Budgie Behaviour

Taming Your Budgie

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

**Before you decide you want to tame your budgi
couple different factors.**

Hand raised baby budgies are easier to tame
Pet store budgies will need more patience and time, p
assessing their age group
Older budgies will need more patience and time
Abused or rescued budgies that have been untamed f
fully tame but with patience you can build a trusting r

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 w
when you come to the cage doors

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

When you are working on taming a budgie there is **no
should be met. All budgies are different. For example,
already tame and is the perfect companion or you ma
that hasn’t had any human interaction except for peo
baby budgie in a pet store might soon become "wilde
happens.

When you first bring your budgie home let your new p
taming process. This is what I personally did when I pu
budgie. Before he arrived I made sure his cage was se
put him in the cage I kept him in a quiet room with no
of days. I also kept his cage covered on all three sides
is very common for your new budgie to retreat into th
will feel the safest. After 2 days I slowly started to brin
completely uncovered. This took about a week. Some
relationship with humans, for others it could take mor
he becomes more comfortable with his surroundings.
little everyday. We suggest that you keep your budgie
of the cage until he is comfortable in his own cage firs
it is best to wait until he has learnt how to step-up. It
hands out of the cage unless you are working on tami
and water because your big hand is very scary for the
predator they don’t know whether to trust you or not

One common mistake people make is that they fee
way and the bird lets you stroke him that he likes it, t
budgie backs up, freezes or starts to pant, your budgi

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because they don’t move this is acceptance of you tou
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? Unders
weeks, months and even years; it really depends on th
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 d
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 attitude
clipped is like night and day at times. Once your bird i
grow out although many people keep their birds clippe
but for taming purposes you will find it is easier to tam
you but for the bird as well. Chasing a flighted bird aro
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 wo
to know that you will not hurt it in any way. The best w
budgie daily. Many articles say 15 minutes a day is all
untrue. I always advise members to spend as much tim
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 bu
feeling.

There are many different ways you can form a trusting
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 re
take a nibble. It takes time! Don’t expect them to auto
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 m
teach your budgie. Teaching your bird to step-up will h
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 wo
use millet as a training treat in the beginning. You ma
your hand initially. If your budgie is really scared of yo
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 y
eating from your hand and he is trusting of your hand
belly (right above his feet) and say the command “ste
off at first that is OK, try again and keep your training
minutes 2-3 times a day. This is meant to be a positiv
or your budgie stressed out. When he feels comfortab
you can move your hand around very slowly at first, h
These are all steps. Some budgies do get this right aw
OK. Remember be patient. Once your budgie is comfo
around with him perched on it you can then proceed t
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
(make sure the toilet seat is down and there is no star
introduce your budgie to out of the cage time. If your
fly around and find the highest spot to perch on, this w
reason why it is recommended to use a small room, if
room such as your living room and your budgie is not
head for the window and even hit a wall. This is very d
neck and could be killed. If your budgie is clipped (hig
much easier to introduce out of the cage time without
and keep removing them from high places.

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

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 wit
motion of the body that puts them into flight. So first s
and move your hand around up and down, around in c
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 con
walking around others may be more flighty and you w

A **good technique** I used was when Pretty would fly
and then hold my finger about 4 inches from the cage
learned that if he flew to my finger he would be rewar
when he was eating. Messy it was, but that is why I ha
of flying from an object to your finger is excellent trai
fly to you on command. Especially if you decide to kee
this command so when they are up on your curtains y
down. Just like the step-up command the fly to you co
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 “co

Training my budgie to sit on my shoulder: Many

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great place to be. They are close to you, it is comforta
house with you. Before you teach your budgies to sit o
sure they are comfortable stepping-up and also being
Once you get them to sit on your shoulder you will fin
your budgie step-up and then simply put your finger l
budgie will do 1 of 3 things. One he will hop on, two h
your finger. If he jumps on your shoulder reward him,
of him and then when he reaches for it gently help hir
away try again. I found once I taught both my birds to
stepped up they automatically jumped up on my shou
shoulder and you can talk to him without him being fe
ready to fly then you can start moving around the roo
for good behavior. If he flies off, try again. Remember
10-15 minutes long and if you find he is stressing out
will pay off. A word of caution that you make sure doo
closed and that you remember your bird is on your sh
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 recom
perched higher then eye level to their owners. This giv
feel dominant. Dominancy in a bird can create bad ha
their highest perch should be eye level to you. It is yo
like your bird to sit on your head. Word of precaution
owner's heads and their owner doesn't realize they ar
walk outside and off goes the bird. So if you decide to
just remember he is there.

Training my budgie to talk: You will find a lot of dif
that claim that they will teach your bird how to talk. Y
left it and Pretty did talk. All I did was talk to him daily
and over first thing in the morning, whenever I stoppe
simply talked to him all the time. I found that first the
then if they are meant to talk they will start garbling w
trying to talk but you are not sure if they are talking o
start talking they will pick up more and more at a fast
Pretty was saying "pretty bird", "pretty pooty", "stink
of different rhymes that were silly but he picked them
another bird will my bird stop talking? My experience
never started back up. He would still mimic the whistl
rare occasion if your bird has a strong bond with you,
not stop talking and even teach the other budgies to t

Will my budgie ever talk and do males talk bette
mimickers and will pick up talking better, but because
mean that he will talk. If you are getting a budgie bec
don't adopt a bird because there is more to a bird tha
budgies have been known to talk. In the wild male bud
most of the songs, whistling etc…females are known t
not, a budgie is a wonderful companion.

Working with a older or more skittish budgie: W
you may find many articles that state that birds over t
skittish budgies are impossible to tame. This is untrue
with any bird is first and far most the most important
you have gained the birds trust the rest will come into
scared, may strike back and bite out of fear, run from
trust first. Use the steps above to gain your bird's trus
more but with patience and time you will find that you
with your bird. One thing to keep in mind is that all bi
so if you are looking for the super tame budgie adopti
you but in a rare occasion you may find that extra spe
budgie.

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For ideas on how our members tamed their bud

Forum member's dicuss how to tame their budg

Unique solution ID: #1124
Author: n/a
Last update: 07-Jun-2007 15:16

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