



Lone Mountain

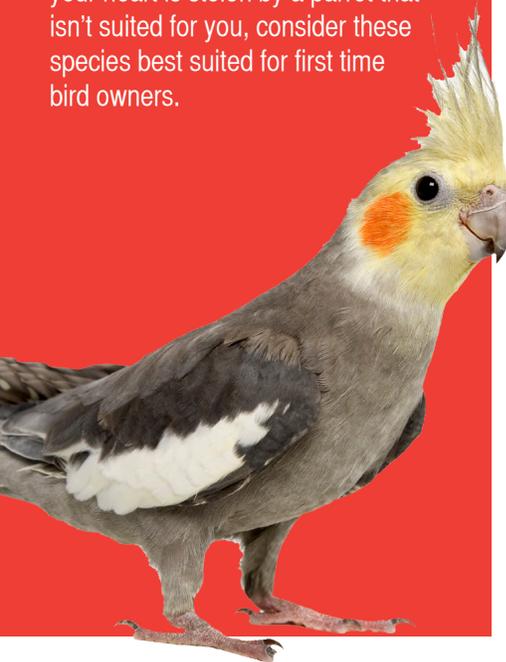
••• ANIMAL HOSPITAL •••



By Darius Starks, DVM

Parrots are some of the most fascinating and beautiful species of birds. They originate from around the globe and are diverse in shape, size, and color.

But with all the choices of available it's easy to select a bird that isn't a good fit. The end results may be a bird that is too large, too loud, too expensive, and consequently too much to handle. So before your heart is stolen by a parrot that isn't suited for you, consider these species best suited for first time bird owners.



Eight Outstanding Parrots for First Time Owners

Poicephalus Parrots

Small stout birds from Africa

Includes the Senegal Parrot, the Meyer's Parrot, and the Red Bellied Parrot

Excellent first time pets because have all of the good traits of their larger cousins in a compact and manageable size

Easily accept all members of the family, quickly learn new tricks, and often have large vocabularies that rival that of a macaw.

Quieter than larger parrots

Adapt well to apartment life

Often overlooked because they lack the lavish colors of more popular parrot species

Pionus

Medium sized, colorful birds from Central and South America

Several species, but most common are the Blue Headed Pionus or White Capped Pionus

Quiet, gentle, and independent

Often confused with the much larger and louder Amazon parrots

Enjoy soft chatter sessions on the shoulder of their human flock

Don't demand attention like larger cockatoos and macaws

Although more expensive than other birds on this list, pionus parrots are definitely worth it

Lovebirds

Resilient little African parrots long enjoyed by aviculturists

Over nine species available

Form strong bonds with their mates and owners

Tough in every sense- they are hardy, independent, and rarely intimidated

The popular idiom 'lovebirds' can sometimes be a misnomer, since lovebirds are known to be as tough and fearless as some of their larger cousins.

Excellent starter birds for those eventually wanting larger birds

If you are looking for an excellent companion bird, consider only keeping a single lovebird.

Budgies

Known as budgie, budgerigar, or 'parakeet'

The most commonly kept parrot and the most commonly kept pet besides the dog and cat

Small brightly colored birds originating from arid regions of Australia

Make excellent pets, especially if hand fed and weaned bird

Contrary to popular belief the African Grey Parrot doesn't hold the world record for largest vocabulary, but the budgie does!

Budgies are an example of 'effort equals results.' The more time you spend with your budgie and socialize them, the more amazing you budgie can become.

Unfortunately due to their availability, inexpensive cost, and size, budgies are commonly considered disposable pets.

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Cockatiels

Another popular household species, originates from Australia
Makes a wonderful first parrot for first time owners
Possess a friendly whistle
Generally undemanding birds that bond closely with the entire family
Come in several different shades and patterns, but lack the bright colors of other species
Small size and quiet nature makes them well-suited to city and apartment life
With proper veterinary care and nutrition, cockatiels enjoy long life spans approaching 15 years

Pyrrhura conures

Small, colorful birds from South America.
Most common member of this group is the green cheek conure, also includes the lesser known maroon-bellied conure, pearly conure, black-capped conure, painted conure, and crimson-bellied conure
Full of energy, always entertaining and easily learns tricks
Several color varieties and small in stature
Considered to be the quietest of all conure groups
Loves to be the center of attention and make excellent 'family' birds

Parrotlets

Also known as 'Mini Amazon Parrots'
At first sight, these petite parrots resemble lovebirds
Actually smaller than lovebirds, and considered to be the smallest captive bred parrot
Many parrotlet species with the Pacific or Celestial Parrotlet being most common
Pacific parrotlets come in bold arrays of lime green, turquoise, bright yellow, and white. Their plumage matches their magnificent personalities.
Acrobatic birds with distinct likes and dislikes
Like their larger cousins, parrotlets typically bond very closely with a few people

Lineolated parakeets

Small but stocky birds from South America, similar to parrotlets in body shape
Also known as "linnie" or Barred Parakeets
Even tempered personalities and potential for a large vocabulary
Make excellent pets for families because befriend everyone they meet
Despite their strong points, the lineolated parakeets are only known to the most dedicated aviculturist

Remember...

No matter what species you decide is best for you, all parrots are a very serious responsibility. Veterinary care, toys, food, cages, and destructive habits make owning any parrot a financial commitment. Parrots are long-lived, intelligent, and require attention, no matter the species. These considerations should not be taken lightly to ensure that your parrot lives a long, healthy life.



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Lone Mountain Animal Hospital is a full service facility that has been providing pets with the finest professional health care for over 20 years. We offer comprehensive examinations and consultations, along with preventive treatments, surgical & dental procedures, radiology & ultrasound, and laser surgery. We also offer an in-house laboratory to produce the fastest results possible. At Lone Mountain Animal Hospital we see dogs and cats, as well as a long list of exotics including: reptiles, birds, potbelly pigs, rodents, and more! Please visit us online at LMAH.net or call 702-645-3116 to schedule an appointment.

