

Riverside Aviaries Limited

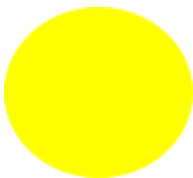
Green cheek conure



One of the smallest and quietest members of the conure family. These parakeets are ready to be tamed and taught to talk as soon as they are independent from their parents at about 8-9 weeks old. At this age they are almost fully grown at about 30-35 cm.

- **Talkability** both males and females have the ability to talk.
- **Gender** there is no reliable visual way to sex them.
- **Origins** South America
- **Life span** Average of around 20 years.
- **Adaptability** Conures can be left during working hours if given a lot of attention when you are home.
- **Taming** Birds must be babies to tame and kept on their own for best results.
- **Hypoallergenic** Conures have oil based feathers meaning very little dust or dander from feathers.

Anything with a **YELLOW** Sticker or label is suitable for our medium sized birds such as Conures.



- 1) **Seed** (We recommend our seed is used for babies)
The seed needs to be checked daily and changed daily. At most the seed can be changed every other day. It is important to provide your bird with fresh seed even if their bowl seems full as they do not eat the whole seed.
- 2) **Grit** This aids in digestion and only needs a pinch on the seed twice a week.
- 3) **Complete bird pet supplement** is a powder calcium supplement that also includes minerals and vitamins important to your birds health. A small pinch should be provided on the seed every other day or if they are moulting you can sprinkle it on the seed 5 days a week. DO NOT use this at the same time as you sprinkle grit on the seed.
- 4) **Cage Bird Disinfectant** proper bird disinfectant should be used to clean the cage and accessories. **NEVER use household products**; These can be lethal.
- 5) **Fresh water daily**
- 6) **TOYS** These are also an essential item for birds. Toys stimulate them and stop them being bored which improves their wellbeing. Changing and rotating toys is highly recommended. It is best to do it fortnightly or each time you do a full clean of the cage. DO NOT put in a mirror, your bird will bond with the reflection and not with you.

PLEASE NOTE- all toys should be checked regularly for the safety of your bird. Rope and chain toys need to be kept very short to avoid injury

RECOMMENDED EXTRAS

- 7) Fresh vegetables and fruit
- 8) Dried vegetables and fruit re-hydrated
- 9) Variety of supplements
- 10) Treats

General Advice

- We are often asked about covering your bird at night. This is not a necessity but would be recommended if you believe you are disturbing your birds sleep pattern (Birds should get 10 hours a sleep a day this may increase during winter hours).
- When purchasing a cage for your bird please feel free to check with us that it is suitable. We only stock cages which are safe for our birds. Please be aware that there are cages available on the market which are not suitable for the species they state they are and this can lead to tragic consequences. Due to this it is our policy that we can not guarantee any birds going into a cage not supplied by us.
- We recommend removing grills at the bottom of the cage; however when doing this you must check any gaps to ensure the bird can not escape. If there is a gap then our recommendation would be to cover the grill to help prevent injury.
- All birds respond well to routine. In regards to exercise we recommend that a bird spend 1-3 hours a day out of the cage in broken time spans to allow them to go back in the cage and eat.
- Stand still when your bird is flying, especially when you let it out for the first time
- The implementation of calcium supplement means that your bird does not require a cuttlefish. If you wish to provide a cuttlefish for your bird

DO NOT use cuttlefish from the beach as this will have bacteria and salt content that will be lethal to your bird.

- Conures love to forage on the floor so we recommend using bedding such as wood chips as well as providing them with floor toys.
- We do not recommend feeding your bird peanuts in a shell as some can have lethal dust inside them as well as being highly fatty for your bird.
- Your bird may go through a teenage phase where they are testing their boundaries so make sure you ignore bad behaviour and only reward good behaviour.
- It is a good idea when you put your bird away in its cage to give it a treat so it associates its cage with positive emotions. We also recommend not spoiling your bird by letting them out of the cage for hours at a time as this can cause them to become aggressive.
- Be cautious when your bird is free flying as they are extremely curious and will get into or on everything in the room. This means that if you open doors they may land on top or burrow behind cushions so it is important that you are visually aware of your bird at all times.
- Conures are very intelligent and can benefit from things such as training. Recall and licker training are advised in case they escape you then have a tool to use to help aid in their return.

HAZARDS (most common)

- Aerosols
- Polish
- Window cleaning products
- Cleaning products
- Air fresheners, diffusers etc.
- Plugs ins
- Wasp stings
- Teflon pans
- Self cleaning ovens
- Candles
- Paint (especially gloss)
- Bonfire smoke, cigarette smoke
- Avocado
- Chocolate
- Apple pips
- Human foods
- Human drinks
- Salt
- Milk products
- Saliva
- Some house plants
- New carpet/ furnishing fumes

DO's

- Let your bird settle for at least 24 hours before you start to tame.
- Make sure all windows and doors are shut and family and friends know the rules when the bird is out of the cage.
- Provide your bird with a bath or warm light spray on a regular basis.
- Provide a variety of toys.
- Use a variety of perch sizes and diameter. Natural branches are ideal, safe British trees are apple and hazelnut. If using tree branches, ensure to wash with hot water before use.
- Ensure any wear and tear from your bird's toys is checked regularly and if any loose or broken pieces of toy are in the cage they are removed.
- Give all treats in moderation.
- Cover all mirrors and close blinds/curtains when you first let your bird out to avoid injury.

DON'TS

- Do not let your bird out of the cage until it is tame.
- Do not put the cage too near a radiator and keep out of draughts or direct sunlight.
- Do not clip wings. We do not agree with wing clipping. Birds use their wings to develop their chest muscles and stay healthy both mentally and physically.
- Do not clip beaks or nails unless medically needed. Once the beak and nails are cut the growth is stimulated which will cause them to need trimming every 6 to 8 weeks for the rest of their lives. We provide many toys and pedicure perches designed to trim the beak and nails.

Tips on taming

Be patient! Your baby bird has gone through many changes and has been moved a lot in a short space of time. Also being a prey species they need to learn to trust you and this can require time.

- Little and often is best
- Please do not disturb when eating
- Move your hand around the cage very slowly
- Make sure you can get them stepping onto your finger or palm securely.
- Keep calm and don't make any sudden movements even if you believe they are going to bite you
- Only give them treats and fresh food by hand during taming as this will be able to bribe them to come over to you and create a trust bond
- Try and ensure to have only positive interactions with them

Signs your bird is unwell

- The eyes will be slitted and not bright or alert as usual.
- The bird is more lethargic (sleepy and less active)
- It stops eating. Please also ensure that if your bird is showing any of these other symptoms you check the seed to make sure they are shucking it out of the shells.
- They are fluffed up and are generally sitting by tucking its beak in feathers.
- Droppings turn white and watery
- Laboured breathing
- Any behaviour that is out of character (I.E. lack of vocalisation or sudden heightened aggression)

PLEASE NOTE- that some changes in character can be brought on by hormones so if you are not sure then please ask a professional for advice.

Personality traits

- Conures make great family pets when well socialised with everyone. These little birds love to play and are super easy to handle with some even being comfortable laying upside down in your hand.
- Conures are very snuggly and are probably some of the cuddliest birds but it is important that you don't over stimulate them by rubbing their beaks or stroking their backs.
- Conures are an ideal first time bird being very easy to tame. Our average taming period for a conure is anything between 4 days to 4 weeks. Do keep in mind that taming is affected by the amount of time you put into your bird.
- Conures do love to mimic and can learn a variety of sounds or phrases

Diet

Conures main diet should consist of seed. We feed our Conures on Conure mix formulated by us and now being shipped by Johnston & Jeff. They eat on average $\frac{1}{4}$ of a cup (60ml) a day. We advise our own seed for the first few months at least. If you feel you need to change brands then please introduce slowly.

All of our seed is a balanced mix, please seek advice on any changes you wish to apply to your bird's diet.

It is also important to supplement your Conures diet with fresh fruit and vegetables or re-hydrated veg mixes. They should be getting fresh food around 2-3 times a week alongside their seed diet. In the list below are some fruit and vegetables that are safe to feed to your birds:

- Sweet apple (no pips)
- Seedless grapes
- Peas/ sweet corn (defrosted or cooked)
- Nectarines
- Strawberries
- Celery (Chopped fine and string removed)
- Celery leaves
- Grated raw carrot
- Satsumas
- Pomegranate
- Broccoli

Wash all before feeding them to your bird. Do not give lettuce or cabbage and be aware that any high water vegetables and fruits should be given in moderation.

Please contact us if you have any concerns with your new bird's health and we ask you to get in touch with us as soon as possible.

Refund Policy

We do not give refunds but will willingly exchange unused items for other goods or credit.

Birds are not exchangeable or refundable. This does not affect your statutory rights.

Bird warranty

We warranty our birds for 48 hours when bought with one of our unused cages and appropriate seed purchased from us. If you have any concerns that your bird is ill or have any loss please call us as soon as possible on the telephone number provided below. We do ask that if you lose a bird that you bring the bird and the cage into us so that we may inspect it within 24 hours.

Contact Information

Telephone: 01329846521

Email: Enquires@riversideaviaries.co.uk

Webiste: www.riversideaviries.co.uk

If you wish for more in depth information or want to see or share your own experiences with us then follow us on facebook.

Facebook: @Riverside aviaries: Titchfeild

