## Daily Routine for Budgerigars & Grass Parrots

Developed by Dr Rob Marshall & Tailai O'brien

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For those interested in learning more access our Clients Only webpage using the username and password provided above.

## Exercise



✓ Before releasing your bird for free flight in the home open the cage and ask him to step up onto your finger or hand. Then allow supervised free flight whilst mixing supplements into the seed mix and drinking water. Free flight involves time out of the cage where your bird flies but returns to your shoulder or onto the top of the cage to play. This is a natural time of learning for budgerigars and an ideal time for clicker training (see our webpage or ask Tailai about clicker training).

## Breakfast

✓ Call your bird in for its morning meal. The seed mix is best provided in a dish on the floor of the cage as wild budgerigars are ground feeders. For extra foraging stimulation camouflage the seed under fresh eucalypt or acacia leaves.

What to Provide

Supervised free flight

Clicker training & interaction

Seed mix remains in the cage during the day

Set up foraging treats (millet sprays & seed treats)

Toys for each day

resh branches

Bathing bowl if appropriate

Supervised free flight

Clicker training

Singing/dancing Exercise

Shared meal with humans

Social interaction

Remove all food from cage

Cover cage & give bedtime treat

## Return to cage for foraging/rest

- √ When you are not at home your budgerigar must be inside the cage. Fresh branches are provided for chewing activities and camouflaged treats encourage foraging activity and entertainment.
- ✓ In the wild, this is a time when budgerigars rest quietly in trees talking to each other. If at home, this is an ideal time to talk to your bird and teach it new words.



**Exercise & Training** 

✓ Between mid and late afternoon release your bird from its cage and allow supervised free flight. This is a time when wild budgerigars fly in search of food. It is a time when your bird will enjoy flying and playing games. Your bird will also be motivated for clicker training at this time.

Dinner

✓ Remove any remaining seed treats and millet sprays and place the morning's seed dish on the cage floor. Situate the cage alongside the family dinner table and call your bird in for the evening meal so that you are eating your evening meal at the same time. A shared meal opportunity each evening is an ideal bonding time for your bird to the family.

**Evening Socialising** 

✓ Your bird may like to sit on your shoulder to socialise following the evening meal. Evening socialising involves talking and interacting with your bird and "winding down" for the day. This is a bonding time that strengthens your bird's sense of trust.

Roosting/Bedtime

✓ Remove all foodstuff from the cage and implement nightly bedtime routine.



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