

Amazon

Includes blue front, double yellow-headed, and orange wing



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Amazons are stocky, larger members of the parrot family. They are playful, gentle, enjoy human interaction and like to be the center of attention. Amazons are excellent talkers, very intelligent and should have lots of toys to keep them busy.



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

Average Size 10 to 15 inches long **Life Span** Up to 60 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 grapes, mangoes, bananas, cantaloupe, papayas, broccoli, spinach, carrots, sweet potatoes

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; Amazons appreciate quality and variety in their food

Obesity is a common problem in Amazons, so their diets must be carefully regulated

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 30" W x 30" D x 36" H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/4" apart, makes a good home for your Amazon; as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible; a flight cage is strongly recommended

Perches should be at least 9" long and 1" 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"/> Food and water dishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cage 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 and play gym	<input type="checkbox"/> Book about Amazons

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- Normal Behavior and Interaction** Amazons often talk, sing and enjoy showing off their skills; they can be quite loud
They form strong bonds with humans and need lots of interaction and time outside of their cage; they need a variety of toys to keep them entertained
- 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 a bowl of 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 more room; improve diet. Seek veterinary advice.
Obesity	Overfeeding or poor diet.	Regulate amounts and types of food.
Polyoma Virus	Anorexia, lethargy, weight loss, sudden death.	Seek veterinary attention.

Red Flags

- Beak swelling or accumulations
- Fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- Runny or discolored stools
- Wheezing or coughing
- Sitting on floor of habitat
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Favoring one foot
- Red or swollen eyes
- 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.