

BUYING YOUR FIRST

BUDGERIGAR

To be sure your budgie is fit and healthy make sure you buy a bird that is wearing a closed coded ring.



**ADVICE
AND TIPS
FOR THE
BEGINNER**



A typical pet cage



A Budgerigar with a ring



A pet sits happily on his cage

Your First Budgie

Before buying your first budgie you should spend a little time reading up on the subject and asking for some advice from experienced birdkeepers.

A lot of information about budgies can be found on the Budgerigar Society website:

www.budgerigarsociety.com

The Budgerigar Society also has a help line where experienced fanciers will be pleased to help with your queries. For the name and telephone number of a member of the help line living near to you, ring the Budgerigar Society on 01604 624549.

Choosing your pets' cage

Select the biggest cage you can afford or have room for, as your bird must have room to stretch its wings, fly from perch to perch and climb and play. The cage should have several perches of different thickness and made of wood to allow your pet to exercise its feet.

The cage should be placed in a cool, well ventilated, place where there is plenty of light, but away from draughts and direct sunlight.

Choosing your pet budgie – BUY A BRITISH BRED BUDGIE

It is important to choose a fit, healthy budgie that has been well bred and cared for. And for this reason you should only consider buying a bird that has been bred by experienced breeders in the UK and is wearing a closed, coded ring that not only carries the breeders code number, but also ensures its age.

Budgerigar Breeders in the UK care for their birds very well and keep and breed them in good, well constructed aviaries, and also make sure they are kept as free as possible of any disease.



How to feed your budgie

Your pet budgie will need a mixture of canary seed and millets as its basic diet. Such a seed can be purchased from most good quality pet stores. Clean drinking water must also be available at all times. Extras that are needed to keep your bird fit and healthy include; grit, cuttlefish bone and iodine nibbles. Vitamin supplements that can be added to the drinking water are also useful. Again, these items are readily available at your pet stores.

Other items that can be offered to your pet budgie are such things as an occasional millet spray, a slice of apple or orange and just a little greenfood, such as spinach or broccoli.



Checking your birds' health

A healthy budgie has bright eyes, is always alert and smooth feathered. If you notice that your budgie is unusually still and sitting with its feathers all ruffled up, or possibly sitting huddled up in the corner of its cage, is not eating or breathing normally or its droppings is not normal, (its droppings should be solid in appearance and not watery), then it is more than likely your bird is sick. At the first sign of sickness you need to seek expert advice, and if medication is required, you should contact a Veterinary Surgeon.

An inquisitive and playful pet



7 week old baby, the perfect age for a pet



An older finger tame pet



To find out where you can purchase a budgie direct from a breeder, visit the Budgerigar Society website (www.budgerigarsociety.com) and click on Pet Breeders. There you will find a list of breeders who can supply you with the bird you want.



For more details visit The Budgerigar Society website at:
www.budgerigarsociety.com
or telephone 01604 624549