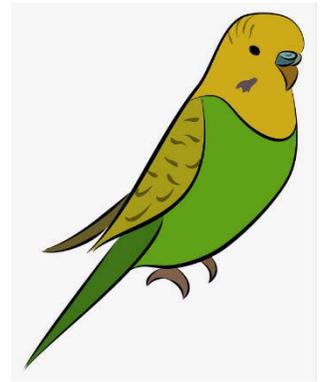




# Parakeet (aka Budgie)



**Origin:** Australia

**Size:** 7 inches long head to tail

**Life Span:** 10-20 years with proper care

## Heat and Lighting:

- Keep in a consistently warm room where temperatures drop no lower than 65°.
- A low-wattage heat lamp can be used in drafty areas.

## Tank setup:

- Small (Vision M01) cages can house up to two birds, large (Vision M02) cages can house up to four birds. All cages should be kept off of the floor.
- Should contain perches that are a variety of sizes to exercise feet.
- Line the bottom with newspaper, butcher paper, or magazines for easy cleaning.
- Provide toys to keep birds stimulated and entertained.
- Provide lava rocks or cuttlebones to help keep beaks trimmed.

## Diet:

 Herbivores

- A well-balanced diet consists of bagged parakeet food, supplemented with fresh fruits and vegetables. Remove fruits and vegetables within a few hours if uneaten.
- Do not feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, or high-sugar treats.
- Use millet as a treat to encourage hand-taming.

**Water and Humidity:** Water should be available at all times, and cleaned regularly.

## Temperament & Handling:

- Parakeets can be kept alone to bond with their human, or in pairs to bond with another.
- Single male birds are more likely to bond with a human and may “talk” when they mature.
- Single birds need daily interaction and attention.
- Parakeets can “talk” or mimic speech to “fit in with the flock”. Not all talk, and they need constant repetition of words or phrases to encourage it.

**Feather Loss/Molting:** All birds “molt”, done to make room for new feathers. It helps to provide a bird bath (a shallow bowl of water, or one that clips on the cage) for use during this time.

**Housemates:** Both genders can be kept alone, but males are more prone to bonding with humans. Multiple males can be kept together, but pairs (or more) of only females can fight. Ideally you will have one male for every female, or more males than females.