feeding:

**Staple Diet:** 60%—70% of the parakeet's diet should consist of specialized, pellet diet. If this bird is used to a seed diet, convert to pellets gradually. Use fortified seeds in moderation, as they are higher in fat and less nutritious than pellets. You may also feed your bird (and are encouraged to feed her) fresh vegetables and fruits, such as green leafy veggies (like broccoli and spinach), carrots, beans, bell peppers, corn, bananas, grapes, melons, and citrus fruits. These birds appreciate quality and variety in their diets.

***DO NOT give your Parakeet the following items: avocados, fruit seeds, chocolate, alcohol or caffeine, as these can cause serious medical problems.***

Fresh pellets or seeds and fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should always be available. Fresh vegetables and fruit should be given daily and discarded when not eaten with 24 hours. **Replace food and water daily.**

### Housing/Habitat:

**Housing:** A habitat of approximately 24" W x 24"D x 36"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than ½" apart makes a good home for your parakeet. As with all animals, it's best to provide the largest habitat possible, and a flight habitat is strongly recommended.

**Temperatures:** Parakeets acclimate well to average household temperatures; be cautious of extreme temperature change.

**Cage Placement:** Your bird's habitat should be placed off the floor, in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

### Habitat Care Tips:

- PetZoo recommends a variety of appropriate perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis.
- A metal grate placed over the droppings will keep the bird away from droppings. Line the droppings tray with paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly, and replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often if needed. **Replace food and water daily.**
- Replace perches, dishes and toys when worn or damaged, and rotate new toys into the bird's habitat regularly. Make sure there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paint or galvanized parts, as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested.

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

### Normal Behavior and Social Interaction:

**Activity:** Parakeets are strong fliers, and need activities such as swinging and climbing to keep them busy, and plenty of time to fly free and climb, with supervision.

**Interaction:** They bond to their "pet parents" and require at least 2—3 hours of interaction each day.

**Napping:** Parakeets take naps throughout the day, and prefer a quiet, dim place to rest.

### Grooming/Hygiene:

Provide clean, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing, and remove the water when finished. As an alternative, mist the bird with water or a grooming spray. Clipping of flight feathers is not necessary, but when performed correctly, it can help prevent injury or escape. Your bird's nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury.

### Safety/Cleanliness:

Because all birds are potential carriers of infectious diseases such as Psittacosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your bird and/or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential of spread of disease.

Pregnant women and those 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.

**The information on this care sheet is NOT a substitute for veterinary care.**