

# Beginners Package

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## Welcome to the Eastern District Budgerigar Society

This document is a compilation of general information, tips, and forms to help you get started in the Budgerigar Hobby.

Please do not hesitate to ask anyone for extra information, explanations or help and hints to keep going. As you get started you will find that there is always something new to learn and some processes can be quite confusing, even to long term hobbyists.

We have members from across the Eastern and South Eastern suburbs who will be willing to help you along the way.

More information and up-to-date forms can be found at

Eastern District Budgerigar Society: <http://www.easterndistrictbudgie.com/>

Budgerigar Council of Victoria: <http://www.bcv.asn.au/>

## Our Club

The Eastern District Budgerigar Society (EDBS) membership includes Judges and Champion, Open, Intermediate and Beginner enthusiasts. The club is involved in many activities during the year.

The EDBS offers free club membership for the first twelve months to any new Beginners in the hobby. The Budgerigar Council of Victoria (BCV) offers ½ price membership to new Beginners and then you will receive their quarterly magazine and able to order registered leg rings to enable you to show your birds as a Beginner.

You are encouraged to complete the Club membership form and order BCV rings when you decide you want to join the hobby.

## Monthly Meetings

EDBS holds a monthly meeting from 7:30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of most months (check the syllabus for details) at the Forest Hills Community Hall, Corner of Canterbury and Springvale Roads Forest Hill. Our meeting has an open-door policy and all visitors are welcome any time.

Upon arrival, show benches are set up for benching any birds brought on the night. At the end of the night, we do ask members to help clean up the hall as the seed gets everywhere!

A short informal meeting is held during which advice and ideas are shared. Sometimes there will be a video or a guest speaker invited. Supper is provided.

A free informal competition is run with a small prize and Club points awarded for the winners of the chosen varieties for the night (listed on the syllabus). All varieties are invited to be judged, and everyone is invited to bring along birds for general discussion and advice. Winners of our monthly competitions accumulate club aggregate points, which contribute to the Annual Club award presented at the annual general meeting in the following year.

One night a year, the club runs a Young Bird Interclub Competition with other invited clubs. Competition is fierce but friendly. Up to 250 birds may be on show, and this is a good learning experience for beginners.

Our December meeting is held as a Christmas social function with no birds involved. Our annual general meeting is held in March.

A calendar of events (the syllabus) can be found on our website.

## Major Club Events

### Club Championship (Diploma show)

Many clubs run these shows and all members of our club are invited to attend them.

The EDBS Championship, held in October, usually attracts between 300-400 birds in most sections and classes. Our Show has all age groups represented (See "State and National Shows" below) There are opportunities for everyone to be involved on the day from stewarding, accepting and benching birds as well as set up and clean up.

### Club Auction

The EDBS conducts an annual Club Auction with over 200 budgerigars from breeders Australia wide on offer, giving everybody an opportunity to pick up some top breeding stock.

As the auction is our major club fundraiser, we ask members to help out on the day especially in helping to set up and clean up after the event. The funds are used to pay for our hall hire, show trophies and prizes, various other equipment we may need and subsidises a few social events along the way.

## State and National Shows

The Budgerigar Council of Victoria (BCV) organises three major championship shows

1. The Young Bird State Championship, for birds wearing the previous year's rings.
2. The Adult Bird State Championship, for birds older than Young birds
3. The Unbroken Cap (UBC) State Championship, for birds that have not started their first moult to about age 12 weeks.

To be selected to participate in a State Championship, members are invited to present their birds at the show selection day held about a week before the championship (dates on the syllabus). Three birds from each class are selected to represent the Club at the show. However, Beginner and Intermediate Section members may also enter as many birds as they wish into the show to enable their comparison with the best birds in the state. This is a great learning experience for those new to the hobby.

The Australian Budgerigar Council organises a National show (the National) held in May to which each State is invited to send a team. The State team is selected from birds shown at the State Young Bird Championships.

## Rules and Policy

Each State has its own governing body, overseen by the Australian National Budgerigar Council (<https://anbc.iinet.net.au/>). (There is also an International Budgerigar Organisation!)

All clubs must abide by the State and National governing body of rules.

The BCV website, (<http://www.bcv.asn.au/>), is a useful source of information and includes detailed information about:

- Running and participating in shows and auctions,
- The Budgerigar standard (the look of our birds and to what we are all aspiring),
- Animal welfare laws, specifically how they apply to keeping caged birds,
- Breeding guides,
- Other club activities including their show and auction dates.

## Breeding your budgies.

### What varieties should I breed?

Simple answer: Whatever you prefer.

However, some varieties are easier to breed than others. Some varieties are more established in the hobby and it is easier (and cheaper) to buy good birds. Also, our club may have some varieties underrepresented in the State teams that you might like to breed.

An illustrated file of varieties can be found at

[https://anbc.iinet.net.au/uploads/9/8/7/0/9870161/anbc\\_pictorial\\_standard\\_presentation.pdf](https://anbc.iinet.net.au/uploads/9/8/7/0/9870161/anbc_pictorial_standard_presentation.pdf)

- Some varieties can be **dominant** over others, masking them from the visual appearance of the bird.
- Some varieties form a **co dominance**. Spangles are examples of this.
- Other varieties are **recessive** and will always be hidden if the bird is carrying a corresponding dominant gene.
- Some varieties are **sex linked**. Sex-linked features are carried on the sex determining chromosome. Unlike humans, cock birds carry two, and the hens only one. Hence Sex-Linked hens cannot be split.
- Some varieties form a part of a **multiple allele array** such as Texas clearbodies with the Ino varieties, and Grewing with Clearwings. You need to have the right combination for the variety to be visual on the bird.
- Some varieties are formed by colour enhancing, such as grey and violet.
- Some varieties that mask others perform best when masking certain varieties.

Talk to some of our members that specialise in your preferred varieties for tips on how to breed the best birds.

Appendix 2 has a brief description of breeding outcomes for some varieties.

For a more detailed breeding expectation list go to <http://www.bcv.asn.au/breeding-guides.html>.

### Housing budgerigars

Victorian legislation determines standards for cage size and design in Victoria. For details, visit <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/livestock-and-animals/animal-welfare-victoria/domestic-animals-act/codes-of-practice/code-of-practice-for-the-housing-of-caged-birds>

### Practical feeding by Kelwyn Kakoschke

Budgies don't just eat seed! This guide is one approach to providing your birds with a balanced diet.

A good diet will consist of

- Plain Canary Seed 40%, Mixed Millets 50%, Sunflower Seed 5%, Oats/Sprouted or dry 5%. (*Or a good quality preblended mix*)
- Wheat/Sprouted, Mung Beans/Sprouted.
- Silver beet or Spinach, Beetroot, Carrots, Oranges & Apples & Seeding grass.
- Tree branches including fruit trees and eucalyptus.
- Grit, Cuttlefish, Multivitamin solution, Iodised Salt and Cider Vinegar

### ***Feeding management***

The seed mixture is as listed. Sunflower seed is supplied in a separate dish in the flights and cages. There is a dramatic rise in sunflower consumption when there are chicks in the nest.

Sprouted seed is composed of a mixture of three parts oats, one part wheat and two parts mung beans. Sprouted seed is given to young developing birds until they are six months old.

Silver beet, or spinach, is fed in large quantities when adults are feeding their young. Beetroot is fed complete to the flights, but not to the show team for obvious reasons. Various fruits are also offered as well as seeding grasses.

Twice per week the birds receive a multivitamin solution. Every two weeks (5mls) of iodised salt is added to a bucket of drinking water and on alternate fortnights, cider vinegar is added for its potassium content and acidity.

### ***Tips for beginners***

1. Keep your management system simple to allow you time for knowing your birds.
2. Observe all the small variations in feather qualities, type and temperament in your birds. These areas, when developed, enable you to breed superior exhibition birds.
3. Take care with sprouted seed. They can easily upset the digestion. Ensure the quantity given is consumed quickly and completely.

## **How do I breed budgerigars?**

### ***What do I need to buy?***

A basic starter kit will include a suitable cage, a breeding box and another cage for the weaned babies. An established breeder may have 20-50 breeding cages and boxes with a small flight for the babies. Its OK to start small! And its OK to buy second-hand cages.

### ***When is budgie breeding season?***

Budgerigars are opportunistic breeders: give them the right climate, accommodation, food and health, and they will breed. In Melbourne, generally late winter/ spring is accepted as the best time to start to breed your budgerigars. Some breeders pair up on the Queen's birthday weekend, so they have chicks for the UBC State Championships in September, however this is not necessary. Many breeders also pair up in late February for an Autumn round of breeding

### ***When are birds ready for breeding?***

The minimum age for breeding is 9 months but most breeders wait until hens are at least 12 months old. Hens will have a whitish cere before they mature which becomes a nice even vivid bright brown when ready to breed. Cocks will have a purple coloured cere before they mature which becomes an even brighter blue when ready to mate.

### ***How to start the breeding process.***

Pairing up is easy. You just need to find a hen and a cock in good condition with bright cere colour. Watch their behaviour and they will tell you; hens start chewing all sorts of items and cock are always seen chatting up to almost anything.

Clean all your cages prior to breeding and wait for 2 weeks after pairing to open the nest box.

### ***Eggs and hatchlings.***

Between 9 and 14 days after the nest box is opened you may see your first egg. The hen will lay an egg every second day, clutches are generally 4- 8 eggs. Eggs generally hatch 17-21 days after the first egg is laid, but this can depend on whether the hen starts to incubate from the first day of laying as well as other genetic reasons. Refer to the egg chart at in Appendix 1 to help estimate your hatching days.

The chicks will develop down in a week, and permanent feathers will begin to grow in three weeks. Young birds will leave the nest at 4 to 5 weeks old. Any chick that leaves the nest before this should be returned to the box unless they continuously jump out.

### ***Leg Rings***

The BCV rings will have your ID code, year and bird number and are required for showing owner bred and rung birds. Put rings on the leg you prefer, usually when chicks are between 7 and 10 days old. It is an easier task if the chick is on the younger side even if you have to replace the ring following day.

There are numerous YouTube videos demonstrating leg ringing techniques. Choose the one that suits you.

### ***What happens when the chicks leave the nest?***

Once the young are able to crack seed for themselves, they should be removed from the parents and placed in the young bird cage. This allows them to be protected from the elements longer, while keeping them away from parents that may savage them for staying in the breeding cage too long. The young bird cage should contain plenty of perches and be located near to human activity to allow the chicks to get used to people. Chicks should stay there until they have put on some body substance to withstand the elements and have developed the strength to fly properly.

Leave the chicks with the parents until they are 5-6 weeks old as Dad will keep feeding them and show them how to be independent birds. However, if Mum or Dad are showing aggressiveness towards the chicks remove them early. You may have to hand feed them for a few days while they learn how to fend for themselves.

Generally, they will begin their first moult at about 12 weeks. At this age they are normally placed into your bigger flight with the older budgies or budgies of the same age.

### ***Show Breeding Techniques***

When you start talking to breeders about breeding the perfect show bird you will come across phrases like

- Stock birds
- Line Breeding
- Inbreeding
- Outcrossing
- Fixing a feature
- Breeder's name
- Breeder's lines

There are many approaches to developing a stud of show quality birds and you should read around the subject and talk to breeders, or read their web pages, to get an understanding of the various approaches. All have their benefits and pitfalls, some are simpler than others to follow, and eventually you should practice an approach that suits you. Beware of overly inbreeding your birds.

## **Record keeping**

Keeping accurate breeding records is essential for the following reasons.

- Understanding the family relationships of your birds.
- Recognising and removing bad traits that may be showing up in some families.
- Multiplying and maximizing good features.

Appendix 1 contains some breeding templates for you to use or modify.

There are also computer programs available to store your data if you wish.



## Breeding room problems

### Infertility

**Breeding Cycle:** Cocks and hens have a period of good and poor condition. In cocks, fertility has been proven to occur about every 11-14 days. If either parent is dull in the cere and not bright in the eyes, pairing will most likely be unsuccessful and infertile eggs the result. We need to recognize the stages of breeding condition of each individual bird and to refrain from putting them in the breeding cage if not yet in condition or in a declining stage of breeding condition. A physical examination to determine the condition of the breeding pair prior to moving them into the breeding cabinet helps to ensure they are ready to breed, as they should feel solid through the chest muscles, and taut stomach muscles on the hen

**Lighting:** The short daylight hours and cold conditions that we have in June and July contribute to infertile nests as the birds struggle to maintain energy. They may be brought into breeding activity by the use of artificial lighting (ideally 14hrs) and heating (ideally 20-25c).

**Nutrition:** When poor quality food with low energy and nutritional content is given, it accentuates stress-related illnesses, also if the vitamin A&D content is low the birds become depressed and inactive and this is possibly one of the most common management faults.

**Perches:** If round dowelling is used for perches, sometimes the hen is unable to grip the perch when mating. The answer is to use square perches or rough them up with a serrated knife.

**Feather obstruction:** Coarse feathering around the vent area can sometimes prevent efficient mating. One answer is to pluck the feathers away from the vent area, or trim with scissors.

**Disease:** Another cause of breeding room failure is when poor hygiene, aviary and food management practices are present, also a "carrier" bird or ill bird is used for breeding.

Breeding birds should have a full complement of wing and tail feathers, if not they may be infected with polyomavirus.

Similarly, birds with feather staining or discharge above the nostrils indicate the likely presence of a Streptococcus infection and should not be allowed to breed.

Carefully inspection of the flight and tail feathers for the presence of quill mite, as quill and red mite can be an underlying cause of infertility.

Psittacosis, Mega bacteria, Trichomonas and E. coli are infections that may appear in breeding birds during their first week in the breeding cabinet.

**Egg quality:** An acceptable fertility level is 4 out of 6 eggs. If you are finding 2 fertile out of 6 throughout the stud you may have some sort of disease, incorrect breeding time or poor nutrition. The issue should be investigated and rectified before continuing to breed those birds.

Soft, thin-shelled, brittle or malformed eggs are usually infertile. Their presence indicates vitamin/mineral deficiencies, fungal or uterus infection.

Soiled eggs are less likely to hatch as they indicate poor brooding technique or an unhealthy nest.

### Egg bound hens

A sure indication of egg binding in a hen that is if she is found in the nest box, or on the floor of the cage, in great distress with shortness of breath, a swollen vent and diluted pupils. Egg binding is caused by the oviduct going into a spasm and is common at the start of laying. In mature birds the lack of muscle tone in the muscles of the abdominal wall are another possibility, but most commonly the inflammation of the oviduct is the cause. Try a calcium supplement and heated cage. If this does not solve the problem naturally then manual manipulation is now necessary.

## Dead in shell

Most of the dead-in-shell cases are caused by the natural weakness of the chicks; a diet that includes a high source of vitamin B12 should help this problem. 10% of dead in shell causes can be attributed to a low humidity in hot weather that causes the membrane surrounding the embryo to harden.

Infection can be another cause as bacteria can enter the porous shell of the egg.

## Nesting problems

### *@ 0-3 days*

An empty crop and any change in the colour of the skin from its healthy state of rose pink indicate a potential problem in 1-3 day old chicks.

Bluish tinge – indicates circulation problems caused by cold stress, poor feeding or infection.

Red colour- indicates dehydration associated with heat stress or infection.

Pale or white- indicates Polyomavirus.

Yellow belly- signals the failure of a newborn chick to absorb its yolk sac and in most cases indicates that the dead chick was weak before and after it emerged from the egg. Yellow belly may occur in chicks that have been strong at the time of hatching but have died from an overwhelming nest infection that has entered the yolk sac through the open navel.

### *@ 5-10 days*

Wet nest may occur when nestlings are between 10-15 days of age as a result of mineral salt (electrolyte) imbalance occurring in their parents, which induces an excessive thirst after the transition from crop milk to whole seed feeding. The resulting thirst causes parents to feed too much water and not enough solid food to their young so that in a few hours the entire clutch is producing watery droppings.

Widespread deaths in nestlings of this age could indicate toxic death associated with the process of feeding contaminated soaked seed or another food item, as this is the time mothers begin to feed whole seed.

### *Older than 10 days*

Crop bloat or air in the crop is a sign that parental care is failing, this is often the youngest as these are the last to be fed.

### *Hand feeding*

Hand feeding, even a day old chick, is quite easy provided the chick is active and squeaking. Baby milk formula with some added glucose is ideal, older chicks may be fed using a syringe and crop needle.

You can find Crop needle use demonstrations on YouTube, or ask a club member for more information.

## Weaning

During the normal weaning process young budgerigars lose up to 25% of their weight. The sudden weight loss associated with weaning becomes hazardous for exhibition budgerigars with a weak weaning instinct, as they may not eat enough and hand feeding may be the alternative to get them over this difficult period.

## Recovery period

Energy depletion is nearly always the underlying cause of the sudden death of breeding cocks and hens that often occurs when they are removed directly from the breeding cabinet into the flights without a chance to recuperate, usually 4 or 5 days in a holding cage with energy rich food gives them time to make a full recovery from the hardships of breeding.

## Feather plucking

This coincides with the start of a new breeding cycle and is the result of hormone fluctuations when the mother is preparing to produce her next clutch of eggs without the means to mobilize the required amount of protein and minerals. It may also be a vice but irrespective of its cause, feather plucking is a sign the hen is ready for another breeding cycle.

## Interpretation of the droppings

The close observation and understanding of the dropping changes in the aviary is very important for health management.

White droppings- Blocked gizzard, cold stress & exposure.

Black (large tarry) droppings – Coccidiosis, severe bacterial and fungal infection, obstructed gizzard in breeding birds, starvation.

Grey-blue (large) droppings – E.coli infection.

Yellow droppings – Severe liver diseases. Psittacosis or salmonella infections

Orange droppings–Severe toxic process in the liver, indicates salmonella infection

Green Droppings (watery)- Feeding greens, or an illness causing increased thirst.

Green (enlarged)-poor quality feed, stress, illness or incorrect medicines

Green (dark with no white urate)- toxic caused by white mold, canker coccidiosis and Psittacosis.

Smelly droppings- E. coli infection occurring with coccidiosis outbreak and often associated with poor quality or wet and/or dirty grit.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**(1) What do we do with soiled eggs?** They may be washed with warm water for a short period making sure the water is slightly warmer than the eggs being cleaned.

**(2) What is the ideal nest box material?** Most breeders use a readily available small animal bedding or fine wood shavings produced from non-treated timbers.

**(3) How do you handle pairs that have had a clear round?** Rest the hen for a few weeks and give the cock bird another partner, if he appears in condition, as he should be into the breeding cycle by now.

**(4) Which partner do you remove at the completion of breeding?** Usually, the hen and let the cock bird raise the babies when they leave the nest.

**(5) Are there other causes of dead in shell?** Yes, brooding failure results in eggs that die because of improper care during incubation. Cold temperatures and buff feathered hens failing to provide them with adequate insulation as brooding is an energetic process when the eggs must be turned many times each day.

**(6) What is the best preventative for red mite in the nest box?** Pyrethrum-based spray by Vetafarm, Ivermectin (S76) in drinking water or Limil under the concave.

**(7) Do they require any special breeding cage preparation?** The nest box and cabinet should be cleaned, and anti-vermin powder used to prevent parasites. Grit and all the usual diet requirements should be provided. The birds should be treated for lice and mites prior to entering the breeding cage. Perches should be secure and not roll.

**(8) Can you use foster parents?** Foster parents are used when there are too many eggs or chicks for the main breeding pairs to raise, or to raise all of the eggs while the breeding pair rest. They are also security should a parent die, or the chicks be savaged. The fosters should have no bad habits when raising chicks such as feather plucking, savaging, neglecting chicks or laying more eggs with the chicks

still in the nest. It is best to allow at maximum 6 eggs in one nest, any more may lead to problems also raising 3 or 4 chicks per nest is ideal, more is too stressful on the parents and one chick only per nest will often be neglected. Do not be afraid to move eggs and chicks, though it is recommended that you use disposable gloves when handling the eggs as bacteria from your hands can pass into the eggs also ensure your hands are warm when handling small chicks.

## Showing Budgerigars

### The Standard: Description of Perfection (2019)

If you wish to pursue a hobby in showing budgies, this section is important.

Birds are judged against the standard as defined by the Australian National Budgerigar Council. Your breeding program will aspire to producing birds that conform as near as possible to the standard.

**Condition:** The bird should be clean and sleek, complete in feather, showing vitality and good health with no sign of injury or disease. It should be perfectly balanced and steady on the perch at an angle of thirty degrees from the vertical.

**Type:** The bird is to taper gracefully and be well proportioned according to the pictorial of the time, standing well off the perch, at an angle of approximately 30 degrees from vertical, with beak tucked deep into mask, backline sweeping gently, in a slight concave from the back skull to the tip of the tail. Body line to curve out from the beak through the mask to the chest, and then taper back to the lower tail coverts of the tail.

**Length:** The ideal length is 240mm measured from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail.

**Wings:** Firmly braced close to the body, neat and not showing too much back. The tips of the primary flights to meet at or just above the cushion of tail. Seven or eight visual primary flights on each wing are acceptable.

**Tail:** Straight and tight with two primary feathers in proportion to the size of the bird. The ideal tail length is 35% of the length of the bird.

**Head:** The head feather is to give the appearance of the head being large, rounded and wide when viewed from any angle; curvature of the head feather is to commence at the cere in an outward, sideways and downward direction from the cere and then lift upward, continuing over the top of the head through a full backskull in one graceful sweep and merge into the backline & shoulders.

**Eyes:** Bright, set deep in the head, well down from the crown and slightly nearer to the beak than to the back of the head.

**Cere:** Neat and shapely, of a solid and even colour.

**Beak:** To be smooth and clean.

**Mask and Spots:** The mask is to be clear, wide and deep, (not cleft) extending beyond two large cheek patches. Where required by variety standards, the mask is to be ornamented by six evenly spaced, large, round throat spots, the outer two being partially covered by the base of the cheek patches.

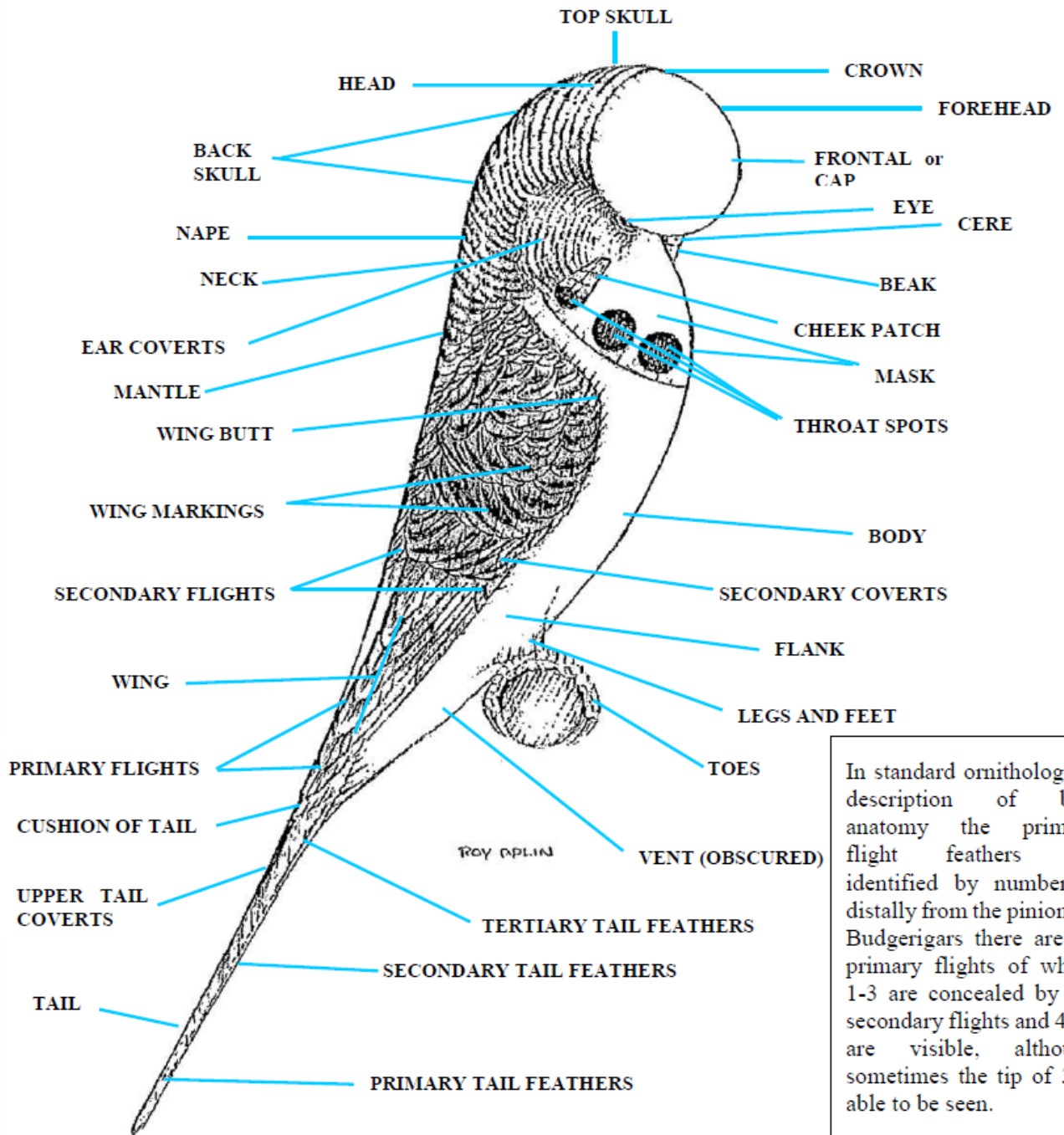
**Legs and Feet:** To be clean, with two front and two rear toes and claws gripping the perch.

**Markings:** Where required by the variety standards are to be well defined.

**Colour:** Colour is in all cases to be pure and uniform in tone except where otherwise allowed in variety standards

For more information about variety specific standards and how judges award points read "The Standard" on the BCV website:  
[https://anbc.iinet.net.au/uploads/9/8/7/0/9870161/2021\\_anbc\\_estandard\\_2021\\_master.pdf](https://anbc.iinet.net.au/uploads/9/8/7/0/9870161/2021_anbc_estandard_2021_master.pdf)

### MAIN FEATURES OF A BUDGERIGAR



## Buying Budgerigars to breed show birds: key points

**Join a club** to meet other breeders and learn how to buy birds by talking to members.

**Study the current budgerigar standard** (previous page) at <http://www.bcv.asn.au/anbc-budgerigar-standard.html> and compare this to the birds that are winning on the show bench to form a picture of what you see as the 'ideal bird'.

**Make sure the bird is in good health** and has no illnesses that will affect the rest of your flock. Always quarantine new birds before you mix them with your flock.

**Don't assume that the cheaper and inferior birds can be a substitute** for more expensive and obviously superior birds. Always try to purchase the best quality birds that you can afford. One or two good quality pairs will offer more benefits and make quicker gains than four or five lesser quality pairs purchased for the same amount of money.

**A good cock bird will be more easily come by**, and is a better buy. A cock bird will not need to rest as much between clutches, and is less likely to become sick. If you can't find a good hen to buy, then breed your own from hens that, while of lesser quality compensate for any bad points the cock has.

**The ideal bird will most likely not be for sale**, so you will have to make do with a compromise. When buying birds, try to gather the component parts to make the make the ideal. If you purchase a cock that has good features, except he lacks size, then try and find a hen that will compensate for the size while perhaps not being as good in other areas. As your flock is built up you will be able to breed your own birds to make up the ideal budgerigar. Each individual bird will be part of the end product generations down the line; your own champion birds.

## How to collect points in the Budgerigar hobby and why!

As a member of the Eastern District Budgerigar Society there are two sets of points you can amass each year:

1. Exhibitor Points, managed by the Budgerigar Council of Victoria; necessary for promotion between sections. i.e.; Beginner to Intermediate to Open to Champion.
2. The Club Aggregate Award, managed at the club level, with an annual perpetual trophy and prize awarded at the Annual General Meeting based on the previous calendar year's score.

### Exhibitor Points

Awarded only at the annual Club Championships (Diplomas), the State Championships (Shields) and the National Championship, these points contribute to which section you are classed (Beginner, Intermediate, Open or Champion).

Appendix 1 lists the points available to place getters at the various shows.

### Using Exhibitor points for progression

#### *Beginner section*

Anyone new to the hobby starts as a Beginner, and remains at this level for 5 years unless they accumulate 30 exhibitor points before that time, when they will progress to the intermediate section the following January

#### *Intermediate Section*

A member remains in the Intermediate section until they have achieved another 30 exhibitor points over a rolling three-year average, when they will progress to the Open Section the following January.

### **Open Section**

Once achieving Open status, a member remains in this section until they have achieved another 60 exhibitor points over a rolling three-year average, when they will progress to champion the following January. They will remain in Open until this average is reached.

### **Champion Section**

A member may only remain in Champion section if they maintain an average three-year rolling average of exhibitor 60 points. If this is not reached, they revert to Open Status until they do so. Hence a member may “bounce” between Open and Champion sections during subsequent years.

Upon promotion between sections, all previous points are removed.

Further information about exhibitor status and points is found in Section 2 of the BCV Show Rules at [bcv.asn.au/bcv-rules-policies.html](http://bcv.asn.au/bcv-rules-policies.html).

### **Club Aggregate Award**

Points are amassed by participating in monthly club shows and DO NOT contribute to your Exhibitor status. Depending upon the number of birds entered on a night, the judging maybe broken into sections, or judged as one lot. The points aggregate runs over the calendar year.

Points are awarded as follows

- (a) Shield Class placings, 1st- 10 points to 10th- 1 point. Bonus points apply\*
  - (b) Shield Class Best Intermediate or Beginner – 5 points. No bonus points for Beginner or Intermediate.
  - (c) Interclub Class placings 1st- 5 points to 5th- 1 point. Bonus points apply\*
  - (d) Any Club Annual Show Sectional Winner- 10 points, Best of Variety- 5 points, Class Winner - 1 point (no bonus points for Beginner or Intermediate)
  - (e) Club Night Shows- 5 points to sectional winner. Nominated Variety Winner on club nights will receive 2 points (no bonus points on club nights)
- The annual winner will receive a Trophy.

*\* Bonus points: Intermediate Exhibitor will receive double points and Beginner Exhibitor triple points.*

### **Other Awards**

#### ***EDBS Perpetual trophies***

The Club runs a perpetual trophy for each of the State Championships club selection day. The overall best bird on the day receives the trophy for the year.

- Adult Shield Selection Day: Colin Kingsland Perpetual Trophy
- Young bird Shield Selection Day: Robbie Davis Perpetual Trophy
- Unbroken Cap (UBC) Shield selection Day: George Hume Perpetual Trophy

#### ***Annual Variety Award presented by the BCV***

Presented at the Adult State Championships each year, the Annual Variety Awards are presented to the exhibitors with the highest points accumulation in each variety across the previous year’s three State Championships. Hence there is one award per judged variety, with a maximum score of 30 points per award.

This award does not contribute to the maintenance or progression of an exhibitor’s status in the hobby. It is a recognition of their achievements in the development of their preferred varieties.

## How to complete the BCV Show Entry Form

Step By Step Instructions to enter birds into shows either by Australia Post or Electronic Email.

1. How to Download the BCV Entry Form:
  - Go to the BCV website – [www.bcv.asn.au](http://www.bcv.asn.au)
  - On the front page is a heading “Budgerigar Shows” – Click on this
  - Click on “Diploma Show Entry Form” – this opens in Microsoft Excel.
  - The Form Opens. Click on File, Save As and select “Desktop” and then “Save”
  - It will be saved as BCV\_SHOW\_ENTRY\_FORM\_JAN?? (?? Is year).
  - This can be used for all shows you enter for that year.
  
2. Filling out the BCV Show Entry Form
  - Open the document. (from where you saved it)
  - The entry form has the Show Classes listed on the left side, on the right side is the show form for you to complete.
  - You can now type directly onto the BCV Show entry form – Show section.
  - Please complete all Exhibitor sections where possible. This will help the club representative to make contact if required.
  - All entries are to be listed as single entries under the heading - Class: Example shown below.

ADULTS		UBC		YOUNG	
Class	Cage No	Class	Cage No	Class	Cage No
4		52		121	
7		56		121H	
7		64		123	

(The club secretary can complete the cage no and return to you by email or on the day of the show)

- Leave the Cage No: BLANK
  - Complete the total number of entries for ADULT, UBC & YOUNG at the bottom of the form.
3. Sending completed form to the Club Secretary
    - The completed form is ready to be sent to the Club Secretary by post or email.
    - If posting: - Open the document and select Print. Please post the completed show form to the club secretary at least 5 days before the show. (i.e.: Post by the Monday before the show date to ensure the club receives the form on time.)
    - If emailing: There are 2 Parts.
    - PART 1 – Ensure the show form is open and completed. Click On the top left corner of your document “File” and in the drop-down list “Save As”. Name it as follows Club Month ie “DandenongFebruary” or the Club where the Show is and click Save.
    - Part 2 – Once Saved right click on the saved file and in the menu box click on Send To. This will give you the option to select “Mail Recipient”. Click this and it will automatically attach the file to an email. Put in the email address of the Show Secretary, send a courteous note and supply your phone number for any issues and click “Send”. Job Done!
    - A club rep may email your form back to you with Cage No’s or give it to you on Show Day.





## Show preparation

There are many aspects to preparing a bird for the show bench. Here are a few to think about.

### *Initial Training*

Get your birds used to being handled from a young age and get them used to the show cage

### *Show Cage Training*

Birds that are used to sitting in a show cage at home will always look better at a show. Start from weaning time. Some breeders put an old cage with treats into the main flight so birds are completely used to entering them.

### *Plan your show team about 6 weeks before a show*

### *Diet is really important*

### *Spraying & Washing*

Clean birds with healthy feathers will look great on the show bench.

### *De-spotting*

Often birds have many more than the six black spots shown in the Standard. Extra spots need to be removed before exhibiting in a formal championship. This is an opportunity to 'pick your spots' to bring your bird closer to the Standard. There are some excellent YouTube videos that show you how to de spot. Alternatively bring along some birds to a club meeting for a demonstration.

### *Final Preparation*

A few days before a show, if you have a bird with blood on the cap or wing, this can be absorbed out with a cotton wool pad dipped in milk, then clean water and dry with a hair-dryer. White faced birds can have Johnson's Baby Powder sprinkled on their cap to help hide any blemishes. You can put a small amount of Baby Oil on the bird's beak, cere and feet using a cotton bud to clean them up. Take care to only use a very small amount or you will oil your bird. The bird's tail is then dipped into a container of boiling water for about 5 seconds, then wipe off the excess water with a clean towel in the direction of the tail feathers.

### *Show-cage*

Before placing the bird in the cage, check that the cage is in good condition and clean, as there is nothing worse than having an excellent bird presented in a disgusting cage and it doesn't create a good impression on the judge the first time he looks at the cage. Also make sure your cage is not 'marked' in anyway such as perches and feeders incorrectly placed (See Stewarding section).

## Stewarding at a show

All members are encouraged to act as stewards. It's a great way to learn about what makes a good bird for the show bench. Stewards assist the judge, not by assisting with judging, but by having the birds in position ready for them to be judged and recording the result for the entry stewards. Have a look at our website for a description of the steward's role at <http://www.easterndistrictbudgie.com/>

## Standard show cage

You must use a standard cage when entering birds in any competition. Marked cages (those that look different to others) may result in your entry being disqualified.

The club has cages you may borrow until you have enough of your own.

You can buy new and second-hand cages, or you can make your own. For building specifications go to [http://www.bcv.asn.au/uploads/8/3/6/0/83603870/show\\_cage\\_specs\[4957\].pdf](http://www.bcv.asn.au/uploads/8/3/6/0/83603870/show_cage_specs[4957].pdf)

## Appendix 1 Useful forms and spreadsheets

### Sample nest box record cards for your use

Nest Box Record Card				Pair No:
Nest Box:				Paired:
Eggs Laid:	Chicks Raised:		Round of Eggs:	
Cock:				
Hen:				
Date Laid	Hatch Date	Note	Ring No	Chick Colour & Sex
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

Nest Box Record Card				Pair No:
Nest Box:				Paired:
Eggs Laid:	Chicks Raised:		Round of Eggs:	
Cock:				
Hen:				
Date Laid	Hatch Date	Note	Ring No	Chick Colour & Sex
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				

Sample pair record book sheet for your use

Pair No
---------

<b>Nest Box:</b>		<b>Paired:</b>	
Sire		Sire	
Dam		Dam	
<b>Hen</b>		<b>Cock</b>	
<u>Notes</u>		<u>Notes</u>	

Date Laid	Hatch	Ring No	Notes
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

Date Laid	Hatch	Ring No	Notes
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
9.			

## 18 Day Egg Chart

These charts give you an idea as to when eggs may hatch from the time the hen lays them.

### Budgerigar incubation calendar (common year)

January	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	January	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31							
February														1	2	3	4	5	February	
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
	24	25	26	27	28															
March						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	March	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
April	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	April	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30								
May													1	2	3	4	5	6	May	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31													
June							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	June		
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
	30																			
July		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	July	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
August															1	2	3	4	August	
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31											
September										1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	September	
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		
	28	29	30																	
October			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	October		
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
November																	1	2	November	
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30										
December											1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	December	
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26		
	27	28	29	30	31															
January						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	January	
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		

### How to use the table

Find the date the egg was laid on the table. 18 days from that date is the number directly below the laid date.

Example:

If an egg is laid on the 1<sup>st</sup> January it will be due to hatch on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

If an egg is laid on 17 September it will be due to hatch on the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Note that sometimes they may hatch a little earlier or later so keep an eye on them.

For a leap year calendar check our resources link on the website.

## Point allocations on the show bench

<b>National Championships</b>	
<b>Variety - Exhibitor Points</b>	
1st Place - each variety	15 points
2nd Place - each variety	10 points
3rd Place - each variety	5 points

<b>State Championships (Young bird, Adult and UBC)</b>	
<b>Variety - Exhibitor Points</b>	
1st Place - each variety	10 points
2nd Place - each variety	7 points
3rd Place - each variety	3 points
<b>Beginner and Intermediate - Exhibitor Points</b>	
Best Beginner in Show (10 points per show max)	10 Points
Best Intermediate in Show (10 points per show max)	10 Points
<b>Variety - Variety Award - ANBC, UBC, Adult &amp; Young State Championships</b>	
1st Place - each variety	6 points
2nd Place - each variety	5 points
3rd Place - each variety	4 points
4th Place - each variety	3 points
5th Place - each variety	2 points
6th Place - each variety	1 point

<b>Young Bird - Club Championship (Diploma) - Maximum 25 points</b>	
Best in Show - Grand Champion - Diploma*	5 Points
Best Champion in show	5 Points
Best Open in show	5 Points
Best Intermediate in show	5 Points
Best Beginner in show	5 Points
*Best in show also awarded 5 points for best in section for a total of 10 points, (if applicable)	
Minimum number of birds required to be benched to receive points is 20 per section and 120 in total	
Minimum number of exhibitors required to receive points is 3 per section and 3 in total	

<b>Adult - Club Championship (Grand Champion) - Maximum 25 points</b>	
Best in Show - Grand Champion*	5 Points
Best Champion in show	5 Points
Best Open in show	5 Points
Best Intermediate in show	5 Points
Best Beginner in show	5 Points
*Best in show also awarded 5 points for best in section for a total of 10 points, (if applicable)	
Minimum number of birds required to be benched to receive points is 20 per section and 80 in total	
Minimum number of exhibitors required to receive points is 3 per section and 3 in total	

<b>Unbroken Cap - Club Championship (Supreme UBC) - Maximum 25 points</b>	
Best in Show - Supreme UBC*	5 Points
Best Champion in show	5 Points
Best Open in show	5 Points
Best Intermediate in show	5 Points
Best Beginner in show	5 Points
*Best in show also awarded 5 points for best in section for a total of 10 points, (if applicable)	
Minimum number of birds required to be benched to receive a point is 20 per section and 80 in total	
Minimum number of exhibitors required to receive points is 3 per section and 3 in total	

## Appendix 2: Breeding Expectations Simplified

### Dominant Transmission

- Normal wing (over recessives)
- Green over blue

### Recessive Transmission

- Dilute<sup>♦</sup>
- Clearwing<sup>♦</sup>
- Greywing<sup>♦</sup>
- Fallow
- Recessive Pied

### Expectations

Recessive x Recessive	=>	100% Recessive offspring
Recessive x Dominant	=>	100% Visually Dominant offspring / recessive.*
Recessive x Dominant/recessive	=>	50% Recessive offspring 50% Visually Dominant offspring / recessive.*
Dominant x Dominant / Recessive	=>	50% Visually Dominant offspring / recessive.* 50% Dominant offspring
Dominant /Recessive x Dominant /Recessive	=>	25% Recessive offspring, 25% Dominant offspring, 50% Visually Dominant offspring / recessive

\*The symbol "/" means the bird is "split" for a recessive variety. It carries the gene for the variety, but is not visually that variety.

♦Clearwing, Greywing and Dilute varieties have their own complicated relationship but all are recessive to Normal wings

### Co-dominance Transmission

- Dominant Pied
- English Yellowface
- Normal Wing and Spangle
- White cap
- Australian Goldenface

### Expectations (Spangle used as an example)

<b>Spangles</b>		
Double Factor (DF) Spangle x DF Spangle	=>	100% DF Spangle
DF Spangle x Normal	=>	100% Single Factor (SF) Spangle
SF Spangle x SF Spangle	=>	25% DF Spangle, 25% Normal, 50% SF Spangle
SF Spangle x normal	=>	50% SF Spangle, 50% Normal
SF Spangle x DF Spangle	=>	50% SF Spangle, 50% DF Spangle

**Sex-Linked (SL) Transition**

- Lutino and Albino (Ino)
- Cinnamon
- Opaline
- Lacewing
- Texas Clearbody \*\*

**Expectations**

SL cock x SL hen	=>	100% sex linked factor (SL) cocks and hens
SL cock x Non Sex Linked(NSL)Hen	=>	50% Visually NSL cock/*SL , 50% Visually SL hens
NSL Cock x SL Hen	=>	50% Visually NSL cock/SL, 50% NSL hens
NSL/SL Cock x SL Hen	=>	25% SL Hens, 25% SL Cocks, 25% Visually NSL Cocks/ SL, 25% NSL hens
NSL /SL Cock x Normal Hen	=>	25% SL Hens 25% NSL Hens, 25% NSL Cocks, 25% Visually NSL Cocks / SL

*\*The symbol "/" means the bird is "split" for a recessive variety. It carries the gene for the variety, but is not visually that variety.*

*\*\* Texas Clearbody is a multiple allele of Ino. Texas Clearbody is sex linked recessive to non sex linked and sex linked dominant over Ino.*

This is a simplified explanation. For a more detailed breeding expectation list go to <http://www.bcv.asn.au/breeding-guides.html>.

And talk to specialist breeders.

**Test your genetics understanding.**

*A cock cannot be split (/) opaline cinnamon.  
But he can be double split for both opaline and cinnamon.*

*Why?*



## Appendix 3: Other resources

There are a number of websites with videos and extra information that you may wish to refer to, including

<https://unitedbudgies.org.au/>

<https://www.birdhealth.com.au/>

<https://www.budgerigarsociety.com/>

<https://www.cutelittlebirdiesaviary.com/>

Also, many breeders have their own websites with their thoughts on breeding and showing birds.