



## Bird Basics

- Birds live for a long time if they're well looked after. Budgies can live for 15 years! Bigger birds like cockatoos can live for more than 60 years!
- There are many types of birds in which the boys and girls look *exactly* the same!
- Birds like parrots and cockatoos have powerful beaks for eating hard seeds.
- Some birds are very smart and can learn to do tricks, or even say words.
- Birds have hollow bones so they are light enough to fly, but it also makes their bones very delicate and easy to break, so always be very gentle with your bird.



## Getting A Bird

- Birds can be great pets ☺, but they need to be looked after every day.
- Always talk to your parents before getting a pet.
- Pick a bird that is nice and clean, has nice feathers and moves around a lot.

## Taking Care Of Your Bird

- Your bird should eat special bird pellets from the store, without too many treats.
- Keep your bird in its cage as much as you can. Don't leave it loose in any room.
- Don't take your bird or its cage to the kitchen, and don't keep your bird near your bed.

## Picking Up Your Bird

- Being picked up can be scary for your bird, so always talk in a quiet voice and move slowly when holding your bird.
- Ask an adult to show you how to pick your bird up properly.
- Tell an adult if your bird bites you by accident.
- **Wash your hands** really well as soon as you put your bird down.



## Keeping Your Bird's Cage Clean

- Make sure your bird always has nice clean water and that its leftover food doesn't go bad. If your bird's cage smells bad, tell an adult.
- Ask an adult to help you change the newspaper in the bottom of your bird's cage every day, and ask an adult to clean the whole cage when it gets dirty.

## Is My Bird Sick?

If you think your bird is sick, tell an adult. Your bird may need to go to the vet to find out what's wrong. Some of the signs you might see if your bird is not feeling well are:

- |                           |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| ✗ Moving less than normal | ✗ Snotty nose, runny eyes | ✗ Dirty or broken feathers |
| ✗ Eating less than normal | ✗ Different coloured poop | ✗ Not sitting on its perch |

## Can My Bird Make *ME* Sick?

**Yes.** There are some germs from birds that can make people sick, and if your bird bites you, the bite can get infected. The best ways to stop from getting germs from your bird are:

- ✓ Always wash your hands really well after touching your bird or your bird's stuff.
- ✓ Keep your bird away from food and away from your face (no kissing!).
- ✓ Keep your bird in its cage as much as you can, and keep the cage clean.
- ✓ Be very gentle and calm with your bird so it doesn't get scared and try to bite you.

