

FREE SAMPLE

# Budgie Care Package

The first 4 pages of the 40-page printable manual, free to keep.



**In this sample:** What's inside, How to Use This Package, Quick Profile & Cost Overview. The contents page shows every one of the 40 pages, so you can see exactly what the full package covers before you buy it.

**Not in this sample:** the 36 pages that follow, which are the full care guide, the health section, the quick reference cards, and the owner tools, checklists and logs.

**The full package** is \$8.99 at [beastlyfacts.com/care-packages/budgie/](https://beastlyfacts.com/care-packages/budgie/). One purchase, and every corrected edition is a free re-download from your library. The free budgie care guide it was built from is at [beastlyfacts.com/guides/budgie/](https://beastlyfacts.com/guides/budgie/), and stays free.

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# What's inside

Every page is written to be used, not just read once.

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## START HERE

# How to use this package

Three ways to get value from it, depending on where you are right now.

### If you haven't bought a bird yet

Read pages 4 through 12 in order before buying anything. Two decisions cost the most to undo: the cage on page 5, which people buy small and replace within a year, and whether you bring home one budgie or two on page 9, which decides how tame the bird becomes and how much of your day it needs. Settle both, then use the Budget and Shopping List on page 30 to buy once instead of twice.

### If your budgie is already home

Start with the Setup Checklist on page 28 to audit what you have, then page 10 if the bird is on a seed mix. Diet is the single biggest lever on how long a budgie lives, and the conversion takes weeks, so starting it today matters more than reading the rest of this book first. If anything looks wrong, go straight to Health Red Flags on page 19.

### Print these first

- |                                                                    |                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Page 28: Setup Checklist & Targets        | <input type="checkbox"/> Page 35: Pet-Sitter Sheet              |
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#### WHY THIS PACKAGE EXISTS

A budgie is sold as the cheap, easy starter bird, and a lot of the care advice still in circulation was written to match that price rather than the animal. Seed-only feeding, a cage the bird cannot turn around in, and a kitchen window as a cage spot are all still normal advice somewhere. Every figure here is cross-checked against veterinary sources, listed on page 39, and every temperature and dimension is given in both imperial and metric.

#### NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR

An avian veterinarian. This is a husbandry reference for day-to-day care. Anything urgent or health-related is a professional call, not a page in this book. Budgies mask illness until they are genuinely sick, and they are small enough that the margin afterwards is hours, not days. Find a vet before you need one and write the number on page 29.

## SECTION 01

# Quick profile

Everything at a glance before you read the detail.

|                      |                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scientific name      | <i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i> . Sold in the United States as a parakeet, in the UK and Australia as a budgerigar or budgie. Same bird              |
| Adult size           | About 7 in (18 cm) head to tail tip                                                                                                                 |
| Adult weight         | 25 to 35 g. Exhibition-bred birds run heavier and wider than pet-type budgies, so your bird's own baseline matters more than the range. See page 16 |
| Captive lifespan     | 7 to 15 years. The low end is almost always diet: see page 20                                                                                       |
| Native range         | The dry interior of Australia. Nomadic flocks that follow rainfall                                                                                  |
| Diet type            | Grass-seed eater in the wild, kept on a pellet-forward diet in captivity. Page 10                                                                   |
| Cage floor, one bird | 18×18 in (46×46 cm) footprint as an absolute minimum. Length matters more than height                                                               |
| Cage target          | 20×20×30 in (51×51×76 cm) or wider. Page 5 explains why two credible sources differ                                                                 |
| Bar spacing          | 3/8 to 1/2 in (10 to 13 mm). A head-entrapment limit, not a preference                                                                              |
| Room temperature     | 70 to 80°F (21 to 27°C) is comfortable. Avoid drafts and sudden swings                                                                              |
| Darkness needed      | 10 to 12 hours, uninterrupted, every night. Page 7                                                                                                  |
| Sexual maturity      | 6 to 12 months                                                                                                                                      |
| Sexing               | Cere color, reliable in adults and one of the few parrots where looking at the bird is enough. Page 16                                              |
| Handling difficulty  | Beginner. Built on trust with a flighted bird, never on restraint                                                                                   |
| Conservation status  | Least Concern (IUCN)                                                                                                                                |

## Cost overview

### Initial setup

\$175 to \$475 for equipment, plus \$45 to \$150 for the first avian vet exam. The bird itself is \$20 to \$80. Full breakdown on page 30.

### Monthly ongoing

\$20 to \$45 for one bird, food and consumable toys included. Add roughly half again for a second budgie sharing the same cage.

### THE LINE ITEM PEOPLE LEAVE OUT

Avian vets are a smaller and pricier specialty than general small-animal practice, and pet insurance is rarely available for a budgie. Diagnostics run \$50 to \$300 on top of the exam, and emergency care runs \$100 to \$1,500 or more. Most owners self-insure, which only works if the money is actually set aside. Page 30 treats it as a line, not an afterthought.