

Aussie Parrotlets



Parrotlet care

How to care for your new Aussie parrotlet





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Turf wars

Parrotlets may become territorial over their cage. If so, avoid reaching in when they are inside.



Cage

Choosing the right cage

Look for these features:

- length (>70cm) is more important than height
- wheels are ideal for ease of movement
- up to 13mm bar spacing is safe
- a removable wire grill over a waste tray is key for hygiene



Getting settled

Be set up before your bird arrives so they can settle in quickly.



Perches

Don't use those dowel perches that came with the cage! They offer no variety and can cause foot sores! There are three types of perches we recommend. These ought to be positioned at either end of the cage, to encourage the longest flight possible.



Natural wood

Approx. 1.5 cm thick branches from wattle, bottlebrush, melaleuca, tea-tree or gum trees should be washed before use. Notch the ends to mount to the cage. Alternatively, purchase a natural wood perch.



Cement

Cement perches of any thickness are ideal, so long as they are NOT coated with abrasive material, such as shell grit.



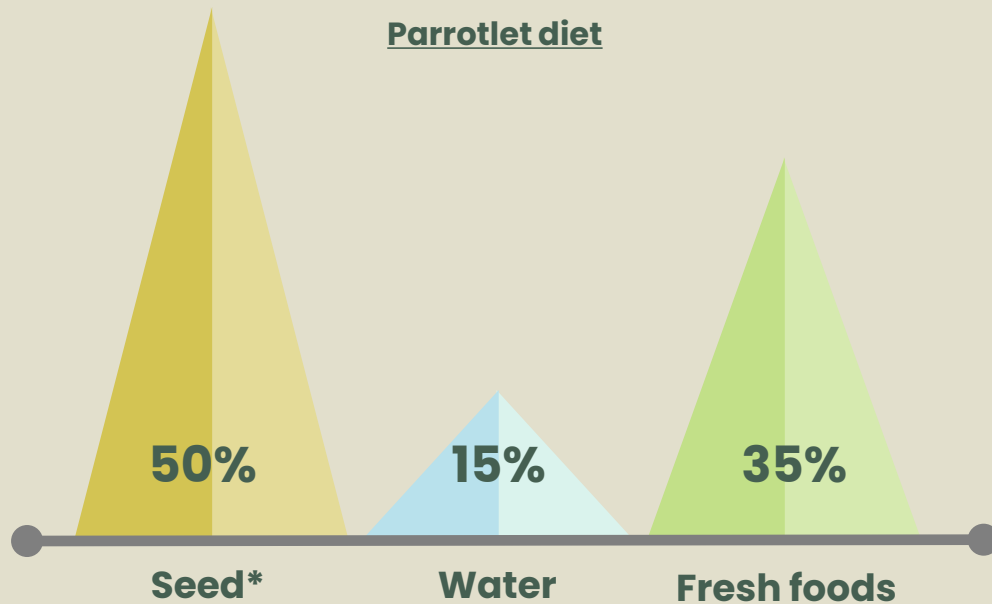
Rope

Sisal rope is the safest rope perch option. Do not use cotton rope perches, because if your parrotlet eats them, they can cause a fatal bowel obstruction.



Daily diet

You new parrotlet is accustomed to the following daily diet. Parrotlets are granivores, needing large amounts of seeds and grains. Parrotlets also need fruit and vegetables for micronutrients. Fresh clean drinking water is also essential. Supplements prevent deficiencies and support early growth.



* Always add [Avian vitaliser](#) to the seed

Seed

- An appropriate seed mix **must be provided at all times**. Remove seed husks every few days.
- We recommend this **fortified seed**: [Small parrot seed](#).
- [Sprouts](#) are an optional highly nutritious treat

Water

- Fresh clean water must be available always. We offer open cups, rather than automatic feeders, as parrotlets like to bathe in their water.

Fresh foods

- [Small Parrot Chop](#) or this [recipe](#) should be served, then discarded within 6 hours (or if spoilt)
- Give beetroot leaves, celery or silver beet as treats

Supplements

- [Avian vitaliser](#) should be added to unfortified seeds, such as [Diet Parrot mix](#) to prevent deficiencies
- [Avian Pro Vita](#) pellets are recommended (in addition to the regular diet) until 12 months of age



Diet: Seed is the staple



WARNING: Failure to make seed available to your new parrotlet will result in starvation.

Parrotlets are granivores. They rely on seed for around half of their energy needs.

We therefore recommend that [Small parrot seed](#) should be available to your parrotlet at all times.

If seed is suddenly removed and replaced with “complete diet” pellets, your parrotlet will starve to death over a few days, rather than eat enough of the unfamiliar food.



We do not recommend “complete diet” pellets for parrotlets as we have heard reports of liver disease in parrotlets due to these pellet diets. Please discuss any dietary changes first with your avian veterinarian.

Any change in diet must be done on the bird’s terms, and not forced. Never stop or restrict seed unless your bird no longer eats any seed for at least a week.



Enrichment

Parrotlets need something to chew... otherwise, it might be YOU they chew!

Pro tip:

- Keep toys to a minimum so the cage is uncluttered.
- Try to allow your parrotlet the required space to fly the longest path possible.
- New toys can be added over time, with old ones being replaced as needed



Mount a fresh clean leafy branch from a wattle, bottlebrush, melaleuca, tea-tree or gum tree in a [plastic clip](#)



Hang a portion of seagrass mat, these [foraging/chewable toys](#), or make [your own](#)



Add a [swing](#), [ladder](#) or any [hanging toy](#) and watch the acrobatics!



Healthcare

6

monthly

Worm / Lice treatment

[Moxidectin + T](#)

Routine treatment with 'Moxidectin + T' will protect your parrotlet against both intestinal worms and lice.

Annually

Vet check

[Find an avian vet](#)

Knowing your local avian veterinarian and scheduling an annual check-up will help keep your parrotlet in good health.



Safety in the home



Wing clipping

To interact with your new hand raised parrotlet outside of their cage, we recommend a wing clip; by either us or your avian veterinarian. This is as painless as trimming fingernails. Birds with correctly clipped wings CAN (and do) fly horizontally. They simply will not reach dangerous speeds in spaces where potentially life-threatening collisions can occur. They also won't end up in high spaces where it's difficult to retrieve them.

Foods to AVOID

HIGHLY TOXIC: Avocado and chocolate can kill parrotlets

UNHEALTHY: Fatty, salty, processed human foods, dairy products, tea, coffee or alcohol. (never feed these!)

There are more to watch out for, so you'll need to research and confirm any foods we haven't explicitly recommended.

Bird safe home

It is very important that the home environment is made safe BEFORE introducing your parrotlet to the space

[Learn More](#)



Sleep hygiene



Parrotlets are genetically programmed for 12 hours sleep every night. The most common cause of illness in parrotlets is chronic lack of sleep.

To ensure the correct amount of sleep, plan to locate your parrotlet's cage in a quiet and dark area for 12 hours each day.

Position the cage away from temperature extremes or drafts. A light cloth cover over most of the cage is OK.





Bathing

Bathing is important for parrotlets to maintain their plumage. This should be encouraged early in the day when temperatures are expected to be reasonably warm.

Many parrotlets like to take a dip in their water bowl, so we use these to provide water. The act of changing the water can often be a prompt to bathe.

CAUTION: self-filling water feeders are not ideal and your new parrotlet may completely fail to drink from one of these (having never seen one before).




Not all parrotlets will readily bathe in their water dish. Because bathing is important, we also recommend a lukewarm water misting. Direct the mist from a new, clean spray bottle over your parrotlet, so that the mist falls from above.



Links

Here are some links to further articles and information:


- [Daily health checks](#)
- [Parrotlet parents group](#)
- [Training](#)
- [Need another parrotlet?](#)



Your Aussie Parrotlet has a unique leg ring number to identify your bird to vets

Please recommend us to help others to find Aussie Parrotlets!

Recommend us



Enjoy your parrotlet!

You'll be a great parront!

