

Budgie Behaviour

Taming Your Budgie

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The purpose of this article is to give you general taming tips from other members of the BBC forum based on their experience, as well as also from my own personal experience taming my budgies. I have tamed and Merlin (who came from a private home).

Before you decide you want to tame your budgie, consider the following couple different factors.

Hand raised baby budgies are easier to tame
Pet store budgies will need more patience and time, plus you will need to assess their age group
Older budgies will need more patience and time
Abused or rescued budgies that have been untamed for a long time will not be fully tame but with patience you can build a trusting relationship with them.

Think about this and decide what you want out of taming your budgie? There are different degrees of tame budgies.

Do you want a budgie that is "glued" to you and that always wants to be near you, always giving kisses and giving him 100% attention.

Do you want a budgie that talks?

Or are you looking for companions that will step-up when you call them, when you come to the cage doors

Do you want a budgie that you can let out who can explore the house on you or with you all the time?

When you are working on taming a budgie there is no one way that it should be done. All budgies are different. For example, some budgies are very tame and are the perfect companion or you may find that some budgies are very shy and don't want to be handled. A baby budgie in a pet store might soon become "wild" if it is not handled properly. This is what happens.

When you first bring your budgie home let your new pet adjust to his new surroundings. This is what I personally did when I purchased my first budgie. Before he arrived I made sure his cage was set up and ready to go. When he arrived I put him in the cage I kept him in a quiet room with no noise or disturbance for a few days. I also kept his cage covered on all three sides. This is very common for your new budgie to retreat into the cage when he feels threatened or scared. He will feel the safest. After 2 days I slowly started to bring the cage out of the cage and uncover it. This took about a week. Some budgies will adjust quickly to humans, for others it could take more time. As your budgie becomes more comfortable with his surroundings he becomes more comfortable with his surroundings. We suggest that you keep your budgie in his cage for the first few days of the cage until he is comfortable in his own cage first. This is the best way to introduce him to humans. It is best to wait until he has learnt how to step-up. It is not a good idea to let him step up onto your hands out of the cage unless you are working on taming him. He may not be used to your hands and water because your big hand is very scary for the budgie. As a predator they don't know whether to trust you or not.

One common mistake people make is that they feed the budgie from their hand in a way and the bird lets you stroke him that he likes it, then he backs up, freezes or starts to pant, your budgie is scared.

Budgie Behaviour

because they don't move this is acceptance of you to your bird begins to trust you will he let you scratch his usually move it around just as preening birds that pre perfect spot. Stroking their back and stomach areas a touched and if you can stroke their belly or back on a they are most likely just frozen scared.

How long will it take to tame my budgie? Under weeks, months and even years; it really depends on the bird. So before you purchase or adopt a rescued budgie, this should not deter you way from adopting. Owning a pet it is your responsibility to give your pet a home. The good news is that even very wildest budgie, with patience and if you are consistent on a daily basis; though the degree of success will vary.

Should I clip or not clip to tame my budgie? This read [To clip or not to clip?](#) about the pros and cons. I did and reading up on wing clipping that taming your budgie than a budgie with unclipped wings. Both my birds were then I let them grow out. The difference in the attitude of clipped is like night and day at times. Once your bird is grow out although many people keep their birds clipped but for taming purposes you will find it is easier to tame you but for the bird as well. Chasing a flighted bird are stressful for the bird and you and, in all reality, is not into a window or a wall and may get injured.

First Steps of Training:

Building Trust: This is the first step when you are working with your budgie. Many articles say 15 minutes a day is all that is needed. I always advise members to spend as much time as possible with your budgie. The more you work with your budgie, the more trust you will build with your new friend. This time can be spent all in one go or broken up into shorter periods throughout the day. When your budgie is feeling well, it is easier to work with it.

There are many different ways you can form a trusting bond to them all the time when they are in and out of their smaller cage and I could move it I would take him from always by us. Do not push training if you find they are immediately. They are simply not ready.

Learning to Step Up: The step-up command is the most important command you will teach your budgie. Teaching your bird to step-up will be useful for getting your bird out of the room when it is time to go back in their cage, or if your bird is in danger, or for doing a visual examination of your bird.

Remember your hand is huge compared to a budgie's at first. The majority of budgies love millet this is a good use millet as a training treat in the beginning. You may need to hold your hand initially. If your budgie is really scared of you, hold your hand between the cage bars. Your budgie will feel safer and eat the millet. Once your budgie feels comfortable eating the millet between the cage bars you can then open up the door and slowly offer it to your budgie.

Budgie Behaviour

lower than the perch and hold a small piece of millet while you are holding his perch. He will be afraid at first but, with patience, you will find that he will eat from your hand. Once he is comfortable with you eating from your hand and he is trusting of your hand, place your hand on his belly (right above his feet) and say the command "step up". If he steps up at first that is OK, try again and keep your training sessions short, maybe 1-2 minutes at a time. If he steps up after a few tries, that is OK, try again and keep your training sessions short, maybe 1-2 minutes at a time. This is meant to be a positive reinforcement training, not punishment. If your budgie is stressed out, stop the training session and try again later. When he feels comfortable with you holding his perch and eating from your hand, you can move your hand around very slowly at first, he will be afraid at first but, with patience, he will trust you. These are all steps. Some budgies do get this right away, others take longer. Once your budgie is comfortable with you holding his perch and eating from your hand, you can move your hand around with him perched on it you can then proceed to the next step, which is to move him to a cage.

I recommend that you **have your budgie step up** daily command. Some budgies as they become more tame when you want them to they don't because they get "bored" with it. I have them step-up 3 times a day either in or out of the cage.

Outside of the cage: We recommend that you use a small room (make sure the toilet seat is down and there is no standing water) to introduce your budgie to out of the cage time. If your budgie flies around and finds the highest spot to perch on, this is the reason why it is recommended to use a small room, if possible. A room such as your living room and your budgie is not used to the room head for the window and even hit a wall. This is very dangerous for your budgie's neck and could be killed. If your budgie is clipped (highly recommended) it is much easier to introduce out of the cage time without having to worry about your budgie flying away and keep removing them from high places.

Once you have decided on a room, if you have a small room with his cage and then open the door, ask him to recommended that you teach your budgie to step up to have more control when you want to get him back into his cage and again work on stepping up, talk to him so he is scared when outside of the cage. He may not step-up to budgies favorite treat with you during this training session. Once he realizes he is OK have him step-up and then reward him. Remember keep all training sessions 10-15 minutes 2-3 times a day. If your budgie is panting, trying to bite out of fear or hissing, stop the session. You want to leave every training session with him back in his cage, if possible keep him on your finger and him hop off on his favorite perch. When I put Merlin back on his swing "his favorite spot" it makes him feel secure.

Once you have taught your budgie to remain on your will want to start to train him to stay there when you s biggest challenges because when I started to walk with motion of the body that puts them into flight. So first : and move your hand around up and down, around in them. Once you find that they are gripping on to your want to stay on your finger you can slow start walking. Each budgie will train different some may get this com walking around others may be more flighty and you w

A **good technique** I used was when Pretty would fly by and then hold my finger about 4 inches from the cage. I learned that if he flew to my finger he would be rewarded when he was eating. Messy it was, but that is why I have had success with this. Training your bird to fly from an object to your finger is excellent training. Once your bird is trained to fly to your finger, it is easy to train him to fly to you on command. Especially if you decide to keep this command so when they are up on your curtains you can just say "down" and they will fly down. Just like the step-up command the fly to you command is a natural for your bird. Your bird does it all the time. Budgies do get "stinky" when they are flying around so listening to your bird is important. Working with this everyday is an excellent way to train your bird. A separate command word should be used, such as "come".

Training my budgie to sit on my shoulder: Many

Budgie Behaviour

great place to be. They are close to you, it is comfortable to be near you. Before you teach your budgies to sit on your shoulder make sure they are comfortable stepping-up and also being held. Once you get them to sit on your shoulder you will find that when you gently move your budgie step-up and then simply put your finger to the perch your budgie will do 1 of 3 things. One he will hop on, two he will jump on, three he will sit on your finger. If he jumps on your shoulder reward him, if he sits on your finger reward him, if he hops on your finger reward him. If he reaches for it gently help him up and then reward him. If he jumps away try again. I found once I taught both my birds to step up they automatically jumped up on my shoulder and you can talk to him without him being frightened. Once your bird is ready to fly then you can start moving around the room to reward him for good behavior. If he flies off, try again. Remember to reward him for 10-15 minutes long and if you find he is stressing out then the reward will pay off. A word of caution that you make sure doors and windows are closed and that you remember your bird is on your shoulder and not outside. There has been many a bird that has escaped from the cage and they forgot and walked outside.

Training my budgie to sit on my head: It is recommended that you perch your budgie higher than eye level to their owners. This gives the bird a sense of feel dominant. Dominance in a bird can create bad habits. Make sure that their highest perch should be eye level to you. It is your job to train your bird like your bird to sit on your head. Word of precaution is that you should not perch your bird on your owner's heads and their owner doesn't realize they are there. If your bird walks outside and off goes the bird. So if you decide to perch your bird on your head just remember he is there.

Training my budgie to talk: You will find a lot of different articles that claim that they will teach your bird how to talk. You will find that they will not talk. I had a budgie named Pretty. I had him for 10 years and he never talked. I left him with a friend and he never talked. All I did was talk to him daily. I would talk to him and over first thing in the morning, whenever I stopped by the cage I would simply talked to him all the time. I found that first the bird would not talk but then if they are meant to talk they will start garbling words. You will not know if they are trying to talk but you are not sure if they are talking or not. If you start talking to them they will pick up more and more at a fast rate. I found that Pretty was saying "pretty bird", "pretty pootoo", "stinko" and other words of different rhymes that were silly but he picked them up. So the question is, if another bird will my bird stop talking? My experience is that he will not start back up. He would still mimic the whistling song. It is a rare occasion if your bird has a strong bond with you, that they will not stop talking and even teach the other budgies to talk.

Will my budgie ever talk and do males talk better than females? You will find that most budgies are mimickers and will pick up talking better, but because they are mimickers does not mean that he will talk. If you are getting a budgie because you want him to talk, don't adopt a bird because there is more to a bird than just talking. In the wild male budgies have been known to talk. In the wild male budgies have been known to sing most of the songs, whistling etc...females are known to sing as well. So, a budgie is a wonderful companion.

Working with a older or more skittish budgie: Working with an older or more skittish budgie can be a challenge. You may find many articles that state that birds over the age of 10 years old are impossible to tame. This is untrue. The key to working with any bird is first and far most the most important step is to gain the bird's trust. Once you have gained the bird's trust the rest will come into place. If the bird is scared, may strike back and bite out of fear, run from you or even fly away. Trust first. Use the steps above to gain your bird's trust. It may take more time but with patience and time you will find that you will have a bond with your bird. One thing to keep in mind is that all birds are different so if you are looking for the super tame budgie adoption is not for you but in a rare occasion you may find that extra special bird.

Budgie Behaviour

[For ideas on how our members tamed their budgie](#)

[Forum member's discuss how to tame their budgie](#)

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