

Bourke Parakeet Care Sheet



Your Pets Super Store

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Congratulations on your new pet. This small, beautiful bird is also referred to as one of the “grass parakeets,” because it tends to spend time on the ground in the tall grass rather than in the air. Although less active than other parrots, Bourke’s Parakeets are active during dawn and dusk. They are smart and affectionate and will bond with a human companion. The bird’s friendly nature, along with its colorful plumage and soft, tinkling call, make it a good choice for anyone seeking a quiet and devoted pet parrot. However, it is not a parrot that anyone should expect to talk. Due to their non-destructive nature, it is unlikely that they will nibble on furnishings. With proper care they can live 10-12 years.

HOUSING-----

The cage for a Bourke Parakeet should provide it with room enough to spread its wings. A minimum size of 36” long, by 24” wide, by 24” high is recommended, with spacing between the bars being no more than 3/8” wide. Length is always more important than height, because it gives the bird more room to exercise his wings. They do not climb like other parakeets. In most cases, more space is more desirable for birds. The friendly Bourke’s Parakeet will enjoy having her cage placed in an area where there is family activity. However, the cage should also offer enough privacy to provide the bird with a sense of security. The cage should be positioned in an area that has a wall on one or two sides of the cage. If there is a lot of night-time activity in the room that houses the cage, such as a TV going after 9 pm, a cage on wheels will allow it to be moved to a quiet area at night. It is important that the bird be provided with at least 10-12 hours of quiet undisturbed sleep time each night. The cage can be covered at night. The cage should also never be placed in direct sunlight or draft. A Bourke’s Parakeet needs to have at least two or three perches with different diameters in her cage. A perch should be placed in front of, but not above, food and water dishes. A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with cage paper or corn cob litter for easier cleaning. Your bird should have daily access to a shallow bowl of chlorine-free water for supervised bathing for one to two hours. Remove bath bowl when finished. Water must be lukewarm to room temperature. Avoid drafts. Individual birds may also appreciate misting. A Bourke’s cage should contain a good selection of appropriately sized toys. Most Bourke’s Parakeets tend to enjoy avian swings.

DIET-----

Bourke’s should be fed a diet of high quality parakeet mix, pellets, black oil sunflower, sprouted seeds and a variety of fresh fruit and dark leafy vegetables. Apples, bananas, and carrots have proved to be these birds’ favorite foods. And given a choice, they’d eat nothing but Spray Millet, so this food must be given only

sparingly. Cuttlebone should always be available and other mineral blocks to help keep their beaks ground down. Bourke's Parakeets should always have access to clean fresh chlorine-free water. The water must be checked regularly throughout the day to ensure that it is free of droppings. All water given to this pet for drinking, misting and bathing must be 100% free of chlorine. We recommend that you use bottled natural spring water. Do not use distilled water, which can cause severe medical problems, since it lacks minerals that are essential to important body functions. Avocado, raw onions, salty snacks like chips or pretzels, chocolate, sugary treats like candy, alcohol, fruit seeds and rhubarb are toxic to birds, so they should never be fed to an avian pet.

CLEANING-----

Bourke's Parakeets produce relatively large droppings, so their cage might require more attention than other birds of a similar size. Wash and dry food and water dish daily. Fill with fresh seed mix and fresh non chlorinated water. Once a week, remove the bird to a safe place and wash the cage, perches and toys with Poop Off. Dry the cage thoroughly before returning you bird. Cover the cage bottom with clean cage paper or corn cob litter. If you use a cage cover it should be washed weekly, since it will accumulate feather dust.

HEALTH-----

Bourke's parakeets in the wild learn to hide any sign of illness, as that can attract predators. Watch your bourke parakeet closely to catch the first signs of failing health. Signs of illness in the rosy bourke parakeet include: crusty beak or toes, loss of appetite, fluffed up on the bottom of the cage, listless and poop stuck to vent. Contact your veterinarian if you notice any of these. Keep your bourke parakeet's claws trimmed. Clipping his wings will prevent flying accidents in the home and possible escape. Creature Comforts provides a clipping service for a minimal fee if you are not comfortable doing it yourself.

FERTILITY-----

Bourke parakeets breed easily in captivity. To avoid breeding do not provide a nest box or keep same sex pairs.

CHECKLIST-----

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| <input type="checkbox"/> appropriately sized cage | <input type="checkbox"/> cage cover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> swing and other types of toys | <input type="checkbox"/> variety of perches, one must be wooden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> food bowls | <input type="checkbox"/> water bowls |
| <input type="checkbox"/> food pellets | <input type="checkbox"/> cuttlebone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> seed mix | <input type="checkbox"/> treats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> t-stand | <input type="checkbox"/> misting bottle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bird bath | <input type="checkbox"/> nail clipper and styptic gel |