

# Lovebird

Includes blue mask, fisher, lutino, and peachface



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Lovebirds are often considered the most beautiful of the small parrot family. Originating from Africa, they are curious, energetic and charming. Lovebirds come in a rainbow of colors.



### Is a lovebird 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:

1. I have an appropriate and safe space for this bird.
2. I know that choosing this bird can be a lifelong commitment.
3. I will provide daily, supervised time for this bird outside a cage.
4. The natural sounds of this bird will be acceptable to family members and neighbors.
5. A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

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

**Average Size** 4 to 7 inches long

**Life Span** Up 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 and vegetables, such as bananas, carrots, and green leafy vegetables  
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; lovebirds 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 18" W x 18" D x 24" H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for your lovebird; as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible; a flight cage is strongly recommended

Perches should be at least 4" 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"/> Bird bath     | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cage paper or substrate    | <input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone    | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of perches   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pellets and fortified seed | <input type="checkbox"/> Millet spray  | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of toys      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food and water dishes      | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers | <input type="checkbox"/> Treats and play gym  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming spray             | <input type="checkbox"/> Styptic gel   | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about lovebirds |

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### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Lovebirds love to chew on things and take baths  
They can be territorial  
Lovebirds have a unique chatter and a naturally loud call

### 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 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 space; improve diet. Seek veterinary advice.
Pox	Lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.	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.