

# Quaker Parakeet

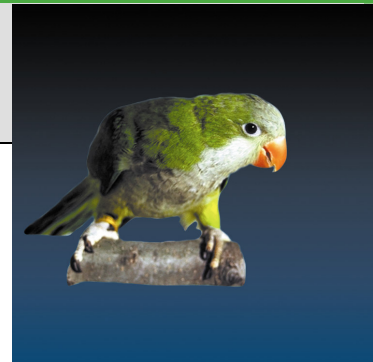
*Myiopsitta monachus*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

About the size of a cockatiel but stockier, Quakers have the personality of a larger parrot packed into a small green and gray body. Social and mischievous, their antics make these attractive birds wonderful companions. Also known as monk parakeets, they require lots of mental stimulation.



### Is a Quaker parakeet 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 location and space for this bird.
2. I will provide a safe environment for this bird.
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 these statements, a Quaker parakeet may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a Quaker parrot and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

**Average Size** 9 to 11 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 apple slices, grated carrots, raw broccoli, and green, leafy vegetables

Do not feed birds avocados, fruit seeds, 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

**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 36"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart, makes a good home for your Quaker parakeet; 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 - 3/4" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes and materials is recommended to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis

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**

- |                             |  |                                     |  |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Recommended Supplies</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Cage and cage cover       | <input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements           |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Food and water dishes     | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird bath  | <input type="checkbox"/> Variety of perches and toys   |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fortified pellets or seed | <input type="checkbox"/> Play gym   | <input type="checkbox"/> Cage paper or substrate       |
|                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Book about Quakers        | <input type="checkbox"/> Treats     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers and styptic gel |

# Quaker Parakeet

*Myiopsitta monachus*



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### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Quaker parakeets are curious and playful, need frequent rotation of toys and frequent “out of cage” time to remain stimulated; enjoy a variety of chew toys

Can be quite loud; may learn to mimic human speech, but does so in a quiet voice

### 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

Mist or shower weekly.

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
Chlamydiosis	Appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.	Seek immediate veterinary attention.
Coccidiosis	Weight loss, bloody stool.	Seek 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.
Mites (Scaly Face and Leg Disease)	White deposits on eyes, beak, legs, and feet.	Seek treatment from veterinarian.

### 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.