

Conure

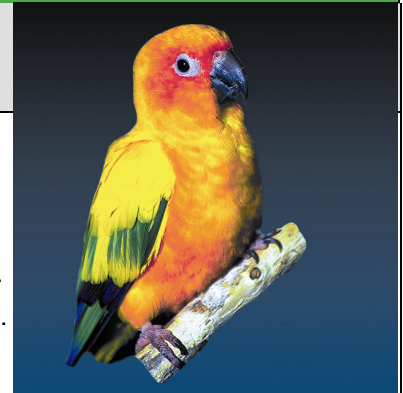
Includes sun, jenday, nanday, and green-cheeked



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Conures are small to medium-sized members of the parrot family from South America. They are highly intelligent and good-natured birds. Among the loudest of the parrots, conures are very colorful and playful.



Is a conure the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No	Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. I have an appropriate and safe space for this bird.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. I know that choosing this bird can be a long-term commitment.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. I will provide daily, supervised time for this bird outside a cage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. The natural sounds of this bird will be acceptable to family members and neighbors.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

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

Average Size 9 to 12 inches long **Life Span** 20+ 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 and vegetables, such as grapes, mangoes, papayas, broccoli, spinach, carrots, sweet potatoes, and corn

Clean, fresh, filtered and chlorine-free water changed daily

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

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

Fresh fruits and vegetables should be given daily and discarded when not eaten within 24 hours; conures 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 24" D x 30" H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart, makes a good home for your conure; 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 3/4" 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 conures

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Normal Behavior and Interaction

Social and adapt well to human interaction
Some species fall asleep on their backs on the floor, which is completely normal
Conures like to chew and need a lot of toys to chew on

Habitat Maintenance

Clean and disinfect the cage and perches regularly; replace substrate or cage liner weekly or more often if needed; replace food and water daily
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; 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 normal in appearance
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

Common Health Issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Black Splotches in Feathers	Malnutrition, liver disease.	Seek veterinary attention.
Chlamydiosis	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.
Neuropathic Gastric Disease	Depression, weight loss, regurgitation, passing undigested food.	Seek immediate veterinary attention.
Pacheco's Virus Disease	Rapid death, diarrhea, appetite loss, depression.	Isolate bird and disinfect cage; seek immediate 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.