



# All About the **Budgie Parakeet**

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# The Budgie

## About the Budgie

The Budgie, a type of Parakeet, is a small, colorful bird with a joyful disposition. "Budgie" is the shorter name for "Budgerigar," which refers to the Australian variety bird. Budgies are often categorized into "English" and "American" varieties. The main difference between the two is size. Created for showing, the English Budgie has a significantly larger head and chest and colorings can be more vibrant. Budgies are among the few varieties that are able to talk.



## Budgie Characteristics

Budgies are approximately 7 inches long, with the tail itself measuring 3 1/8" to 4 1/2". They come in over a hundred different color combinations, with blue, yellow, green, and white being just some of the colors. When determining the sex of your Budgie, males typically have a blue cere (the wax-like band above the beak), and females have a brown cere. Most Budgies enjoy a good bath now and then, and will appreciate a small dish of water placed in their cages. When selecting food for your Budgie, it is best to provide them with a well-rounded diet of fresh vegetables, pellets, fruits, and seeds. Some birds may be picky eaters at first, but will eventually learn to enjoy the variety. These birds need an average of ten hours of sleep per day, which can be done at night while you sleep if a cover is placed over the cage. This makes the bird feel safe and will encourage them to go to sleep. Budgies will bond closely with their owners, especially if they are the only bird. Owning more than one Budgie is the best solution for people who have limited time to spend with their birds, since Budgie's are flock birds and need companionship.

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

## Selecting Your Budgie

Making the decision to either adopt or purchase your bird from a breeder is a matter of personal choice. Both options are discussed here, along with some positives and negatives for both.

### A Few Words About Adoption

Nearly every pet store carries a decent selection of Budgies to choose from. Like breeder environments, it is necessary for the cage and other living quarters to be carefully examined. Cages that are dirty and neglected can lead to unhealthy birds. Check for a valid health guarantee provided with your bird. You should be able to return the bird if they expire within a specific time period, or if it is discovered that they had an existing disease at the time of purchase. A local veterinarian will be able to conduct the proper tests on your bird to ensure good health.



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## A Few Words About Breeders

Purchasing your Budgie from a private breeder may cost you a little more than a pet store, due to specialty breeds and family history. Be sure to check out the cages and living conditions of the birds before purchasing. Dirty cages, empty water dishes, and old food can be signs of neglect and an unsanitary environment. Most breeders show their birds professionally and take great pride in their Budgies. For potential buyers that are interested in a high-quality bird for show, or want more of a guarantee that their Budgie will be of the best health and breed standards, working directly with a breeder might be the best choice. To locate a breeder, check your local newspaper, the Internet for breeder websites, or talk with your veterinarian about a referral.

## How to Choose your Budgie

Choosing the right bird will be partly a personal choice and also based on breed information and requirements. Budgies are social and happy birds. Select a bird that exhibits these personality traits. Those that are withdrawn or alone might not make the best pet, particularly to people that are first-time Budgie owners. Some other basic things to look for when selecting your new Budgie are:

- Two toes in front, two in back. Also, check the skin for abnormal scaling, which might indicate mites
- Clean vents and nostrils
- Full feathers and wings; not missing feathers in large areas
- Clean beak; not overgrown, which can be a sign of mites
- Social, happy personality

## Bringing Your Budgie Home

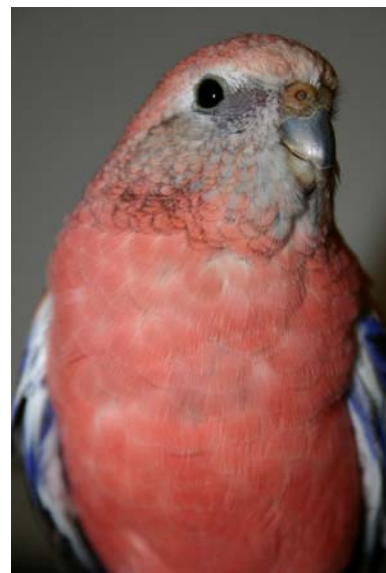
Place your Budgie's cage in an area of the home that will be the most frequented by people, not in a back bedroom alone. These birds require a lot of attention and social interaction.

### The Budgie Chick

Budgie chicks grow at an amazing rate. So tiny when they are first born, within 5-6 weeks the Budgies have grown to nearly the same size as their parents. A young Budgie will have horizontal bars across their forehead. After 3-4 months, these bars will disappear when the bird molts.

### The Budgie Adult

Now that your Budgie has matured to adulthood, their sex can be better determined, as the coloring on the cere is now present. Budgie adults will enjoy playing with a variety of toys and also interacting with their owner. While some bird owners may find it entertaining to put a mirror in the bird cage and watch their Budgie talk to himself, this can actually cause the bird to build a strong bond with the mirror, thinking that it is another bird. The Budgie may no longer be interested in the owner, since they have their own friend in the cage 24/7. Budgies are quite easily trained and can learn to sing, whistle, and even talk.



#### EXPERT TIP

#### Choosing a Cage

When you're buying a cage, you need to make sure it's made of a material that can withstand your bird's beak and feet, especially if it's a larger bird.

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.](#)



## The Budgie Senior

Budgies that have lived a fairly healthy life will survive an average of five to eight years. There have been many reports of the breed living up to fifteen years when well cared for. Older Budgies will not slow down too much as they age. They tend to carry on just as they always have from the very beginning. If any changes do occur, it will be in their eating habits and ability to balance on their perch.

## Medical Considerations

The biggest health concerns for Budgies are tumors, which can often be detected by an enlarging in the chest area. This usually occurs early on, before the bird is five years of age. A proper and balanced diet will ensure the very best health for your bird. Feeding a combination of vegetables, fruits, and seeds are some of the best choices. Chocolate and avocados are considered harmful toxins and should never be fed to your bird.



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## Popular Products for Your Budgie

- [Canary/Finch/Parakeet Hi-Cal Grit](#)
- [Parakeet Fruit & Vegetable Jar](#)
- [Biscotti Biscuits](#)
- [Avian Krunch-A-Rounds](#)
- [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](#)
- [Classic Blend Parakeet Food](#)
- [Avimin Mineral Supplement](#)
- [Bird Charcoal](#)
- [Celestial Bodies Bird Toy](#)
- [Cage Nut Puzzle](#)
- [Double Axis Bird Toy](#)



[2 Week Horizontal Waterer](#)



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[Bird Cage](#)

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