

**WILDSIDE VETERINARY HEALTH CENTER
CARE SHEET: BUDGIE**



Budgie Care 101 - Diet, Enrichment, and Health

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Ah, the delightful world of little budgies! These tiny, colorful parakeets bring an abundance of joy to our lives with their vibrant personalities and adorable chirping sounds. If you're a proud budgie parent or you are considering welcoming one into your home, you're in for a treat! To ensure your feathered friend is the happiest and healthiest they can be, let's dive into the basics of budgie care, covering diet, enrichment, and common health concerns.

What is on the menu?

The main course

Pellets: Pellets are like the healthy meal prep of the bird world. They're formulated to provide a balanced diet with all the essential nutrients your budgie needs. They might not be as exciting as seeds, but they ensure your little friend gets a well-rounded nutrition.

The treats

Fruit and Veggies: Don't forget your budgie's daily dose of greens! Fresh fruits and veggies like berries, papaya, mango, squash, bell peppers, carrots, broccoli, green beans and leafy greens are excellent for their health. Plus, they add a dash of color to your budgie's plate.

Seeds: Budgies love seeds, and it's no surprise why. They're like birdy snacks! However, an all-seed diet isn't the way to go. Seeds, while tasty, are like fast food for birds. They're high in fat and lack many important nutrients, which can lead to some unwanted health problems. You may use a small amount of seeds as treats or for training!

It is time to play!

Budgies are active little critters, and they thrive on mental and physical stimulation. Here's how to keep them entertained:

Toys: Hang bird safe toys in their cage - bells, swings, ladders, and colorful chewable. Budgies love toys that challenge their minds and keep them busy.

You may also create some toys for your feathered friend!

1. Paper Rolls: Empty toilet paper rolls make great toys. Stuff them with treats or let your budgie shred them to bits.
2. Foraging Fun: Hide treats inside crumpled paper or in a small container with holes. Your budgie will love the treasure hunt!

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Companionship: Budgies are social creatures, so consider getting a pair to keep each other company. If you have one, make sure you spend quality time with them daily.

Outside Time: Let them stretch their wings outside the cage in a safe, bird-proofed area. Budgies adore to fly around the room.

Bath time: Bath time for budgies can be an enjoyable and important part of their care routine. Not only does it help them maintain their feather quality, but it can also be a fun and stimulating activity for them. You may be wondering how often they should have some fun in the water, in warmer weather they may enjoy daily baths, while in cooler conditions, a couple of times a week should be enough.

Fresh air and sunshine: Depending on the climate and safety considerations, you can take your bird outside in a secure cage for short periods to allow them to enjoy natural sunlight and fresh air. Sunshine provides essential vitamin D, which aids in calcium absorption for strong bones and eggshell formation. Fresh air ensures proper ventilation and promotes mental and physical stimulation.

It is time to call the doctor!

Health problems can arise unexpectedly, so it is important to always watch your tiny buddy closely and be aware of common health problems:

Obesity and fatty tumors: Budgies can pack on the pounds if their diet isn't balanced. Monitoring their weight with a gram scale monthly is a great way to know if they are gaining weight!

Xanthomatosis: This condition is usually associated with underlying health issues or dietary imbalances in birds. It is characterized by the formation of yellowish, fatty growths or nodules, typically on the skin or in various tissues of birds.

Mites: Different creepy crawlies can cause a wide range of symptoms, from itching, to feather loss, to thickening of the scales on the legs, feet, and sometimes the beak. Make sure to regularly check your budgie for any of those signs.

Respiratory Issues: Sneezing, coughing, and labored breathing can be signs of respiratory problems or other underlying conditions. Ensure their environment is well-ventilated and free from irritants like cigarette smoke.

The Importance of Regular Vet Check-ups

Budgies are masters at hiding illness. That's why annual check-ups with an avian vet are a must. A qualified vet can spot issues early and ensure your feathered friend is flying high on health.

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In Conclusion

Remember, every budgie is unique, and what works for one may not work for another. So, keep experimenting with toys, treats, and training techniques to find what your budgie loves the most!

Caring for a budgie is like having a pocket-sized parrot with the personality of a puppy. They're full of character and love, and with the right diet, enriching environment, and a little health monitoring, they'll thrive in your care.

Let us know if you have any questions!

Sincerely,

Wildside Veterinary team