

Taming your Budgie

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

### **Before you decide you want to tame your budgie, consider a couple different factors.**

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

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 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 come to the cage doors

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

When you are working on taming a budgie there is no one size should be met. All budgies are different. For example, a budgie already tame and is the perfect companion or you may have a budgie that hasn't had any human interaction except for people. A baby budgie in a pet store might soon become "wild" if nothing happens.

When you first bring your budgie home let your new budgie go through the taming process. This is what I personally did when I purchased my budgie. Before he arrived I made sure his cage was secure and I put him in the cage I kept him in a quiet room with no other birds for a few days. I also kept his cage covered on all three sides to make him feel the safest. After 2 days I slowly started to bring the cage completely uncovered. This took about a week. Some budgies develop a relationship with humans, for others it could take more time until he becomes more comfortable with his surroundings. A little everyday. We suggest that you keep your budgie in the cage until he is comfortable in his own cage first. It is best to wait until he has learnt how to step-up. It is best to keep hands out of the cage unless you are working on taming him. Food and water because your big hand is very scary for the budgie. If a predator they don't know whether to trust you or not.

**One common mistake** people make is that they feed the budgie too much and the bird lets you stroke him that he likes it, then the budgie backs up, freezes or starts to pant, your budgie is not tame.

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because they don't move this is acceptance of you to your bird begins to trust you will 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?** Unders weeks, months and even years; it really depends on t adopt an older scared bird you may find, sadly, that y bird. So before you purchase or adopt a rescued budg decision. This should not deter you way from adopting owning a pet it is your responsibility to give your pet a news is that even very wildest budgie, with patience a if you are consistent on a daily basis; though the degr

**Should I clip or not clip to tame my budgie?** This read [To clip or not to clip?](#) about the pros and cons. I c and reading up on wing clipping that taming your bud than a budgie with unclipped wings. Both my birds we then I let them grow out. The difference in the attitud clipped is like night and day at times. Once your bird i grow out although many people keep their birds clipp but for taming purposes you will find it is easier to tan 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 w to know that you will not hurt it in any way. The best v budgie daily. Many articles say 15 minutes a day is all untrue. I always advise members to spend as much ti your budgie. The more you work with your budgie, on trust with your new friend. This time can be spent all i into shorter periods throughout the day. When your b feeling.

There are many different ways you can form a trustin 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.

**Food as a Training Tool:** Food is a huge motivator, such as millet sprays it speeds up the bond. If your bu that is OK, they don't know if you are giving them pois with them, and are around them, the more they will r take a nibble. It takes time! Don't expect them to aut that snatch food, they must trust you first. Always fee Many times you will see pictures of people feeding bu actually harmful for the bird. Human saliva has bacter

**Learning to Step Up:** The step-up command is the r teach your budgie. Teaching your bird to step-up will l the room when it is time to go back in their cage, or if 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 w use millet as a training treat in the beginning. You ma your hand initially. If your budgie is really scared of y between the cage bars. Your budgie will feel safer and millet. Once your budgie feels comfortable eating the bars you can then open up the door and slowly offer it

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lower than the perch and hold a small piece of millet but, with patience, you will find that he will eat from your hand and he is trusting of your hand. Place the millet in his belly (right above his feet) and say the command "step off" at first that is OK, try again and keep your training sessions 2-3 times a day. This is meant to be a positive reinforcement and not your budgie stressed out. When he feels comfortable you can move your hand around very slowly at first, he will follow. These are all steps. Some budgies do get this right away. Remember be patient. Once your budgie is comfortable around with him perched on it you can then proceed to cage time.

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

**Outside of the cage:** We recommend that you use a small room (make sure the toilet seat is down and there is no stairs) to introduce your budgie to out of the cage time. If your budgie can fly around and find the highest spot to perch on, this is the reason why it is recommended to use a small room, if you use a room such as your living room and your budgie is not clipped, it will 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 any issues. Always 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 step up. I recommended that you teach your budgie to step up on your finger. This way you have more control when you want to get him back into his cage and again work on stepping up, talk to him softly. If he is scared when outside of the cage. He may not step-up on your finger. Use budgies favorite treat with you during this training session. When 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 on a positive note. Put him back in his cage, if possible keep him on your finger. When he is calm, let 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 finger, you will want to start to train him to stay there when you start moving. The biggest challenges because when I started to walk with my budgie, the motion of the body that puts them into flight. So first, you want to stand and move your hand around up and down, around in circles, and get them on them. Once you find that they are gripping on to your finger, and they want to stay on your finger you can slow start walking. Each budgie will train different some may get this concept quickly, some walking around others may be more flighty and you will have to be patient.

**A good technique** I used was when Pretty would fly I and then hold my finger about 4 inches from the cage 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 of flying from an object to your finger is excellent training fly to you on command. Especially if you decide to keep this command so when they are up on your curtains you down. Just like the step-up command the fly to you command your bird does it all the time. Budgies do get “stinky” listening so working with this everyday is an excellent separate command word should be used, such as “come”

**Training my budgie to sit on my shoulder:** Many

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great place to be. They are close to you, it is comfortable house with you. Before you teach your budgies to sit on your shoulder they are comfortable stepping-up and also being on your shoulder. Once you get them to sit on your shoulder you will find your budgie step-up and then simply put your finger on your shoulder. Your budgie will do 1 of 3 things. One he will hop on, two he will sit on your finger. If he jumps on your shoulder reward him, if he sits on your finger reward him and then when he reaches for it gently help him sit on your finger. If he jumps away try again. I found once I taught both my birds to sit on my shoulder they automatically jumped up on my shoulder when I stepped up to my shoulder and you can talk to him without him being fearful. If he is ready to fly then you can start moving around the room for good behavior. If he flies off, try again. Remember to keep sessions 10-15 minutes long and if you find he is stressing out stop the session. He will pay off. A word of caution that you make sure doors are closed and that you remember your bird is on your shoulder when you go outside. There has been many a bird that has escaped and they forgot and walked outside.

**Training my budgie to sit on my head:** It is recommended that budgies be perched higher than eye level to their owners. This gives them a sense of being dominant. Dominancy in a bird can create bad behavior. Their highest perch should be eye level to you. It is not recommended to let your budgie sit on your head. Word of precaution: many budgies sit on their owner's heads and their owner doesn't realize they are there and they walk outside and off goes the bird. So if you decide to let your budgie sit on your head just remember he is there.

**Training my budgie to talk:** You will find a lot of information out there that claim that they will teach your bird how to talk. Yvonne and I left it and Pretty did talk. All I did was talk to him daily and over first thing in the morning, whenever I stopped to do something I simply talked to him all the time. I found that first they will start talking then if they are meant to talk they will start garbling when you are trying to talk but you are not sure if they are talking or not. When they start talking they will pick up more and more at a fast pace. Pretty was saying "pretty bird", "pretty pooty", "stink bird" and a lot of different rhymes that were silly but he picked them up. If you have another bird will my bird stop talking? My experience is that he never started back up. He would still mimic the whistles and chirps. On a rare occasion if your bird has a strong bond with you, he will not stop talking and even teach the other budgies to talk.

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

**Working with a older or more skittish budgie:** When you adopt a budgie you may find many articles that state that birds over 1 year old are skittish budgies are impossible to tame. This is untrue. The key to working with any bird is first and far most the most important thing is that you have gained the birds trust the rest will come into play. If the bird is scared, may strike back and bite out of fear, run from you. You need to gain trust first. Use the steps above to gain your bird's trust. Once you have more trust but with patience and time you will find that you can work 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 adopt a budgie that is tame to you but in a rare occasion you may find that extra special budgie.

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[For ideas on how our members tamed their bud](#)  
[Forum member's dicuss how to tame their budg](#)

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