

# Caique

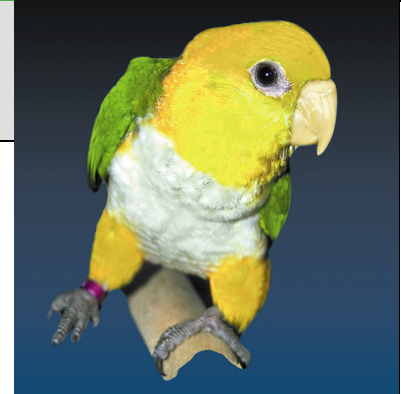
*Includes black-headed and white belly*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Caiques (ki-EEKS) are relatively small South American members of the parrot family. They are entertaining, intelligent, outgoing, and active. They have good appetites and love to chew on toys. Caiques are good at learning tricks, which is a good way to channel their energy.



### Is a caique the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have an appropriate location and space for this bird.
- I will provide a safe environment for this bird.
- I will provide daily, supervised time for this bird outside a cage.
- The natural sounds of this bird will be acceptable to family members and neighbors.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered, "Yes" to these statements, a caique may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a caique and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

**Average Size** 9 inches long

**Life Span** 15 to 30 years with proper care

**Diet** Specialized pelleted diets are highly recommended and should consist of 60–70% of the diet; use fortified seeds in moderation as they are higher in fat and less nutritious than pellets

Fresh fruits; vegetables, such as broccoli, cooked beans, and rice; clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water

Do not feed birds fruit seeds, avocados, chocolate, alcohol, or caffeine; these can cause serious medical problems

**Feeding** Fresh pellets or seeds and fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should always be available; if your bird is used to a seed diet, convert to pellets gradually

Fresh fruits and vegetables should be given daily and discarded when not eaten within 24 hours; caiques appreciate quality and variety in their food

**Housing** Birds acclimate well to average household temperatures; be cautious of extreme temperature change; cage should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts

A cage approximately 24" W x 14" D x 30" H, with metal bars spaced no greater than ½" apart, makes a good home for one caique; as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible; a flight cage is strongly recommended

Perches should be at least 6" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended

A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with cage paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning

To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches

**Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your birds health**

### Recommended Supplies

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cage and cage cover        | <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming spray      | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cage paper or substrate    | <input type="checkbox"/> Millet spray        | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of perches and toys   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pellets and fortified seed | <input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone          | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers and styptic gel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and water dishes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Treats and play gym | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about caiques            |

# Caique

*Includes black-headed and white belly*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Caiques are often found playing in their food bowls and bathing in their water bowls. They need lots of interaction with humans and time out of their cages each day and will hop around the house.

### Habitat Maintenance

Clean and disinfect the cage and perches regularly; replace substrate or cage liner weekly or more often if needed; replace food daily; change water daily, more often if necessary. Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly. Ensure that there are no cage parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead and lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.

### Grooming and Hygiene

Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing, and remove the water when done; as an alternative, mist the bird with water or a grooming spray. Clipping flight feathers is not necessary, but when done correctly it can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian veterinarian on what is best for your bird. Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### Signs of a Healthy Bird

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Dry nostrils and bright, dry eyes
- Clean, dry vent
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Beak, legs, and feet appear normal
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### Common Health Issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Chlamydia	Appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.	Seek immediate veterinary attention.
Diarrhea	Fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	Seek veterinary attention. Ensure correct diet. Reduce fruit intake.
Pacheco's Virus Disease	Rapid death, diarrhea, appetite loss, depression.	Isolate bird and disinfect cage; get immediate veterinary attention.
Pox	Mouth lesions, face scabs.	Isolate bird; seek veterinary attention.

### Red Flags

- Beak swelling or accumulations
- Wheezing or coughing
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- Runny or discolored stools
- Red or swollen eyes
- Sitting on floor of habitat
- Favoring one foot
- Loss of appetite

**If you notice any of these signs, please contact your avian veterinarian.**

### Sources

*Avian Medicine: Principles and Application* by Ritchie, Harrison, and Harrison  
*The ASPCA Complete Guide to Pet Care* by David L. Carroll  
*The Simple Guide to Bird Care and Training* by Julie Rach

**Note:** The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.