

# Ringneck Parakeet

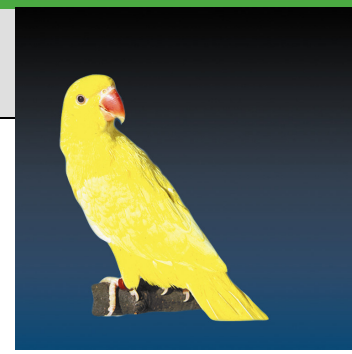
*Psittacula krameri*



## CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Ringneck parakeets are beautiful, intelligent and hardy birds. They come in a variety of colors and are considerably larger than the typical parakeet. Ringneck parakeets are powerful fliers and some have a talent for imitating human speech.



### Is a ringneck 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:

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

**Average Size** 12 to 14 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 parsley, spinach, carrots, greens and sprouted seeds

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

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; parakeets 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 36" H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for your parakeet; 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 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"/> Large, shallow bathtub  | <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"/> Nail clippers and styptic gel | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird gravel with shells | <input type="checkbox"/> Play gym            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book about parakeets          | <input type="checkbox"/> Branches to chew        | <input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone          |

# Ringneck Parakeet

*Psittacula krameri*



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### Normal Behavior and Interaction

Strong fliers; they need activities, such as swinging and climbing, to keep them busy in the cage and plenty of time to fly free and climb with supervision

They bond to their pet parents and require several hours of attention a day

Naturally take naps during the day; a quiet place with a dim light is ideal for their sleep

### 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 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
Chlamydiosis	Appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge, green stool.	Seek immediate veterinary attention.
Diarrhea	Fecal portion of dropping is loose, weight loss, ruffled feathers. Variety of causes from diet change to internal parasites.	Seek treatment from veterinarian.
Feather Plucking	Bird plucks own feathers.	Seek veterinary attention; provide stimulation/new toys.
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

*Parakeets Today* by Elaine Radford

*Simon and Schuster's Guide to Pet Birds* by Matthew M. Friends

*The Parakeet Handbook* by Annette Wolter and Immanuel Bermelin

**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.