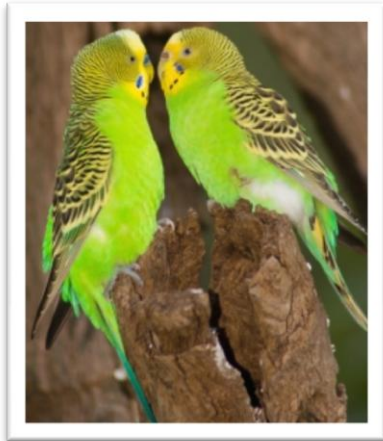


BUDGIES

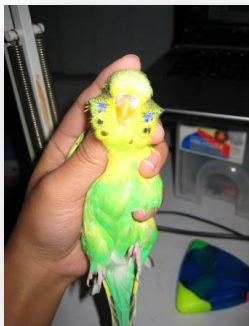


Budgies (also known as a parakeet or budgerigar) originated from the grasslands and woods of central and southern Australia. Budgies are small parrots that make delightful pets, and they usually are friendly and easy to tame. Wild budgies live in flocks of thousands and their species name "melopsittacus undulatus" translates to "stripey singing parrot".

LIFESPAN

Average 6 years but up to 15

HANDLING



One way of holding a budgie is by wrapping your hand around the budgie's body, securing its head and neck with your fingers. This particular way of holding a budgie can be used for medicating or for nail clipping.



When hand training a budgie, take it slow at first and let your budgie get used to you and its new environment before trying to get it on your finger. The more you interact with your budgie, the friendlier it will get and hand training will become easier.

For more information see "Bird Care Sheet", call 780-459-6896 or come visit us!

HOW TO SEX

A budgie's gender is determined by the color of the "cere". The cere is the fleshy area above the beak, where the nostrils of most birds are located. Sexing can only be done after the budgie reaches approximately 1 year old.



A **male's** cere becomes either a blue or purple with regular budgie coloring. Males that colorings are mutations (ex: albino) have ceras that don't change colors. Meaning their ceras stay bright violet or pink.

**males sing and are much more vocal*



A **female's** cere becomes either a white, tan, brown or light blue. If the cere is brown it also develops a flaky texture.

**females chirp and are less vocal*

BEHAVIOR

In the wild budgies are considered flock birds meaning they are found in large groups. They require lots of interaction to mimic their natural social ways. A budgie without a flock is an incomplete, lonely budgie!

If there is more than one budgie in a cage you may see them locking beaks in what looks like a kiss. In actuality one bird is feeding the other one. This act is considered as "bonding". One bird will regurgitate his or her food and put it in the mouth of another budgie. Sounds delicious!