

shopping list for needed supplies

- appropriately sized habitat
- habitat cover
- book about doves
- high quality dove food
- millet spray
- grit
- habitat paper or litter
- food and water dishes
- variety of perches
- variety of toys
- mister spray bottle
- grooming supplies
- vitamins and supplements

sources

Speak to an associate about the Petco library of books on doves.

Speak to an associate about our many private brand items available for the care and happiness of your pet.

Because all doves are potential carriers of infectious diseases, such as Chlamydiosis, always wash your hands before and after handling your dove and/or habitat contents to help prevent the potential spread of diseases. Work with your avian veterinarian on protocols to treat your bird should the bird contract Chlamydiosis.

Pregnant women, children under the age of 5 and people with weakened immune systems should contact their physician before purchasing and/or caring for a dove and should consider not having a dove as a pet. For more information regarding doves and disease, go to the Center for Disease Control at cdc.gov/healthypets/ and petco.com/caresheet.

This care sheet can cover the care needs of other species. See petco.com for more information.

dove

geopelia spp and streptopelia spp



care sheet

Small, graceful birds of the pigeon family. They are gentle and affectionate birds known to make a soothing cooing sound.

dove facts:

average adult size: 7 1/2 to 12 inches long, head to end of tail

average life span: 10 to 25 years with proper care, depending on species

diet: herbivores

Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the sources on the following page or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.

diet

A well-balanced dove diet consists of:

- High quality, fortified seed mix for doves should make up 60-70% of diet and fresh vegetables and fruits.
- Clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water, changed daily.
- Do **not** feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

feeding

Things to remember when feeding your dove:

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Vegetables and fruits not eaten within a few hours should be discarded.
- Remember, treats should not exceed 10% of total food.

housing

- Doves acclimate well

to average household temperatures, not to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.

- A habitat approximately 24"W x 24"D x 24"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for one dove; a flight habitat is strongly recommended. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 4" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Doves can be kept alone or in small groups, but different types of birds should **not** be housed

together.

normal behavior

- Doves make a cooing sound
- Calm nature has made them a universal symbol of peace.
- Enjoy stretching, preening, sunbathing, and require daily attention from people.
- Ensure a dark area for your dove's night sleep.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

habitat maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly.
- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious

medical issues if ingested by your bird.

- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

grooming & hygiene

- Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

signs of a healthy animal

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

red flags

- beak swelling or accumulations
- fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- sitting on floor of habitat
- wheezing or coughing
- runny or discolored stools
- favoring one foot
- eye or nasal discharge
- red or swollen eyes
- loss of appetite

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your exotic animal veterinarian.

common health issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
diarrhea	fecal portion of stool not formed. multiple causes, from change in diet to internal parasites.	consult with an avian veterinarian and ensure correct diet.
pneumonia	difficulty breathing; caused by bacterial, viral or fungal infection.	consult with an avian veterinarian.
trichomiasis	masses in mouth and throat area, decreased appetite, loose droppings and shortness of breath.	consult with an avian veterinarian.