

Eastern Districts Budgie Club

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 contagious diseases 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. It is better to buy just one pair of good quality birds and start from there.

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 with hens that, while inferior, 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.