

# Preventative medicine - Pet Budgies

We all want our birds to be healthy. For pet owners getting your bird from a reliable source is important, but also ensuring they have adequate care and attention at home. It's a good idea to get your new bird checked over by an experienced avian veterinarian and get it treated for parasites if this has not been already performed by the breeder or pet shop.

When checking the health of your bird, the budgie should be bright, alert and react to its surroundings. Its breathing should be visible, but not obvious or requiring effort. Its eyes, nose and beak should be free from any crusting or discharges. The bird's bottom (vent) should be clean, dry and free from discharge. Its feathers should be sleek and tight to its body. Budgies love to perch up high and fly and spend more of the time chatting. If you can feel your bird it's important to assess the bird's chest or keel. This should feel rounded and if it's pointy the bird has lost condition. The wings and legs should move freely. It's a good idea to get your bird trained to sit on scales so its weight can be measured and monitored. Most pet birds weigh 30 - 60 grams.

A bird that is sat on the floor or is puffing its feathers out is trying to save energy and may be feeling ill. A bird with any signs of discharge around its vent, eyes, mouth or nose may also have an infection. An increased effort to breathe known as tail bobbing can also suggest an infection. If the bird's keel is sharp that's a sign of weight loss. Veterinary advice should be sought.

There are some diseases that can be seen from time to time and your veterinarian may recommend some preventative treatments in the water for your bird, depending on what they find when checking it over.

We recommend that you get your bird checked over every 6 to 12 months and if you think your bird is ill then speak to your veterinarian without delay.