

# Lory and Lorikeet

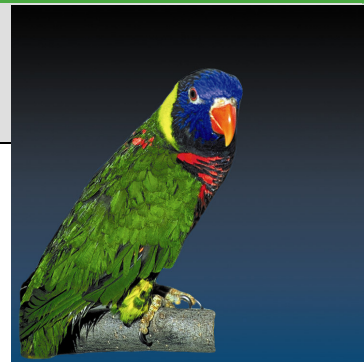
*Trichoglossus spp*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Lories and lorikeets have slender, wavy-edged beaks and tongues with "brushes" used to gather pollen, nectar, and juices. Lories have short tails; lorikeets have longer, pointed tails. They are intelligent, active, playful, and friendly.



### Is a lory or lorikeet 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 and safe space for this bird.
- I know that choosing this bird can be a long-term commitment.
- I will provide daily, supervised time for this bird outside a cage.
- The natural sounds of a lory 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 lory or lorikeet may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a lory or lorikeet and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

**Average Size** 5 to 13 inches long      **Life Span** 13 to 22 years with proper care, depending on species

**Diet** High quality, commercial nectar or specialized pelleted diets, supplemented with fruit and vegetable baby food and finely chopped fruits and vegetables; use fortified seeds in moderation as they are higher in fat and less nutritious than pellets

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** Clean, fresh water should always be available

Food should be given at the same time daily; discard nectar before it spoils

**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 lory or lorikeet; as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible; a flight cage is strongly recommended

A variety of appropriate 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"/> Food and water dishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cage paper or substrate       | <input type="checkbox"/> Nectar dish           | <input type="checkbox"/> Perches at 2 heights |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic barrier for cage wall | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird bath             | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of toys      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers and styptic gel | <input type="checkbox"/> Small cage light      | <input type="checkbox"/> Play gym             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about lories/lorikeets   | <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming spray        | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial nectar    |

# Lory and Lorikeet

*Trichoglossus spp*



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### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Very clean, affectionate birds; need the company of other birds  
Need to be kept occupied by providing daily attention and a variety of toys  
Nectar diet causes runny stools; this is normal and can be messy

### 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 and clean dishes 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 of 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
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.
Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease Virus	Abnormal feather color, feather loss, beak deformities.	Seek veterinary advice.
Psittacosis	Appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.	Seek immediate veterinary attention.

### Red Flags

- Beak swelling or accumulations
- Difficulty breathing
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- 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

*Parrots and Related Birds* by Bates and Busenbark  
*Sally Blanchard's Companion Parrot Handbook* by Sally Blanchard  
*The Guide to Owning Lories and Lorikeets* by William Wentworth

**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.