



Australian Ringneck Parrot care!

The Australian ringneck is a bird species that is found in several regions of Australia. There are a few different subspecies, each with slightly different plumage variation but all being largely green with a characteristic yellow neck ring. The subspecies are known as the twenty-eight; the Port Lincoln; the cloncurry; and the mallee. They make very good pets in the right household and are generally fairly easy to keep. Males and females both can make great pets and the sex of the bird doesn't generally impact how good of a pet they will make. They can be quite vocal and playful. Sexual dimorphism (a visual difference between males and females) is quite subtle in Australina ringnecks (males are slightly larger than females) so DNA or endoscopic sexing can be used to tell the sex. DNA sexing is generally preferred and can be performed by taking 1 drop of blood from your parrot.

Diet

In the wild, Australia ringnecks eat a large variety of foods including seeds, some fruits, flowers, nectar and insects and their larvae. In captivity is best to avoid diets high in commercially produced bird seed as they are often high in fat and low in many of the major vitamins that parrots require. Feeding a high seed diet can increase the risk of obesity and other more serious problems such as lipoma (lump) formation and cardiovascular disease.



Every parrot is different so for your own tailored diet plan please get in contact with us. Our general recommendations for your parrot's diet are as follows:

- 30-50% premium commercial pelleted diet suitable for medium parrots.
- 20-35% vegetables (recommended vegetables include: capsicum, broccoli, chili, corn, carrot, zucchini, squash, spinach, pumpkin, sweet potato, beans and peas), sprouted seed and native vegetation (most Australian blossoms and plants are okay to feed – ensure these are free of wild bird droppings contact). Fresh native grass varieties that produce small seeds on their stems are great for foraging and are highly encouraged.
- 5-10% fruits (i.e. melons, strawberries, banana, blue berries, grapes, peaches, pear, apple)
- 10-35% quality commercial seed mix.
- 1-5% snacks for training and as treats (unsalted nuts (i.e. macadamia, cashew and walnut), pasta, eggs and brown rice.

Housing: We advise a good quality powder coated or stainless steel cage of an appropriate size. Some painted cages can contain lead elements which can be toxic to your bird so please take





care when selecting your cage. Cages that have been galvanized with a zinc coating can also cause problems so please select carefully.

Stainless steel or ceramic bowls are generally recommended as these materials are not porous making cleaning easier and more effective. Plastic bowls can become porous after a while and can cause problems if bacteria build up in these areas.

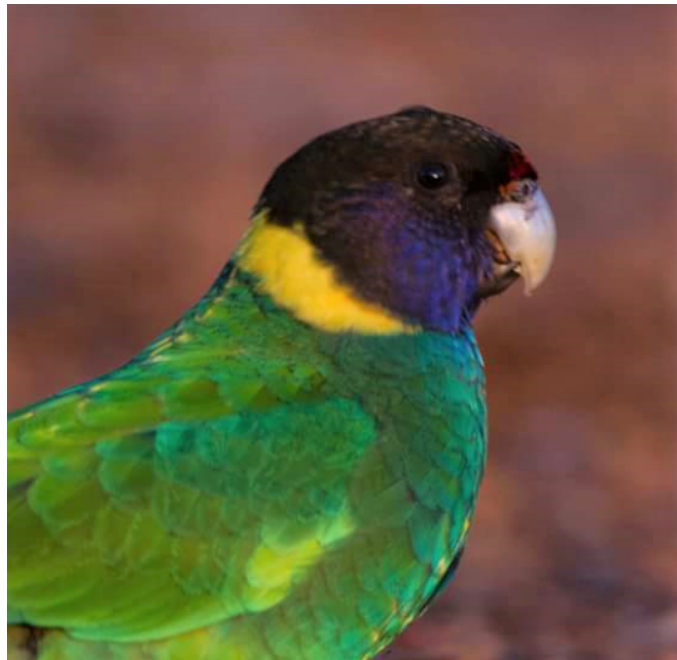
Perches of various sizes are important for exercise of the toes and feet health. They also help to promote the natural wear of their toe nails. Natural perches from native trees are ideal as they generally vary in size anyway.

Please do not provide string or rope toys as they often will fray over time and can cause a gastrointestinal obstruction if swallowed.

If you are feeding a balanced diet, then cuttlefish and other supplements are not needed.

Environmental enrichment is highly recommended and encouraged. Simple things like utilizing cardboard toilet rolls to hide food can provide hours of entertainment for many birds.

It is important that your bird gets enough sleep as long-day light exposure can stimulate excessive moulting and increased reproductive activity. We recommend you keep to the natural day length. If your bird is kept inside in a well-lit area, then you can cover the cage when the sun goes down and place them in a dark room to ensure that their day length is not too long.



Australian ringnecks generally do well with cage mates as they are often quite playful however it is important to introduce any new cage mates slowly as not all birds will get along well.

Common diseases:

One of the most common diseases that we see in Australian ringnecks is an upset gastrointestinal tract. They will often present for regurgitation, vomiting or diarrhoea. If you see





any of these signs we recommend a consultation as there are many different causes and if left untreated you may be putting your birds life at risk.

Upper respiratory tract infection is characterized by sneezing or ocular discharge and is common in young birds. Once again it is highly advised to bring them in for an appointment as there are a range of different causes of upper respiratory tract disease. Chlamydia infection is common in young birds, this is a serious disease that can be transferred to other birds AND humans.

Australian ringnecks are generally very curious and sometimes get themselves into trouble with foreign objects. It is quite common for them to eat or chew on items that they shouldn't (jewelry, plastic toys, rope toys, electrical cords etc.). If you are concerned that your bird may have eaten or chewed on something that they shouldn't have, then please get in touch with us.

Veterinary care: Regular check-ups every 6-12 months are important, as birds are very good at hiding any illnesses that they have. These check-ups allow problems to be detected early before they worsen.

Microchipping is also highly recommended as we see many birds that escape each year. Microchipping allows your contact details to be easily found if your bird is handed in to any veterinary clinic or good rescue facility. We use a specialized small microchip that is inserted into your bird's pectoral muscle; this is a quick, simple procedure that can be performed in a consultation time slot.

If you have any further questions about your Australian ringneck please don't hesitate to contact us.

