

## shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately size habitat
- habitat cover
- book about lovebirds
- high quality lovebird food
- millet spray
- cuttlebone
- cuttlebone/millet holder
- treats
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- bird bath
- mister spray bottle
- grooming supplies
- vitamins
- play gym

## sources

Ask an associate about Petco's selection of books on Lovebirds and the variety of Petco Brand products available for the care and happiness of your new pet. All Petco Brand products carry a 100% money-back guarantee.

Because all Lovebirds are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your Lovebird and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a Lovebird and should consider not having a Lovebird as a pet. Go to the Centers for Disease Control at [cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://cdc.gov/healthypets/) for more information about Lovebirds and disease. Go to [petco.com/caresheet](http://petco.com/caresheet) to download other helpful Care Sheets.

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See [petco.com](http://petco.com) for more information.

# Lovebird

*agapornis spp*



## Care Sheet

Lovebirds are curious, energetic and charming birds originating from Africa. Keeping a Lovebird socialized requires a serious commitment to daily interaction. It is highly recommended to keep Lovebirds in pairs. Includes Eye Ring, Fischer's, Black Masked and Peachface Lovebirds.

### Lovebird facts:

- average adult size: 5-7 inches long, head to end of tail
- average life span: 15+ years with proper care
- diet: herbivores

***Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.***

**Note:** The information in this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

# Care Sheet

## Lovebird *agapornis spp*



Developed with and approved by a qualified veterinarian.

### diet

A well-balanced Lovebird diet consists of:

- Specialized pellets should make up 60-70% of diet, fresh vegetables and fruits and small amounts of fortified seeds
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

### feeding

Things to remember when feeding your Lovebird:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

### housing

- Lovebirds acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme

temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

- A habitat approximately 18"W x 18"D x 24"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than  $\frac{3}{8}$ " apart, makes a good home for a pair of Lovebirds; a flight habitat is strongly recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 4" long and  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Lovebirds can be kept alone to bond with pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other. Different types of birds should **not** be housed together.
- Birds should be socialized daily by the pet parent.

### normal behavior

- Single Lovebirds bond best with owners, but keep in pairs if you cannot devote enough daily interaction time.
- Love to chew, so ensure plenty of toys to chew on.
- They can be territorial, have a unique chatter and a naturally loud call.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

### habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly
- Replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.
- Do not use a lot of cleaning

agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

### grooming & hygiene

- Lovebirds love to take baths, so at least twice weekly provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Clipping flight feathers is not necessary, but when done correctly it can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian veterinarian on what is best for your bird.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

### signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

### red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

*If you notice any of these signs, please contact your veterinarian.*

### common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Chlamydia	Appetite loss, fluffed feathers, nasal discharge.	Seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
Diarrhea	Fecal portion of stool not formed. Multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	Consult your veterinarian and ensure proper diet.
Feather plucking	Bird plucks own feathers.	Consult your veterinarian and relieve boredom with attention, new toys, or space.
Avian pox	Lesions in mouth, scabs on eyes and face.	Seek immediate avian veterinary attention.
Psittacine beak and feather disease	Abnormal feather color, feather loss, beak deformities.	Seek immediate avian veterinary attention.