

housing



Parakeets are small, intelligent birds who make wonderful house pets. Making sure your pet parakeets are happy starts with making sure they have adequate housing. When choosing a cage for your parakeet the length is more important than the height, as parakeets typically fly horizontally rather than vertically. A cage for a single parakeet should be at least 20 inches long and 18 inches high, and the size of your cage should increase as the number of parakeets you are looking to house increases. Remember, bigger is better as this cage will be your pets whole world! Parakeet cages should be placed in a room that is active and stays warmer, but not directly in a window as temperature extremes can be hard for them to adjust to. The cage should be covered at night to promote good sleeping patterns. The cage should have a multitude of perches for your birds to rest on, and they should be of an appropriate size to fit your birds feet so they are able to rest comfortably. The bottom of the cage should be lined so that it can be easily replaced when soiled. Newspaper works great!

diet

Parakeets have an active metabolism and should be eating frequently, so it is important to always keep food available to them. They should be provided with a species appropriate seed or pellet diet as a staple. Parakeets eat from the top of the dish, so it is important to mix up the dish daily and top off their food. In addition to a pellet or seed staple, it is great to offer your parakeets leafy green vegetables, small amounts of fruits or berries, they can even have a small amount of hard boiled egg! Keep an eye on your bird's stool, as runny stool can suggest they are getting too much water in their diet from their fresh foods. Spray millet is a wonderful supplement to their diet and something parakeets really love. Spray millet works great as a reward for desired behavior! Cuttlebone should be offered to your bird to supply calcium which can help to prevent overgrowth of the beak. Food and water bowls should be provided at all times.

enrichment

Parakeets are smart little creatures and love to have things to keep their brains occupied and interested. Swings are similar to perches for parakeets, but provide movement and entertainment for your bird. Birds love colorful toys as they can see the full spectrum of color! Toys made of wood, straw and other natural materials provide opportunities to chew and shred, which is fun for parakeets. Toys with bells can be fun for your parakeet to experiment with sounds. Giving more climbing opportunities like ladders and other climbing toys allows you to maximize your space and make it more interesting for your pet! Be sure to rotate toys and switch things up, everyone loves a little excitement in their life.

health

It is important to always keep an eye on your pet so you can get to know their normal behaviors. If your bird is less active than usual, acting lethargic or is experiencing a lack of appetite, these may be causes for concern. Grooming is a sign of a healthy parakeet, so your birds feathers should look smooth, clean and should not have missing patches. It is also important to keep an eye on their feet and make sure they are clean, the nails are not overgrown and that their feet are free of sores or encrustation. Consistently runny stool may also be a cause for concern. Please seek a bird-savvy veterinarian to address any concerns you may have.