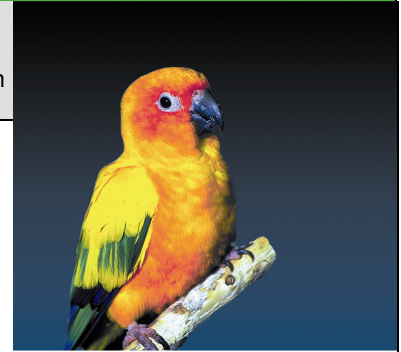


CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Originating from South America, sun conures are lively and inquisitive. They do well with other birds. They are content to be with their pet parents for hours at a time and are easy to care for. There is a color variation called the Sunburst Conure which is mostly yellow in color and slightly larger than a Sun Conure.



Is a sun 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 sun conure may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a sun conure and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 10 to 13 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

Diced fresh fruits (apples, grapes, pomegranates, and dark orange-colored fruits) and chopped dark green or orange vegetables; raisins

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; discard when not eaten before they spoil; conures appreciate quality and variety in their food

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

A habitat approximately 24"W x 24"D x 30"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart, makes a good home for a conure; as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible; a flight habitat is strongly recommended

Perches should be at least 9" 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 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"/> Habitat and habitat cover	<input type="checkbox"/> Food and water dishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements
	<input type="checkbox"/> Paper or substrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Grooming spray	<input type="checkbox"/> Variety of perches
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pellets and fortified seed	<input type="checkbox"/> Mineral block	<input type="checkbox"/> Variety of toys
	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers and styptic gel	<input type="checkbox"/> Treats	<input type="checkbox"/> Play gym
	<input type="checkbox"/> Book about conures	<input type="checkbox"/> Millet spray	<input type="checkbox"/> Soft wood chew toys

CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Normal Behavior and Interaction

Like to chew, need lots of toys to chew on; need to be supervised when out of cage
Require regular attention at least two hours daily; radio or TV when pet parent is away provides company; can be noisy if excited or ignored; can play games and be toilet trained
Conures like to cuddle into something soft to go to sleep; some species fall asleep on their backs on the floor, which is completely normal

Habitat Maintenance

Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat 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 habitat 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
Because all birds are potential carriers of infectious diseases, always wash your hands before and after handling your bird and/or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential of spread of diseases.
Pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a bird and should consider not having a bird as a pet. For more information regarding birds and disease, contact the Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/> and PETCO at http://www.petco.com/pet_care_info/companion_animal_care_sheets.

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
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
Feather Plucking	Bird plucks own feathers; may be due to boredom, poor diet or other illness	Relieve boredom with attention, new toys, or more room; improve diet; seek veterinary advice
Polyoma Virus	Anorexia, lethargy, weight loss, sudden death	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

Conures: A Complete Introduction by Al David
Simon and Schuster's Guide to Pet Birds by Matthew M. Vriends
The Conure: An Owner's Guide to a Happy, Healthy Pet 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.