

Care & Information Sheet

Lorikeet & Lory

Trichoglossus spp



Lorikeets and Lories have slender, wavy-edged beaks and tongues with “brushes” used to gather pollen, nectar, and juices. Lorikeets have longer, pointed tails than Lories who have shorter tails. They are intelligent, active, playful, very friendly and affectionate birds. They need the company of other birds or daily attention and a variety of toys to keep them occupied. The average size is 5 to 13 inches and with proper care and nutrition they can live 13 to 22 years depending on the species. Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to the bird’s health.

Habitat

- A cage approximately 24" W x 24" D x 30" H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart will make a good home for your lorikeet or lory. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible, a flight cage is strongly recommended.
- A variety of perch sizes is recommended to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis.
- A metal grate over the 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.
- Birds acclimate well to the average household temperature. Avoid extreme temperature changes. The cage should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

Food & Water

- High quality commercial nectar or specialized pelleted diets, supplemented with fruit and vegetable baby food and finely chopped fruits and vegetables.
- Food should be given at the same time daily and discard nectar before it spoils.
- A nectar diet can cause runny stools, this is normal and can be messy.
- Fresh fruits and vegetables, such as grapes, mangoes, papayas, apples, broccoli, carrots, and sweet potatoes, can be given daily and discarded if not consumed within 24 hrs.
- Do not feed birds fruit seeds, avocados, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water changed daily.

Maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the cage and perches regularly. Replace substrate or cage liner weekly or more often if needed.
- 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, and remove the water when done or 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.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

Supplies

Cage & Cage Cover	Nectar & Pellets	Treats & Millet Spray	Nail Clippers & Styptic Gel
Cage Paper or Substrate	Food & Water Dishes	Grooming spray	Book About Lorikeets &
Variety or Perches	Vitamin supplements	Variety of Toys	Lories

Health

Because all birds are potential carriers of diseases, always wash your hands before and after handling your bird and/or the habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of disease.

You should consult with an avian veterinarian if you observe any of the following conditions.

- Diarrhea - Fecal portion of dropping is loose. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.
- Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease - Virus Abnormal feather color, feather loss, beak deformities.
- Psittacosis - Appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.

For information regarding conures and disease, contact the Center for Disease Control at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets>

NOTE: The information in this document is for general reference only. Please consult a veterinarian for medical advice.

Sources:

Parrots and Related Birds by Bates and Busenbark
Sally Blanchard’s Companion Parrot Handbook by Sally Blanchard
The Guide to Owning Lories and Lorikeets by William Wentworth