

February 11, 2026

RE: Opposition to House Bill 7334

Dear Chairman Solomon and members of the Corporations Committee,

As the advocacy voice of the responsible pet care community, the **Pet Advocacy Network** represents the interests and expertise of retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, pet owners, and others involved in the many aspects of pet care across the United States. Our association promotes animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, fosters environmental stewardship, and ensures healthy pets' availability through our local, state, and federal work. In addition, we routinely advocate for legislative and regulatory proposals to protect the health, safety, and availability of companion animals.

On behalf of the responsible pet care community, I respectfully urge you to oppose H 7334, which would prohibit pet stores in Rhode Island from selling parrots obtained from breeders or brokers and would impose additional restrictions on sales in public places and online. While the bill intends to improve animal welfare, it is overly broad and will likely cause unintended consequences that could ultimately harm parrots, consumers, and responsible small businesses.

The legislation focuses on restricting the source of birds to the general public, rather than addressing measurable welfare standards stores and breeders must adhere to. By broadly banning pet stores from selling parrots obtained from breeders or brokers, regardless of whether those birds were responsibly bred, properly socialized, and humanely raised, the bill assumes that pet stores alone determine welfare outcomes. The bill does not establish new care standards, veterinary documentation requirements, disease testing protocols, or enhanced consumer protections tied to the health of the bird. If the goal is to improve parrot welfare, policy should focus on enforceable care standards and oversight, not on eliminating well regulated, lawful and transparent commerce that protects both consumer and animal.

Restricting regulated retail channels will not eliminate consumer demand for companion birds. Instead, it is likely to shift sales into less visible markets, including unlicensed backyard breeders, out-of-state sellers, and unregulated online platforms. These environments are far more difficult to monitor and are more likely to involve poor welfare practices, disease transmission risks, and consumer fraud. Removing transparent, regulated sources may unintentionally reduce oversight rather than strengthen it.

There is also concern that the bill is being presented as addressing “parrots” in a way that suggests only large, long-lived tropical birds. In practice, the legislation would prohibit the sale of commonly owned birds such as budgerigars, parakeets, cockatiels, and lovebirds. These birds

are among the most popular companion animals and are typically purpose-bred by professional breeders operating within regulated systems.

It is also important to recognize that Rhode Island pet stores and the licensed breeders with whom they work are already subject to federal oversight under the Animal Welfare Act. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires licensing or registration for individuals and companies that commercially sell birds, and those facilities are routinely inspected to ensure compliance with humane care standards. These standards address housing, food, water, environmental conditions, handling, transportation, and other factors that affect the physical and psychological well-being of birds. H 7334 does not build upon or strengthen these standards. Instead, it removes one of the most transparent and regulated pathways through which consumers obtain birds.

Local pet stores provide more than a point of sale. They offer guidance on nutrition, housing, enrichment, and veterinary care, helping families make informed decisions and supporting long-term, successful pet ownership. These businesses work to match birds with appropriate homes, reducing the likelihood that animals will later be surrendered to shelters or rescues. Eliminating these stores as a source of companion birds diminishes consumer education and support while failing to address potential welfare concerns in less regulated channels.

The bill's advisory committee structure also raises concerns. By naming specific private organizations to assist with implementation and compliance without clear state oversight or broader stakeholder inclusion, the legislation creates questions about transparency, accountability, and equitable representation. If Rhode Island seeks expert input on avian welfare, a neutral advisory body that includes veterinarians, avian specialists, rescues, responsible breeders, small business representatives, and enforcement officials would provide more balanced guidance.

In addition to policy concerns, the bill would impose significant economic strain on small businesses. Many Rhode Island pet stores are locally owned small businesses that contribute to the state's economy and tax base. The proposed penalties, combined with restrictions on inventory sourcing, would create financial uncertainty for store owners while reducing consumer access to healthy, responsibly bred birds. One longstanding local business, Jungle Junction, which has operated for more than 35 years and is widely recognized for its avian education and community engagement, would be particularly impacted. The ripple effects would extend beyond retail stores to breeders, suppliers, and manufacturers who support the pet care ecosystem in the state.

The legislation also contains definitions and restrictions that could create confusion and inconsistent enforcement. Broad terminology surrounding breeders, brokers, and rescue organizations may unintentionally capture lawful hobbyists and legitimate placement networks.

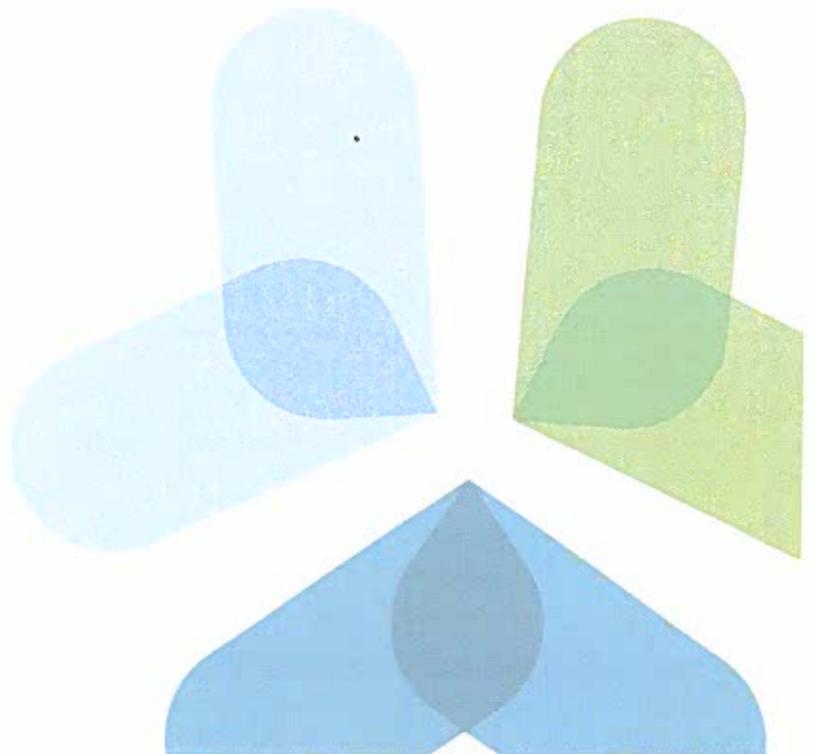
The prohibition on sales in public places could similarly create uncertainty for educational events, adoption gatherings, and other community activities involving birds.

If the General Assembly's objective is to enhance parrot welfare and reduce neglect, there are more targeted and effective approaches available. Strengthening enforcement of existing cruelty laws, requiring veterinary documentation and disease testing disclosures, and improving public education about the long-term responsibilities of bird ownership would directly address welfare concerns without eliminating regulated and transparent commerce.

We encourage Rhode Island to pursue thoughtful, evidence-based policies that protect birds while supporting responsible ownership and local businesses. This bill, as drafted, does not strike that balance. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to vote no on H 7334 and instead, let's work together to find ways to strengthen protections for birds, consumers, and the local businesses in the Ocean State.

Thank you for your consideration,

Alisa Clements
Director, Government Affairs



FACTS ABOUT PET BIRDS

WHERE DO PET BIRDS COME FROM?

The vast majority of pet birds in the United States come from private, professional breeders regulated by the USDA. Since 1992, the importation of internationally protected birds has been broadly prohibited.

WHAT REGULATIONS ENSURE PET BIRD WELFARE?

Professional bird breeders are licensed and inspected by the USDA under the federal Animal Welfare Act. They are often regulated by state and local authorities, as well. The Animal Welfare Act regulations of bird breeders are thorough and cover: Veterinary care, species-specific housing; cleanliness; food storage; waste disposal; temperature; ventilation; lighting; psychological and environmental enrichment.

HOW ARE PET BIRDS TRANSPORTED PROFESSIONALLY?

Pet birds are moved in customized temperature-controlled shipping vehicles. The containers meet International Air Transport Association standards and are size-appropriate for the species and number of birds being shipped. Most birds are shipped with food in the crate and with fruits to keep them hydrated or some other water system that stays clean. Transit times are typically less than a day.

ARE BIRDS GOOD PETS?

Birds raised as pets in the U.S. are accustomed from birth to humans and their enclosures. But just as with getting a specific breed of dog like a husky, prospective bird owners should make sure it's right for them. Sources such as MyRightBird.com provide this information to prospective owners.

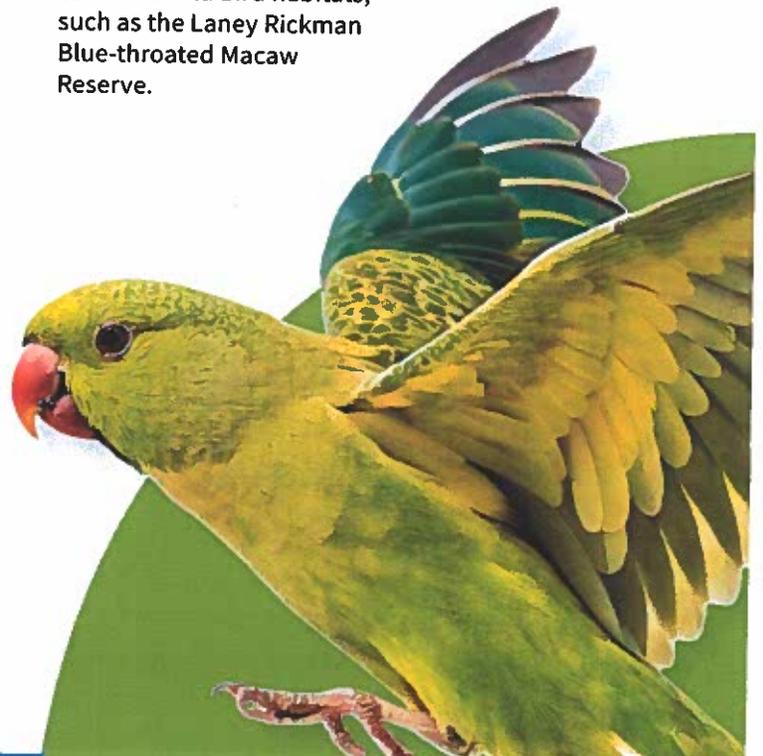
HOW LONG DO PET BIRDS LIVE?

Research has shown that for most common pet species of birds, when well cared for and provided a proper diet, the median life span, depending on the species, is between 5 and 22 years—similar to cats and dogs. Claims that birds live very long lifespans are mostly myths and occasional exemplary individuals.

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO HELP BIRDS INTERNATIONALLY?

Existing regulations and protections mean that purchasing a domestically bred pet bird in the United States is not contributing to the decline of birds worldwide. But that doesn't mean we can't help. Several ways include:

- Support efforts to increase captive breeding worldwide.
- Support efforts to educate people in native range states about the importance of protecting habitat and captive breeding pet species.
- Support nonprofits that conserve wild bird habitats, such as the Laney Rickman Blue-throated Macaw Reserve.



ADDRESSING MYTHS AGAINST LICENSED PET SHOPS & PROFESSIONAL BREEDERS

✗ Banning pet sales stops “puppy mills” (irresponsible breeders).

This is false for two reasons. First, breeders who provide puppies to pet stores must have a federal license and be inspected by the USDA (and typically need a state license, as well). Second, the lobbying group behind pet sale bans has admitted the number of puppy mills has not dropped between 2007 and 2025.

✗ Banning pet sales helps local animal shelters.

California banned retail cat and dog sales in 2019. Yet since then, animal shelters up and down the state have still been at capacity. In 2025, local news reported, “Yet another overcrowding crisis looming over LA animal shelters.” Meanwhile, local news in the Bay Area reported, “San Francisco animal shelter overloaded again with dogs.”

✗ Banning retail sales of pets improves animal welfare.

When prospective pet owners can't get the pet they want from a licensed local business, many will look on the Internet, where scams are rife. The Better Business Bureau has a database of pet scams that people report. Data show there was a 300% increase in reported scams in California after the state passed a ban on pet stores selling dogs and cats.

✗ Pet stores don't need to sell pets.

Pet sale bans have caused pet stores to close in California, New York, and other jurisdictions that have passed these laws. Advocates of these laws falsely claim that pet stores can stay in business without selling pets. This is untrue. Without the revenue and foot traffic from animals, many pet stores, especially independent, family-owned businesses, can't survive. The activists saying otherwise have never run a pet store.

✗ Transporting animals to pet stores is inherently inhumane.

Animals transported to licensed pet stores must meet strict federal and state standards to ensure their welfare. By contrast, animals purchased online are often shipped illegally, without oversight, veterinary records, or enforceable standards. Many animal rescue transports are shipped in this way, too.

✗ Pet stores worsen shelter overcrowding.

Shelter overcrowding is driven by stray animals, owner surrenders due to housing or economic pressures, imports from out-of-state, not by regulated retail sales.

✗ “Adopt, don't shop” is the only ethical choice.

Adoption is a great option, but it is not appropriate or feasible for everyone. Shelters cannot reliably provide specific breeds or animals suitable for families with children, seniors, or individuals with allergies. Ethical pet ownership includes responsible adoption and responsible breeding.

✗ Dogs in shelters can replace dogs in pet stores.

While many shelter animals are wonderful companions, many shelters have higher proportions of dogs with behavioral, medical, or placement challenges. This reality underscores why a one-size-fits-all mandate (eliminating consumer choice) does not serve animals, families, or communities.

✗ Pet stores sell animals from “puppy mills.”

Licensed pet stores source animals from federally regulated breeders that are subject to USDA inspections and enforcement. These breeders are often subject to state inspection and enforcement, as well. “Puppy mills” operate outside of regulations, often selling directly online or through classified ads — precisely the channels that expand when retail bans are enacted.

✗ Licensed professional breeders are all “puppy mills.”

Anti-pet store activists often pretend that any licensed, professional breeder is a “puppy mill” simply because they produce animals for pet stores. In reality, “puppy mills” are irresponsible breeders who do not provide for proper animal welfare.

✗ Fewer puppies are being bred in 2025 than 2020.

This is cherry-picking. There was a boom in dog sales in 2020 during the pandemic. The fact that fewer dogs are being bred at licensed breeders is simply evidence that people aren't buying as many dogs as they were during the initial stages of the pandemic, when people had to stay at home—which drove many to get a new pet.

Setting up for success with your new bird



On the Way Home

Fight the urge to take them out of the box on the way home. We know they're cute, but we want their journey home to be as stress-free as possible.



Keep a Watchful Eye

It's very important, to monitor and make sure that your pet is eating, drinking and using the restroom regularly. Watch for signs of distress and establish a vet in case of emergencies (not all vets will see birds)!



Establish a Safe Zone

Your new pet needs their own comfortable space in order to decompress when you first bring them home. Pick a place for their habitat in a quiet, low traffic, temperature-controlled area, away from any dogs, cats or things that may bother them while they acclimate to their new home.



Veterinary Care

Not all veterinary clinics treat birds, so it's important to establish one that does. We can recommend one that sees birds in the neighborhood or you can check the AAV website to find a bird vet near you at www.aav.org.



Adding Your New Friend to Their Habitat

A new home can be scary, right? Ideally, you want your pet's habitat set up and ready to go before you bring home your new pet. Place the box inside of the enclosure and allow them to come out on their own. Make sure they have places to hide so they feel safe; Feeling safe makes it easier for them to "come out of their shell!"



Safe Cleaning Tips

To ensure the safety of your bird, it's important to know what cleaning agents can and can't be used when disinfecting enclosures. Be sure to always remove the animal from the enclosure before you begin any cleaning. Some safe cleaning agents include:

- Distilled vinegar, Dawn dish soap & Rescue® disinfectant: use for routine cleaning. When using vinegar, dilute it to 1 part vinegar to 4 parts water. Rescue disinfectant can be purchased online in a ready to use bottle.
- Hydrogen Peroxide: 3% hydrogen peroxide does not need to be diluted and is the only disinfectant known to kill most protozoan parasite oocysts.
- Isopropyl Alcohol: a great option for killing bacteria and parasites but needs at least 20 minutes to sit to be effective. Once the alcohol is on the enclosure or décor, just let it evaporate off rather than rinsing. It is very important to allow the tank time to air out once using alcohol on it, once there is no smell left in the tank whatsoever it is safe to return the animal.



Consider a Schedule

Almost any new pet could benefit from a consistent schedule with feeding and lighting. So, think about when their "nighttime" is (it's not always at night) and make sure to turn on and off the lights when they need.



Handling & Socializing

It's a good idea to allow a few days to decompress before trying to start handling. Short sessions of handling will help to get them used to you. Sudden movements can be scary so take it slow and let them come to you. Birds greatly benefit from hearing your voice so communicate! Slowly adding in more toys may help to keep them from being overwhelmed at first. If this is a companion animal for another pet, it's best to keep them separate initially and slowly introduce them to each other after they are used to their new home.

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No Nos for your bird

Toxic Foods to Avoid:

- Avocados
- Fruits with pits or seeds
- Chocolate
- Dairy
- Onions
- Garlic
- Salt
- Excess fats
- Caffeine
- Xylitol
- Alcohol
- Mushrooms
- Tomato leaves
- Dried beans

Toxic Household Materials:

- Lead
- Zinc
- Copper
- Polytetrafluoroethylene (commonly found in non-stick cooking pans)
- Smoke
- Fumes
- Electrical cords
- Aerosol sprays

Transitioning to a new diet

As a bird owner, you may find that changing your pet bird's diet is necessary for several different reasons - from lack of interest in their current food or a recipe change to financial or even health-related issues. Whatever the reason, keep this guide handy when switching from one food to another to ensure a healthy and happy transition.

When converting a pet bird to a food that is completely different from the food normally fed (for example a seed diet to a pellet diet), a slower conversion is optimal. Small birds such as parakeets, canaries and finches may not recognize a pellet diet as a food, therefore refusing to eat. Always weigh your bird prior to starting the diet change and continuously throughout the process.

- **First 7 days:** 75% old food and 25% new food
- **Days 8-14:** 50% old food and 50% new food
- **Days 15-21:** 25% old food and 75% new food
- **Days 22+:** New food and sprinkles of old food if necessary

This method prevents digestive upset and gives the bird an opportunity to become familiar with the new food. It is very important to monitor the food intake, their weight and observe if the bird is eating the food. In some cases, it may appear that the bird is eating the food when they are pushing the food around looking for their old diet. Weight loss indicates poor consumption. If weighing is not possible, note the breast muscle through physical examination. Other signs of poor consumption and conversion include listlessness, hyperactivity, sitting with fluffed feathers or on the cage bottom, and loose droppings. If you see any of these signs, contact your vet immediately. Remove the new food and offer the old food again for at least one week to make sure the bird is stable.

If the bird is not eating the new food, the droppings may change from formed to a looser consistency. Digestive upset or increased water consumption may cause this. If the bird is drinking excessive water, delay conversion until food intake is normal. Birds are curious by nature, so patience, diligence and careful observation eliminates difficulties.

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New Pet Parent Guide

Birds

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Fun Facts

Cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*) are parrots native to the Australian mainland. There are about 22 cockatiel color mutations recognized worldwide.

Female cockatiels have small white dots on the tips of their flight feathers and black barring and stripes on the undersides of their wings and tail. ALL cockatiels have female markings until they are six months old. After that, the males lose these features.

- + **The cockatiel's crest is used to express a variety of emotions ranging from excitement to aggression.**
- + **Like all parrots, cockatiels are excellent at mimicking sounds they hear. Males are generally louder than females.**



Vet Approved

Our Care Guides are designed to assist in general knowledge and requirements for the care of your new family member. We strongly encourage further research and consultation with your veterinarian on the complete and proper care of any new pet.

For more information visit petsuppliesplus.com, cdc.gov/healthypets or contact your veterinarian.

Always wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning its habitat, and remember that any pet can scratch, bite or transmit disease to humans.

For pregnant women, persons with compromised immune systems, or if you have children under the age of 5, we strongly recommend contacting your physician prior to purchasing or caring for a new pet.

Please see the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov/healthypets/ for more information.

Shopping Checklist

From housing to supplies, we have everything you need to make their first days the best.

- Bird cage (min. 24"L x 18"W x 24"H) for 1 bird with bar space no larger than $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- UVB bulb & housing (if needed)
- Bedding or paper for bottom of cage
- Perches (at least 3 different types)
- Sturdy food/water dishes (at least 3)
- Variety of toys (at least 3 different types)
- Bird seed & pellet diet
- Cuttlebone, crushed oyster shells or calcium treats
- Treats (such as millet spray & treat sticks)
- Bird bath
- Spray bottle

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Care Guide Cockatiel



How to give your small pet their best life.

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Pet Care

Cockatiel

- + **LIFE SPAN**
25+ years
- + **AVERAGE SIZE**
11-14 inches long
- + **HABITAT TEMPERATURE**
65–80° F. To avoid temperature swings, do not place bird cages near vents or drafty windows.
- + **NORMAL BEHAVIOR & INTERACTION**
As a flock-oriented animal, your cockatiel would do well with having other birds in your home. They will see you and your family as part of their flock, so it's important to interact, handle and socialize with your bird frequently to keep them happy.
- + **DIET**
Cockatiels need a good-quality, pellet-based diet with a mix of seeds, vegetables, fruits and grains. For a complete diet, we recommend a 60% pellet/20% seed/20% fresh food combination.
- + **SUPPLEMENTS**
Cockatiels need calcium which can come from cuttlebone, crushed oyster shells or calcium treats.

Socializing & Handling

- + When you first bring your bird home, give them at least 24 hours to get used to their new habitat before handling them.
- + Try feeding your pet by hand. By creating a positive association with food, they'll be less afraid when you reach into their habitat.
- + To hold your bird, let them step onto your hand or pick them up placing your hand over their wings and back. To avoid injuries, never pick a bird up by its chest.
- + At the beginning, keep socializing sessions brief. Move slowly and quietly when handling your pet. Loud sounds and sudden movements may frighten them.
- + If they're struggling with being held, try using a towel or blanket to secure them as they get used to being handled by you. This will also help prevent jumping or escaping.



- + **WATER**
Make fresh, chlorine-free water available at all times. Cockatiels often bathe in and drink from the same place, so you may need to change their water multiple times a day.
- + **HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT**
A single bird should have a cage no smaller than 24" L x 18" W x 24" H. Two birds should have a cage measuring at least 28" L x 24" W x 36" H. Perches of varying materials and types should be included in the cage. Place their cage in a room where you and your family hang out a lot, that way your bird(s) will feel like a part of your "flock."
If natural sunlight is unavailable, you need to expose your bird to UVB light for at least 3–4 hours per day.
- + **ENRICHMENT**
To prevent boredom and stress, put three different types of appropriately sized bird toys in their cage. Rotate other toys in and out, making sure they always have three to play with.
- + **CAGE MAINTENANCE**
Your cockatiel's cage should be spot cleaned daily for feces and spoiled food. The bedding or paper on the floor should be changed every few days and the entire habitat cleaned at least once a month.
- + **GROOMING & HYGIENE**
Gently mist your bird with a spray bottle dedicated to misting them. Spray up and over the bird to replicate a fine rain. **NEVER** spray the bird directly in the face. A room-temperature birdbath should also be offered to your bird at least twice a week.

Fun Facts

Conures are native to Central and South America.

There are over 100 recognized species of conures that fall under several different genera: *Aratinga*, *Eupsittula*, *Psittacara*, *Pyrrhura* and many single-species genera.

Male and female conures are visually indistinguishable from one another, e.g., they all have a distinct, white ring around their eyes. A proper DNA test by a qualified avian veterinarian can tell you whether your bird is a boy or girl.

- + **Conures are known to be great family birds as they will bond with multiple people in a household.**
- + **While all birds have their own unique personalities, conures are particularly known for their cuddly and affectionate behaviors.**



Vet Approved

Our Care Guides are designed to assist in general knowledge and requirements for the care of your new family member. We strongly encourage further research and consultation with your veterinarian on the complete and proper care of any new pet.

For more information visit petsuppliesplus.com, cdc.gov/healthypets or contact your veterinarian.

Always wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning its habitat, and remember that any pet can scratch, bite or transmit disease to humans.

For pregnant women, persons with compromised immune systems, or if you have children under the age of 5, we strongly recommend contacting your physician prior to purchasing or caring for a new pet.

Please see the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov/healthypets/ for more information.

Shopping Checklist

From housing to supplies, we have everything you need to make their first days the best.

- Bird cage (min. 30"L x 36" W x 30" H for 1 small conure or min. 36"L x 40"W x 36"H for 1 large conure) with bar space no larger than 1/2" to 5/8"
- UVB bulb & housing
- Bedding or paper for bottom of cage
- Perches (at least 3 different types)
- Sturdy food/water dishes (at least 3)
- Variety of toys (at least 3 different types)
- Bird seed & pellet diet
- Cuttlebone, crushed oyster shells or calcium treats
- Treats (such as millet spray)
- Bird bath
- Spray bottle

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Care Guide
Conure



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Pet Care

Conure

- + **LIFE SPAN**
20+ years (depending on species)
- + **AVERAGE SIZE**
9-12 inches long
- + **HABITAT TEMPERATURE**
65–80° F. To avoid temperature swings, do not place bird cages near vents or drafty windows.
- + **NORMAL BEHAVIOR & INTERACTION**
As a flock-oriented animal, your conure would do well with having other birds in your home. They will see you and your family as part of their flock. Interact, handle and socialize with your conure frequently to keep them happy.
- + **DIET**
Conures need a good-quality, pellet-based diet with a mix of seeds, vegetables, fruits and grains. For a complete and balanced diet, we recommend a 60% pellet/20% seed/20% fresh food combination.

Socializing & Handling

- + When you first bring your bird home, give them at least 24 hours to get used to their new habitat before handling them.
- + Try feeding your pet by hand. By creating a positive association with food, they'll be less afraid when you reach into their habitat.
- + To hold your bird, let them step onto your hand or pick them up placing your hand over their wings and back. To avoid injuries, never pick a bird up by its chest.
- + At the beginning, keep socializing sessions brief. Move slowly and quietly when handling your pet. Loud sounds and sudden movements may frighten them.
- + If they're struggling with being held, try using a towel or blanket to secure them as they get used to being handled by you. This'll also help prevent jumping or escaping.



- + **SUPPLEMENTS**
Your conure needs calcium which can come from cuttlebone, crushed oyster shells or calcium treats.
- + **WATER**
Make fresh, chlorine-free water available at all times. Conures often bathe in and drink from the same place, so you may need to change their water multiple times a day.
- + **HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT**
For smaller conures, a single-bird cage should be at least 30"L x 36"W x 30"H. For larger conures, it should be no smaller than 36"L x 40"W x 36"H. Different types of perches made from various materials should be included in the cage. Place their cage in a room where you and your family hang out a lot, that way your bird(s) will feel like a part of your "flock."
If natural sunlight is unavailable, you need to expose your bird to UVB light for at least 3–4 hours per day.
- + **ENRICHMENT**
To prevent boredom and stress, put three different types of appropriately sized bird toys in their cage. Rotate other toys in and out, making sure they always have three to play with.
- + **CAGE MAINTENANCE**
Your conure's cage should be spot cleaned daily for feces and spoiled food. The bedding or paper on the floor should be changed every few days and the entire habitat cleaned at least once a month.
- + **GROOMING & HYGIENE**
Gently mist your bird with a spray bottle dedicated to misting them. Spray up and over the bird to replicate a fine rain. **NEVER** spray the bird directly in the face. A room-temperature birdbath should also be offered to your bird at least twice a week.

Fun Facts

Parakeets (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) are the most popular bird in the United States.

The parakeet is monogamous. When they find a mate, they pair for life!

Male parakeets have blue ceres (the fleshy area above a bird's beak) while females have brown ceres; however, when they're younger, parakeets have a purple or lavender cere until they're about a year old.

- + **When a parakeet is relaxed or happy, they grind their beaks.**
- + **We talk too! Parakeets are one of the most vocal pet birds that can learn to mimic the sounds around them.**



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- Bird cage (min. 18"L x 18"W x 18"H) with bar space no larger than $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{1}{2}$ "
- UVB bulb & hood
- Bedding for bottom of the cage
- Perches (at least 3 different types)
- Sturdy food/water dishes (at least 3)
- Variety of toys (at least 3 different types)
- Bird seed & pellet diet
- Treats such as millet spray
- Enrichment food & feeding toys
- Cuttlebone or calcium treats
- Bird bath
- Spray bottle

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Care Guide Parakeet



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Pet Care

Parakeet

- + **LIFE SPAN**
8+ years
- + **AVERAGE SIZE**
7 inches, 30-40 grams
- + **HABITAT TEMPERATURE**
65–80° F. To avoid temperature swings, do not place bird cages near vents or drafty windows.
- + **NORMAL BEHAVIOR**
As a flock-oriented animal, your parakeet would do well with having other birds in your home. They will see you and your family as part of their flock, so it's important to interact, handle and socialize with your bird frequently to keep them happy.
- + **DIET**
Parakeets need a good-quality, pellet-based diet with a mix of seeds, vegetables, fruits and grains. We recommend a 60% pellet/20% seed/20% fresh food combination.

+ SUPPLEMENTS

Parakeets need calcium which can come from cuttlebone or calcium treats.

+ WATER

Make fresh, chlorine-free water available at all times. Parakeets often bathe in and drink from the same place, so changing the water multiple times a day may be necessary.

+ HOUSING & ENVIRONMENT

A single bird should have a cage no smaller than 18" L x 18" W x 18" H. Two birds should have a cage measuring at least 28" L x 24" W x 36" H. If natural sunlight is unavailable, you need to expose your bird to UVB light for at least 3–4 hours per day.

+ ENRICHMENT

To prevent boredom and stress, put three different types of appropriately sized bird toys in their cage. Rotate other toys in and out, making sure they always have three to play with.

+ HABITAT MAINTENANCE

Their cage should be spot cleaned daily for any feces and spoiled food. The entire cage should be thoroughly cleaned at least twice a month.

+ GROOMING & HYGIENE

Gently mist your bird with a spray bottle dedicated to misting them. Spray up and over the bird to replicate a fine rain. **NEVER** spray the bird directly in the face. A room-temperature birdbath should also be offered to your bird at least twice a week.

Socializing & Handling

- + When you first bring your bird home, give them at least 24 hours to get used to their new habitat before handling them.
- + Try feeding your pet by hand. By creating a positive association with food, they'll be less afraid when you reach into their habitat.
- + To hold your bird, let them step onto your hand or pick them up placing your hand over their wings and back. To avoid injuries, never pick a bird up by its chest.
- + At the beginning, keep socializing sessions brief. Move slowly and quietly when handling your pet. Loud sounds and sudden movements may frighten them.
- + If they're struggling with being held, try using a towel or blanket to secure them as they get used to being handled by you. This'll also help prevent jumping or escaping.

