

Daily Routine For Lorikeets

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MORNING

EXERCISE

Each morning greet your bird with a joyful "hello" and a happy song. Open the cage door and ask your lorikeet to step up onto your finger. This is a particularly important part of the morning routine as lorikeets are highly energetic and will constantly test the boundaries of acceptable behaviour. After a positive step up your pet lorikeet can be released for a vigorous and noisy fly as this is their happiest time of day.

BREAKFAST

The nutritional supplements may be mixed into a passionfruit, or a meal of cooked rice, pumpkin and apple, or small amount of wet mix. This is placed inside the cage and after an exercise session of at least 30 minutes your bird may be called in to eat this treat. Fruit can be provided after this meal.

CAGE PREPARATION

Remove all fresh fruit after one hour and replace with a container of lorikeet dry mix. Drinking water should be provided in an elevated container and 20ml fruit nectar in a gravity type drinking bottle. Setup fresh native branches and blossoms (e.g. Grevillea) inside the cage for daytime foraging opportunities.

BATHING

Lorikeets love to bath. In warm weather it is suggested to place a special shallow bath bowl in the cage. Some lorikeets prefer to dunk themselves in the water bowl, so a second water bowl may be necessary in summer months.

What to Provide

Supervised free flight

Clicker training & interaction

Morning fruit meal



DAY TIME

RETURN TO CAGE FOR FORAGING/REST

Day time hours are spent inside the cage. Fresh branches and native blossoms are provided as a foraging activity and for entertainment.

Lorikeets enjoy listening to the radio when alone at home. They are fantastic mimics and quickly learn telephone and microwave sounds. If at home during the day, this is an ideal time to teach it new sounds, words or songs.

Set up fresh branches & blossoms

Lorikeet dry mix remains in the cage during the day

EXERCISE & TRAINING

From mid to late afternoon, release your bird from its cage by asking it to step up on your finger then allow supervised free flight. Play games, sing, dance or talk with your bird as you prepare the evening meal as this a natural learning time for lorikeets. Your pet lorikeet will respond well to clicker training at this time by providing slithers of grape as training treats.

DINNER

Remove containers of dry food and nectar, and any remaining blossoms and branches from the cage and call your bird in for a shared evening meal. A hot porridge meal made on fruit juice with canned fruit salad is a good alternative to fresh fruit as an evening meal.

EVENING SOCIALISING

Lorikeets are very vocal and active at dusk. Evening socialising involves talking and interacting with your bird and then "winding down" for the day. This is a good time to reinforce the days training by going over new words learnt earlier in the day.

ROOSTING/ BEDTIME

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

Supervised free flight

Clicker training

Games, singing & dancing exercise

Shared meal with humans

Social interaction

Remove all food from cage

Cover cage & give bedtime treat



Weekly Routine for Lorikeets

	Add to Drinking Water	Mix into Fruit/Nectar	Ongoing Health Care
Day 1	KD Powder ¹	Turbobooster, Dufoplus & Ioford ²	<p>Lice & Mite Protection: S76 should be administered in the drinking water every month during summer and each three months during the cooler seasons. Add 0.5ml of S76 into 100ml drinking water and leave for two days. A lice and mite spray (ALL) should be applied on the same days.</p> <p>Worm Protection: Gentle Wormer should be administered in the drinking water each three months. Add 3ml of Gentle Wormer into 100ml drinking water and leave for two days.</p> <p>Quik Gel³: At the first sign of illness it is recommended to give one drop of Quik Gel in a teaspoon of apricot nectar juice and contact Carlingford Animal Hospital for advice.</p>
Day 2	Fresh water	Turbobooster, Dufoplus & Ioford ²	
Day 3	Fresh water	Turbobooster, Dufoplus & Ioford ²	
Day 4	KD Powder ¹	Nectar/Dry Mix	
Day 5	Fresh water	Fresh seed*	
Day 6	Fresh water	Fresh seed*	
Day 7	Fresh water	Fresh seed*	

¹ KD Powder is given in the drinking water for two days each week. It is made up by adding 1/4 teaspoon (1gm or a level white spoon) into a litre of water. The drinking vessel is filled from this litre and the remainder is used to clean out the cage. Twice weekly use of KD helps prevent thrush and bacterial infections. Lorikeets are particularly susceptible to these diseases.

² Turbobooster (5 drops), Dufoplus (5 drops) & Ioford (5 drops) are mixed together into a passionfruit, into 5ml of apricot nectar juice or onto the fresh fruit mix. These supplements provide the protein, vitamin and trace element balance needed for good health.

³ Quik Gel provides an immediate energy boost to your bird and should be given whenever you feel your bird is tired or unwell. Quik Gel is prepared by mixing 1 drop (0.1ml) into a teaspoon (5ml) of apricot nectar juice.

⁴ E-Powder and F-Vite may be sprinkled onto a passionfruit or the fresh fruit mix once a week to provide the additional minerals and B vitamins required by lorikeets.

*** During the moult (between November and January), Turbobooster, Dufoplus & Ioford should be given for five days a week. E-Powder & F-Vite should be given twice a week.**



Food Preparation: Fruit, Native Blossoms & Treats

The morning and evening meal may be comprised of organic fruits, porridge prepared with fruit juice or canned fruit. Native blossoms are relished by lorikeets and should be provided in the cage throughout the day for foraging activity and entertainment. Vary your birds diet according to what is fresh and in season.

Lorikeets have very sharp beaks and enjoy eating hard and soft fruits. One of the following fruits, passionfruit, grapefruit, mango, rockmelon, watermelon, kiwifruit, pomegranate and papaya, which are very rich sources of vitamin A & vitamin E should be included in at least one daily meal. Corn, capsicum, apples, grapes and oranges are other good food choices for lorikeets.

Passionfruit Treat

Passionfruit is an ideal fruit into which you can provide nutritional supplements each morning. Mix 6 drops Turbobooster, 5 drops Ioford and 5 drops Dufoplus inside a passionfruit and sprinkle 1/4 teaspoon each of E-Powder and F-Vite on top.

Apricot Nectar Treat

Apricot nectar (which is available in small bottles) should be fed as a regular treat in order to help administer medicines or Quik gel when your bird is tired, off-colour or sick.

Food Hygiene

Food hygiene is particularly important for lorikeets and all fresh fruits should be washed in KD Powder prior to feeding to remove surface contamination. This helps to prevent bacterial infections such as E.coli and is particularly important in the warmer months when contamination is more likely. During the warmer months avoid all soft surfaced fruits (grapes, plums, strawberries, cherries etc). Peel all other fruits before serving to your lorikeet in order to prevent other diseases associated with food spoilage.

