

Parrotlets

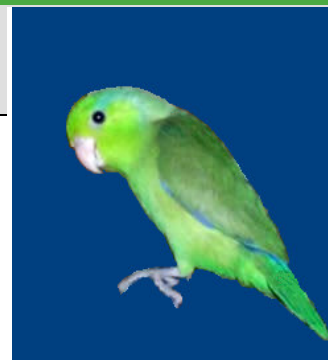
Forpus, Touit, Nannopsittaca spp.



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Parrotlets are small and stocky parrots with short, square tails. The most common color is green with blue on the wings and the back of the neck; however, color variations include yellow-faced, blue and pastels. These small parrots are very social.



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

Average Size 4 - 6 inches long

Life Span 10 to 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
 Clean, fresh, filtered, 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 fruit and vegetable supplements should be given daily and discarded if not eaten within 24 hours; parrotlets 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 parrotlet; 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 prevent arthritis is suggested
 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"/> Grooming spray	<input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cage paper or substrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Millet spray	<input type="checkbox"/> Variety of perches
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pellets and fortified seed	<input type="checkbox"/> Play gym	<input type="checkbox"/> Variety of toys
	<input type="checkbox"/> Food and water dishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Treats	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone
	<input type="checkbox"/> Book about parrotlets	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird bath	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers and styptic gel

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Normal Behavior and Interaction

Parrotlets are best kept singly as they can be territorial
Active and need time out of their cages daily to interact with the family
Enjoy a variety of chew toys

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 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
Diarrhea	Fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes	Seek veterinary attention; ensure correct diet; reduce fruit intake
Feather Plucking	Bird plucks own feathers	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

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.