Budgerigar

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

It's been said the Budgerigars have associated with humans since before the 5th century BC. Early explorers of Australia often found pet budgerigars in aboriginal villages. These small, stunning creatures were then brought back as pets for the affluent families and zoos of Europe.

The budgerigar, known to many as the "budgie," is the most popular of all caged psittacines. Often called a "parakeet," budgies are sought after because of their relative ease of care. Budgies are extremely hardy and are known to endure a wide range of temperatures. They are easy to feed, thriving mostly on seed diets with added vegetables and fruits. They are equally easy to breed. These affectionate little birds even have the ability to talk and, with the appropriate training, can learn to mimic words and phrases.

Interesting Facts:	
SPECIES:	**Budgerigar**
Habitat:	Australian grasslands
Behavior:	Friendly and outgoing
Family:	Psittacidae
Genus:	*Melopsittacus undulates*
Size:	Averages 7" to 7-1/2"
Diet:	Seeds or grains, greens, fruits, vegetables, some live food, and mineral tr mineral treats. Watch the amount of seed because of their tendency for obesity.
Special Needs:	If left to an inactive lifestyle, they are prone to obesity and all the problems related to being overweight. Can be sensitive to iodine deficiency (especially when fed seed exclusively), which can cause thyroid dysplasia, a disease where the thyroid gland presses on the trachea. These hardy birds can also succumb to bacterial infections. Change water frequently to help reduce problems from contaminated water.

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Owner Challenges:	Very active. As wild birds, they fly great distances in flocks. Problems can arise if they are kept too sedentary. They need outlets for exercise and mental stimulation as well as social interaction.
Life Span:	6-10 years
Average Cost:	$10-$25

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