



All About the  
**African  
Grey Parrot**

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# The African Grey Parrot

## About the African Grey Parrot

The African grey parrot is known to be the better talker of the parrot breed, with one famous recognized for having a vocabulary of around 1,000 words. These birds have quite a long history, dating back to Roman writings. They are native to Africa, particularly the northern and central regions.

## African Grey Parrot Characteristics

True to their name, the coloring is all gray, with white surrounding the eyes and bright red tail feathers. The African grey parrot is quite a bit more sensitive than others and will usually bond closer with one owner. African Greys mate for life, and the male usually provides food for the female while she incubates her eggs, usually for around 30 days. African grey parrots are approximately 13 inches in length, with rather short tail feathers. Males and females can be rather difficult to distinguish from one another, but there are some differences noted in the shape of the head, with male heads being much broader. Females have longer necks, and smaller, round heads. Greys can be moody and can nip strangers.

## Selecting Your African Grey Parrot

### A Few Words about Breeders

If you decide to work directly with a breeder, it is best to select one that specializes in African grey parrots, and can provide you with all the information you need on the breed. A good way to locate a reputable African grey breeder is to search within parrot societies and organizations. If you locate these sites on the Internet, you will be able to find links to breeders and other helpful information to assist you in your buying decision. Be aware of sellers through local newspapers and other facilities, as they might not have their birds in a clean and healthy environment. It is best to obtain a health guarantee for your bird upon purchase.

### A Few Words about Pet Stores

Some pet stores carry African grey parrots, but the selection might be quite limited. A major drawback in purchasing from a pet store is that past history and health of the bird may be unknown, including the age. Often, pet shop owners are not as knowledgeable about the breed and cannot provide you accurate information on care and behaviors. Try and purchase from a specialty bird store that has a good understanding of the birds, and also provides all the necessary items needed for its care and maintenance.



- [Toys for Your Parrot](#)
- [Treats for Your Parrot](#)



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## How to Choose your African Grey Parrot

It is always best to have a good understanding of what to look for when shopping for a bird. Unfortunately, there are birds that have been neglected or are ill. Here are some things to watch for:

- Overgrown or scaly beaks
- Swollen eyes; deformed eyelids
- Thin breast
- Excessively plucked feathers
- Stained feathers around the eye and beak area

African grey parrots are naturally shy, but should not be overly withdrawn or tired. They should be alert and responsive to your presence. Keep an eye out for wheezing or breathing difficultly patterns.

## Through The Years

### The African Grey Parrot Chick

African grey babies are covered with fine, white feathers. They are very weak and unable to hold up their heads. The mother often has to turn the babies over on to their backs to make feeding easier. Within three weeks, the new babies will have a heavier gray covering. Male birds usually also assist the mother in feeding the babies.

### The African Grey Parrot Adult

African Greys go through stages of maturation, from submissive and compliant babies, to independent and often rebellious juveniles. Though these are only stages, it is important to make it known upfront to your bird what behaviors are acceptable, and what are not. While rules are important, it's also advisable to give your bird some room to learn on his own. Too much discipline can push your bird farther away from you and make it even more difficult to enforce rules in more crucial areas.

### The African Grey Parrot Senior

This particular breed can live a long life, approximately 50-70 years. African Greys are certainly not for everyone, as it can take quite a while to train and form a solid, trusting relationship with them. Spend plenty of time with your bird, often allowing him to make the first move towards you. These birds can be particularly suspicious around strangers and are not always the best around children. They are quite content sometimes to just sit back and observe the activities in the home. As the African grey parrot grows older, their irises usually become more yellow in color.



You'll need these basics before your Parrot comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Natural fiber disc for nest](#)
- [Nesting Hair](#)
- [Nesting material](#)
- [Avian weaning diet](#)
- [Nestling Food](#)
- [Weaning & conditioning food for parrots](#)
- [Embrace hand feed](#)
- [Exact hand feed for baby birds](#)

#### EXPERT TIP

#### Choosing a Cage

Keep in mind that larger birds are also stronger, so when you're buying a cage, you need to make sure it's made of a material that can withstand a large bird's stronger beak and feet.

Also, find one that doesn't have any sharp edges that could injure your bird.

If bolts are used to put the cage together, make sure that they are on the outside of the cage. Some larger birds find unscrewing the bolts an enjoyable game!

[Click here to see our Cages.](#)

## Medical Considerations

Most health issues in African grey parrots can be linked to what they eat. A deficiency in certain vitamins and minerals, such as calcium and vitamin A, can result in other diseases and infections. Feed your bird a good variety of vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, seeds and pellets. Feather plucking is also a common concern among African greys. It is best to seek veterinarian assistance early on, before the condition becomes even more severe.

## Necessary Items

Purchase a cage for your bird that is at least 18x18x30 inches. In addition to the cage, you will also need a cover to help your bird feel safe at night and make him aware it's time for bed. Your bird will also need several toys to keep him entertained.

### Popular Products for Your African Grey Parrot

- [Cuttle Bone with Holder Box](#)
- [African Parrot Honey Stick](#)
- [Parrot Biscuits](#)
- [Extreme Fruit & Nut Big Bites](#)
- [Bird Claw Clipper](#)
- [Bird Bath Pump Spray](#)
- [Cell-Sorb Plus Litter](#)
- [Ultra Litter Scoop](#)
- [Adjustable Cover & Seed Guard](#)
- [Bird Cage Cover](#)
- [Birdy Buddy](#)
- [Goop Wizard for Birds](#)
- [Ultra Blend Color Food Plus For All Birds](#)
- [Oat Groats Fortified Treat For All Birds](#)
- [Bird Charcoal](#)
- [Forest Flowers Bird Toy](#)
- [Junglebells and Blocks](#)
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[Nina Playtop Bird Cage](#)



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