

Peach-faced Lovebirds (*Agapornis reseicollis*) Species Profile: Diet, Housing, and Coloration

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Agapornis reseicollis

There are eight species of Lovebirds, the Peach-faced being the most common. They are inquisitive and intelligent birds who enjoy the company of another lovebird or human. Because of their propensity toward breeding, Lovebirds are one of the most popular of all captive breeding parrots. They usually lay 3-5 eggs, with hatching occurring in 21-22 days. The chicks fledge in five to six weeks. Adult plumage is attained at approximately four months, with sexual maturity occurring between 8 and 12 months.

Peach-faced Lovebirds are found throughout their wild habitat of southern Africa, but never far from water. They are colony birds and appreciate having at least a partner (but not necessarily a mate) in captivity. A pair will tend to bond to each other, rather than the owner, so obtaining a single young lovebird will often result in having the best pet. If attempting to house a colony of lovebirds, all birds should be introduced simultaneously since they are territorial and can be aggressive toward birds other than their mates. Those birds left without a partner should be removed and housed separately. The average cost of a Peach-faced Lovebird is \$40-\$120, depending on coloration.

Quick Stats: Peach-faced Lovebirds

Family: Psittacidae

Origin: South-western Africa

Size: 5"-7"

Coloration: Peach-colored face and cheeks. Wild-born usually predominately green body and wings; however, captive breeding has created many body- and wing-color mutations.

Diet: 65-80% high-quality commercial diet (pellets, crumbles or nuggets). The rest of the diet should consist of 15-30% vegetables and 5% fresh fruits. Use many varieties of fruits and vegetables, washed thoroughly. See [Basic Nutrition for Psittacines \(Parrot Family\)](#) for more information. Provide large amounts of fresh water.

Cage Size: Minimum of 36" H x 24" L x 24" W for one or a pair. The larger, the better.

Grooming: Trim nails, beak, and flight feathers as needed.

Compatibility/Disposition: Do not get along well with other species. Best kept only with other lovebirds.

Unpaired birds in a colony should be removed. A spirited bird, often considered "sassy" or "feisty."

Vocalization: A shrill, staccato shriek.

Playfulness: Gregarious and intelligent. Enjoy and require interaction with other lovebirds and/or family members.

Life Span: 4-12 years

Age at Maturity: 8-12 months

Nesting Sites in the Wild: Crevices of cliffs or buildings; communal nests of weavers (a softbill passerine similar to a finch).

Breeding Season: February-March

Sexing: Via DNA or endoscopy

Special: Prolific breeders in captivity.

Require access to water, including a source for bathing.