

## LOVEBIRDS



The **peach faced lovebird** originates in the south west regions of Africa in large flocks of 20 to 30 birds. They were discovered in the 1700s and were originally considered a subspecies of the red faced variety. In the mid 1800s they were imported to Europe and were officially recognized as their own breed in 1817.



The **masked lovebird** was first discovered in the late 1800's in Africa like all other species of lovebirds. They were not imported until over a hundred years later. The first masked Lovebirds were imported in the late 1920's.

Lovebirds are small parrots just like a budgie. They possess the ability to mimic noises and whistles. However, these small parrots usually do not possess the ability to talk. There are some cases when a lovebird may chirp something that sounds like a word.

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### LIFESPAN

10 to 20 years

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## HANDLING



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

The process of hand taming a lovebird is slow. Let the lovebird get used to you and its new environment before trying to get it on your finger. The more you interact with the lovebird, the friendlier it will get and hand training will become easier.

Most lovebirds do not like to be patted on the back. In the wild when a predator attempts to capture a lovebird they would grab the bird from above and over its back pinning the lovebird's wings to its sides and making flight impossible.

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## BEHAVIOR

These birds are called lovebirds because constant grooming of each other and the devotion they display towards the mate for their entire life.

These can be kept either in pairs or by themselves. This all depends on the spare time that the owner has and can devote to their lovebird. If the lovebird is going to a house with lots of attention for it then it will not need a companion. If the owner has minimal time to spend playing with their bird then purchasing two would be a necessity. Neglected love birds will begin to over groom (preen) their feathers leaving them with bald spots.

Lovebirds are small parrots and possess the intelligence that large parrots are known for. These birds are very clever and have been known to escape their cages, including those that have extra clips to help keep the cage closed.

Once the lovebird has recognized its cage as its home, it will become very possessive. Be careful when trying to take the new bird out of its cage, the lovebird may think that you are intruding and bite your fingers.