

# Feathered Friends

| care guide |

## INDIAN RINGNECK

Indian Ringnecks are very intelligent birds that make wonderful pets. They learn quickly and can speak with phenomenal clarity. The Indian Ringneck is classified as a smaller parrot known as a parakeet. These birds have a hooked beak, a long tail, and are smaller in size compared to most parrots. These parrots are about 16 inches in length and they have a stealthy appearance that sets them apart from most exotic birds. They have an average lifespan of 15 years. Mature males can be identified by the ring around the neck, females lack this ring though in some color mutations a pale ring may be seen.

### Diet

Feed 2-3 teaspoons per day of fortified small hookbill or cockatiel food or pellet. Supplement with small amounts of fruits and vegetables: spinach, dandelion greens, carrots, broccoli, sweet potato, cucumber, green peppers, tomato, zucchini, pineapple, apricot, banana, and apple. Occasional leaned cooked meats or "monkey chow" biscuits can also be offered. Do not feed avocado. Vitamins can be added to the drinking water or food 2-3 times a week. A cuttlebone or mineral block is important for beak condition and oyster shell or gravel for important minerals.

### Housing

Provide your Ringneck with a roomy cage as these energetic birds love to fly and explore; and are very playful. They need lots of toys to keep them entertained. They particularly like chew toys. Use various sized perches and branches for healthy feet along with ropes, chains and swings for climbing and exercising. Place the cage where they can socialize with people in a quiet, stress-free environment. Cover the cage at night to provide a sense of security and prevent drafts.

### Care

Basic cage care includes daily cleaning of the water and food dishes. Change paper bottoms daily and litter coverings every 2-3 days. Clean and disinfect the cage weekly. Wash and completely dry the perches and toys whenever they become soiled.

### Grooming

Ringnecks generally maintain their nails and beaks on their own through climbing and chewing. Your birds will enjoy a bath or a light spray mist of lukewarm water 2 to 3 times weekly. Wings should be kept trim if you want to discourage flight and prevent flight through an open door or window. Occasional beak and nail trims may be needed.

### Health

A balanced diet, cleanliness and plenty of exercise will prevent most parrot illnesses. Boredom and lack of socialization can lead to feather plucking, biting and screaming. Some signs of illness: sitting with eyes closed, ruffled feathers, lack of appetite, irregular breathing, nasal discharge, sneezing, resting with its head turned back, and any change in the drooping. Consult an avian veterinarian if any of these signs are noticed.



### PARROT CHECKLIST

- Parrot Cage
- Playground
- Cage liners or bedding
- Food and Water Dishes
- Perches
- Parrot Diet
- Treats; Treat clips
- Toys
- Cuttle bone/Mineral block
- Birdbath or Spray
- Supplements
- Cage Cleaner
- Parrot Book