

Health:

Almost all birds enjoy a bath. Leave a dish of water in the cage, or use special bathing cages or hang-on baths designed for bathing. If your bird is not tempted, sprinkle a few drops of water on the bird. If it is still not interested, try again in a week's time. Remove the bath water after use. Do this on a warm day.

Don't leave the cage out in cold or windy weather and don't leave a bird in direct sunlight. They can suffer from heat stroke with prolonged direct sun exposure.

Budgies are social birds. If you can afford, keep two or more birds - they will keep each other company when you are not with them. If you only have one budgie, then a mirror and toys such as bells, ladders, and swings. These may seem like little things but they provide entertainment and stimulation to enrich your pet's life.

When in doubt about your pet's health, please consult a veterinarian.



Adoption Information:

There are no birds for adoption at the SPCA.

Location of the SPCA:

31 Mount Vernon Road, Singapore 368054

MRT Station: Bartley (Circle Line)

Bus Services: 28, 93, 158

Contact Information:

Telephone: 6287 5355

Web: www.sPCA.org.sg

Opening Hours (Adoption Area):

- Mon/Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat: 10.00am to 4.00pm
- Sunday and Public Holiday: 11.00am to 3.30pm
- Thursday: Closed (Unless it is a public holiday)

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PET NEEDS YOU TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND COMMITTED. A PET IS FOR LIFE.

Biodata of the **Budgerigar** and **Canary**:

Sexual Maturity	: From 9 months old
Gestation Period	: 18 to 20 days
Average Litter	: 1 to 4 eggs
Leaving the nest	: 4 to 5 weeks of age
Lifespan	: 6 to 10 years

Care of your Pet Bird



FRIENDS FOR LIFE®
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Important Information:

Information in this leaflet applies mainly to budgerigars, canaries and other seed-eating birds.

The SPCA opposes the keeping of wild-caught birds and recommends that you keep budgerigars or canaries, which have been bred in captivity. NEVER buy or keep a bird that was born in the wild. Only captive-bred birds can live in cages and be content if they are given what they need.

Under the Wild Animals & Birds Act, anyone caught killing, taking or keeping any wild animal or bird without a licence, other than those otherwise stated in the Act, could be fined up to \$1,000 and to the forfeiture of the animal.

General Information:

People keep birds for different reasons - their beauty, singing, or as companions. Whatever the reason, the decision should not be taken lightly because it will affect not just your lifestyle but also the life of the bird you keep. Never get one on impulse. Take your time, don't be too ambitious and plan carefully.

A few considerations before getting a bird are:

1. **Cost and time** - are you able to provide the required care and attention?
2. **Neighbours and noise** - will your neighbours complain when your bird sings?
3. **Children and pets** - young children and other pets may tease or hurt the bird.

How to choose a healthy bird:

A bird that has fluffed-up feathers, half-closed eyes and appears listless when you approach is probably sick. A healthy bird should be:

1. Bright and alert, its feathers smooth and held close to the body. Its eyes should be clear and wide open.
2. It should be eating and drinking, looking around observantly and reacting to the behaviour of the other birds.
3. Feel the bird's chest; if the breast bone sticks out sharply, the bird is thin and is not a good bird to get. Take a look at the vent; if the feathers there are dirty, the bird has diarrhoea and should not be bought. Feel the chest of the bird only if it is fairly tame, otherwise the experience may be a painful one!

Housing:

Your bird will be happiest if you can keep them in an outdoor aviary about 3.5m to 5.5m long, 1.8m high and 1.5m wide.

Natural tree branches make the best perches. If unavailable, use a selection of perches of different diameters and shapes to prevent foot problems from developing and to help keep the bird's feet and legs well-exercised.

Canaries and budgies need a cage at least 54cm wide, 61 cm long, and 61 cm high. The cage should be big enough for the bird to stretch full height, flutter, spread and flap its wings, and jump from perch to perch. Cages for budgies should be made of chrome, nickel, or stainless steel. If the cage is painted, make sure the paint is lead-free as birds are easily



poisoned by lead-based paint. Cleanliness is very important for the well-being of your pet. The cage floor should be covered with newspapers and changed daily.

Diet:

Pellet food or a good quality seed mix designed for your type of bird should form your bird's staple diet. Seeds should be replenished daily and empty husks discarded. Birds are notorious for dropping empty husks into their seed dishes, so a thorough examination of the dish is needed to make sure that it is not full of husks! Clean water, cuttlefish bone, shell grit, and a mineral block should always be left in the cage. Fresh leafy greens, fruit, and seeding grasses should be given regularly to supplement their seed diet. Before offering your bird vegetables, remember to soak them for at least 30 minutes to remove any possible pesticide residue. Treats can be given very occasionally but avoid those that are high in sugar.

