

SHOPPING LIST:

- ✗ information leaflet about budgerigars
- large cage
- perches (different diameters, springy)
- food bowls
- water bowl
- bathing house
- toys (ladders, rope, little bell)
- bird sand (e.g. MultiFit with limestone and important minerals)
- budgerigar food
- stomach grit
- Pickstone
- vitamin supplements
- treats
- fox-tail millet
- nibble sticks (e.g. MultiFit sticks)
- disinfectant/detergent for cleaning the cage
- book about budgerigars

For more tips and further information on budgerigars visit our website at: www.maxizoo.ie

UNSUITABLE ACCESSORIES

Plastic birds and mirrors are no substitute for a partner and can increase behavioural abnormalities in birds that are kept on their own. Therefore, toys should always just be provided as extra accessories once there are 2 birds.

Cage bars wrapped in sandpaper or with insecticide filling are harmful to the bird and should not be used. Extremely smooth bars or plastic bars with sharp edges should also be avoided.

A round cage is not recommended (unless it is a large aviary), since these types of cages are not well structured and do not give the birds a chance to retreat.

MOULTING

As a rule, the budgerigars renew their plumage two to three times a year. This process is called "moulting". When they first appear, the new feathers are encased in a sheath. The body is put under enormous pressure during this time and the birds can of-



ten struggle to fly. Therefore, support your bird by providing lots of peace and quiet, special high protein food (egg feed) and special vitamins (moulting aid), so that a beautiful new plumage can be formed.

KEEP ME FIT AND HEALTHY

You can tell that a budgerigar is healthy by its clear eyes, dry nostrils and clean, well preened and shiny plumage. The bird should breathe softly and gently and its eyes should be fully open. The claws should be checked regularly to make sure that they aren't getting too long.

A daily free flight is very important for its health!

If you notice that your budgerigar looks unwell you should take it to a vet as quickly as possible.



My budgerigar

Everything you need to know about budgerigars as pets



Everything for your pet

www.maxizoo.ie

AM I THE RIGHT PET FOR YOU?

Budgerigars are ideal for children over the age of 8. They are very trusting and lively creatures. If a lot of time is devoted to them they become very tame. The life expectancy of a budgerigar is 10 to 14 years. In very rare cases, they can even live to the age of 16.

WHERE DO I ORIGINATE FROM?

The semi-arid to arid territories of the Australian outback are the original home of the wild budgerigar and it lives here in large swarms. A strict ban on exporting wild budgerigars from Australia was imposed several decades ago.



WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE?

Budgerigars need enough space in their cage to be able to fly for short distances without their wings beating against the bars of the cage. Therefore, a cage for 2 to 4 birds should have a floor area of at least 120 x 60 cm and measure approx. 100 cm in height. The bigger the cage, the more pleasant it is for the birds and they are particularly happy in a large indoor aviary. The birds also need to fly around freely every day.

The cage should stand at eye level in a peaceful location. It must be protected from draughts, cigarette smoke, cooking fumes and other interferences (e.g. television). Don't put the birds too near to the window either, as they have a very low tolerance to changes in temperature. The cage should be made dark at night to ensure that they get 10 hours sleep.

A nesting box should only be provided if breeding is intended. The most suitable perches are made of natural wood, since the uneven exterior diameter of wood prevents pressure calluses. Where possible, the sticks should only be fixed in place at one

end, so that they give slightly when the bird lands, just as they would in a natural environment.

The budgerigar is extremely inquisitive and needs a diverse range of things to play with to keep it happy, such as ladders, ropes, balls etc.

Food and water bowls must be secured in such a way that the bird can't soil them.

The birds need to be able to bathe several times a week. A large "bath house" is therefore one of the essential pieces of equipment needed for the cage. Some birds also like to spray themselves with lukewarm water.

It goes without saying that the cage should be kept clean at all times, since droppings and stale food don't just smell unpleasant to human beings, but can also damage the budgerigar's health.

HOW I SHOULD BE HANDLED?

In the beginning it is very important that the birds stay in the cage for 2-3 weeks so that they can settle down in their new home without any stress. During this time you should get them used to your hand by carefully offering little treats. After that you can start to let the birds fly around freely every day. Draw the curtains across the windows the first time, for the birds need to learn where the window panes are. A lot of time also needs to be put aside for this. If there are treats in the cage the birds will return to it of their own accord after a while. The more time you spend with your new friends, the quicker they will get used to you, too. Budgerigars are very inquisitive creatures who would like to be able to

HEALTH CHECKLIST

My budgerigar is healthy if:

- the eyes are not weepy or inflamed, and are wide open.
- the plumage is clean and well preened.
- there are no noticeable changes to the beak (e.g. discolouration of the cere).
- it has clean, dry nostrils.
- the area around the anus is clean and free of encrustations.
- the claws are not too long.
- you cannot feel any lumps or swellings.
- it is alert and has a healthy appetite.

ke their beaks into everything and for this reason you should keep a close eye on doors and windows. Poisonous plants, containers filled with liquid and anything else that can potentially injure or poison the bird must also be removed from the "free flight room".



WHAT DO I LIKE TO EAT?

A healthy and well-balanced diet forms the basis of your budgerigar's well being. To ensure a varied diet you should supplement prepared mixed feed for budgerigars with special egg feed, greens (e.g. chickweed, dandelion or lettuce), fresh fruit, treats, nibble sticks and fox-tail millet. For proper digestion, the birds need a special grit that grinds the food in their stomach. Mineral mixtures and limestone (cuttlebones) should be offered regularly.

DO I LIKE COMPANY?

Budgerigars are very social creatures and should be kept together in twos as an absolute minimum. Human company, a mirror or a plastic bird are no substitute for a partner. Most birds that are kept on their own develop behavioural disturbances which can also make them ill.

In most cases you can tell the difference between a male and female bird by its cere. After the adolescent moulting period the male cere turns blue and the female's stays a beige or brown colour. Male and female pairs or even a pair of males get on especially well together.

