

# Clark's Pet Emporium

## Parakeet Care Sheet



*Species - Budgerigar (parakeet)*

*Color - Blue & White, Yellow*

Clark's Pet Emporium has taken pride in sharing quality pets with our community for over 40 years. Now you can give your pet the very best care, from our home to yours, with Clark's Care Sheets.

The Parakeet care sheet will provide you with basic knowledge to begin your new life with a bird, ranging from diet to habitat and bird husbandry. For further details regarding specific species care, please contact Clark's with your questions and concerns.

### Is a Parakeet the right pet for you?

Please take a moment to ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you enjoy spending a fair amount of time at home where your bird will live?
- Are you the type of person that will avidly clean a pet's habitat every day / week?
- Are you willing to make fundamental changes to your lifestyle to ensure your pet's safety if necessary?
- Can you tolerate loud, vocal pets?
- Do you have large, well-lit space to house a bird cage?
- Do you prefer to spend quality time dedicated to entertaining a social, lovable animal?
- Does your lifestyle and / or future lifestyle support the fact that this pet will be a part of your family for the next 10-30 years?

If you answered "absolutely!" to ALL of these questions, read through the rest of this care sheet and visit your favorite Clark's location to inquire about adopting a Parakeet.

### Shopping Check-List:

- Parakeet book / reading material
- Appropriate sized enclosure with bowls
- Enclosure substrate / paper
- Variety of different perch sizes and materials
- Cage cover
- Bath container and / or sprayer
- Diet supplies - Seed, pellets, and nutrition supplements, bird gravel
- Proclivity supplies - Cuttlebone, millet, chew toys
- Millet and cuttlebone clip
- Avian-safe cleaning supplies



*Feeding Budgies*

## Dietary Needs:

- Seed diet - Parakeet seed is available in several brands and mixes
- Pellet diet - Parakeet pellets (natural or flavored)
- Fresh fruit and vegetables - Collard greens, Parsley, Kale, Carrot, Mango, Pear, and Papaya are a healthy habit
- Treats - Dehydrated fruit cubes, Sunflower seeds, Pumpkin seeds, Treat Cakes
- Fresh, cool water
- Millet Spray seed clumps
- Cuttlebone is essential for chewing and calcium
- Bird gravel to aid digestion



## Housing:

- A Parakeet will require a horizontal flight cage at least 30" w X 18" d X 18" h
- Enclosure must be an actual bird cage - powder coated with narrow bar spacing no greater than 3/8" apart
- Direct sunlight is physically and mentally healthy for all birds - house your Parakeets in a well lit area and allow daily access to sun and shade
- Housing should be placed in a draft-free room - Drafts can negate the fluffy down feathers that birds use to stay warm during cool times
- Avoid housing a Parakeet in high-traffic areas that will prevent the bird from acclimating and sleeping
- Place toys, perches, and bowls in the cage, but do not over clutter the living space. Ideally, allow access to bedding to forage
- Allow a water source for the Parakeets to bathe

## Feeding Practice:

- Ensure Parakeet seed mix and water are always available fresh every day
- Either mix Parakeet pellets into seed bowl, or provide a separate bowl
- Provide fresh vegetable / fruit mix at least once per week
- Allow 3 hours for fresh consumption, then remove the vegetables and fruit - bacteria start to grow on this food after about 3 hours

## Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Routinely remove soiled food and water every day, replacing with fresh food in clean bowls
- Perches, toys, and cage will need to be cleaned once per week, in addition to daily sweeping of food and bedding outside the cage
- Use hot water to scrub housing, or use an avian-safe cleaning product like Aviclean only!
- Some birds can stress out! If so, you may need to clean with a dust pan instead of a loud vacuum

## Safety Tips:

Avoid animal toys with twined string. These strings can fray and pose a hazard to your bird's legs and feet! Stick to plastic, wood, and metal made with pet-safe paints and dyes.

Teflon (non-stick) coated pots and pans are the number one killer of domestic birds! They release lethal fumes when heated. Make sure you only use stainless steel and cast iron implements!

House fans rotate with enough inertia to cripple or kill any birds on impact. Even a clipped bird can gain enough thrust to fly into a fan accidentally. Turn fans off!

Avocado, apple seeds, and fruit pits contain arsenic! They are lethal to all birds! Chocolate, caffeine, and alcohol are also toxic. Do not allow access to these substances!

## Let's Have Some Fun:

- Unlike many animals, socializing and play are essential for birds' health!
- Birds are very social animals - take time to talk to your Parakeet regularly during cleaning, feeding, and socializing
- Go slow - it may even take a year or more for a parakeet to willingly step up to your finger, greet your presence, or even acknowledge you in a friendly manner
- If desired, Parakeets can be hand tamed with MUCH investment like a larger parrot. They are capable of large vocabularies and playful sessions
- Birds love new experiences - Create toys for them. A crumpled piece of paper with a seed in the middle is an avian favorite!
- Most of all, spend time together. Try eating, playing, and waking up at the same time



**Clark's Pet Supply**  
11200 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque,  
NM, 87112  
Phone: (505)-292-6288  
Fax: (505)-292-0962



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**Clark's Pet Emporium**  
4914 Lomas Blvd NE,  
Albuquerque, NM, 87110  
Phone: (505)-268-5977  
Fax: (505)-266-2306