



ENGLISH PARAKEET

Melopsittacus undulatus

ORIGIN: Parakeets, also known as budgies, are native Australia where they live in very large flocks. English parakeets have been selectively bred in captivity for their large size, and the enlarged chest and head makes them easily distinguished from other parakeets. English parakeets tend to be better talkers than other breeds.

SIZE: English parakeets are the largest breed of parakeet. They typically reach a size of 8-9 inches from head to tail.

CAGING: Parakeets require a cage that is at least 18 inches tall and has a floor space of 2 square feet. Square or rectangular cages are preferable to dome-shaped cages. The metal bars should be horizontal and no more than 1/2-inch apart. The perches should be at least 1/2-inch in diameter and placed at different heights in the cage. The cage should have a grate over the bottom which separates the bird from feces. The cage should be placed in a location which will allow the bird to frequently see his owners.

SUBSTRATE: A substrate that is easily cleaned such as newspaper is ideal. Corn cob or crushed walnut shell may also be used. The substrate should be changed daily.

TEMPERATURE: Parakeets will adjust to room temperature, but extreme heat and cool should be avoided. The cage should be placed in a location that is free from drafts and direct sunlight.

WATER: Parakeets must have access to fresh, clean drinking water at all times. The water dish should be cleaned and refilled daily. Parakeets can also be trained to drink from water bottles especially made for them.

DIET: Parakeets will thrive on a variety of commercial diets especially made for them. Fresh fruits and vegetables, including lettuce and sprouting seeds, should be offered weekly. In addition, parakeets may also be offered human food such as, rice, cereal, and pasta. Avoid avocados, chocolate, alcohol, and caffeine as these are toxic to the bird.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES

- Secure cage
- Water dish
- Food bowl
- Substrate as detailed above
- Literature about parakeets
- Perches of various sizes
- Fortified seed
- Cuttlebone
- Assorted bird toys for entertainment

OPTIONAL ACCESSORIES

- Bird bath
- Nail clippers
- Play gym
- Cement perch for natural nail filing

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