

Care & Information Sheet

White Cap Pionus

Pionus spp



The Pionus is from South America. They are very playful and love to bathe. They have an exceptionally sweet nature and a generally quiet demeanor and they can learn to talk. The average size is 9 inches and with proper care and nutrition they can live 30 years. This bird is very active and must be provided with ample amounts of food to maintain its high energy level. 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 36" H, with metal bars spaced ¾" apart will make a good home for your pionus. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible, a flight cage is strongly recommended.
- Perches should be at least 6" long and 3/4" in diameter. 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

- 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. If your bird is used to a seed diet, convert to pellets gradually. Replace food daily.
- Nuts and grains as well as fresh fruits and vegetables, such as grapes, mangoes, papayas, broccoli, spinach, carrots, and sweet potatoes, should 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	Pellets & Fortified Seed	Cuttlebone	Treats & Millet Spray
Cage Paper or Substrate	Food & Water Dishes	Grooming spray	Nail Clippers & Styptic Gel
Variety of Perches	Vitamin supplements	Variety of Toys	Book About Pionus'

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.
- Obesity – Overfeeding or a poor diet. Regulate the amounts and the type of foods given.
- Pox – Facial scabs and lesions on the mouth. Consult an avian specialist.
- Pneumonia – Difficult breathing can be caused by bacterial, fungal or viral infections. Consult an avian specialist.

For information regarding pionus 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:

Parrotfriend.com
All About Parrots by Arthur Freud
The New Parrot Handbook by Werner Lantermann