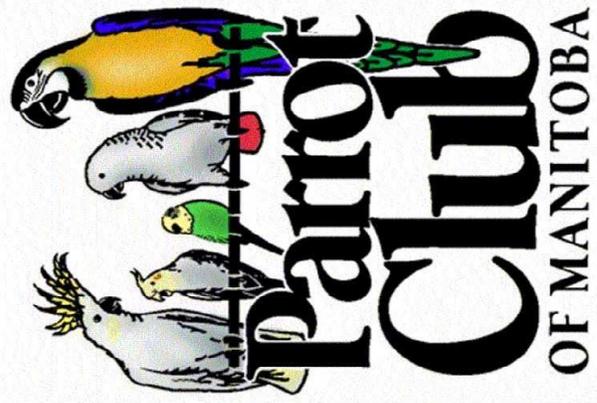


Eclectus



Established 1980

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Eclectus

Origin

Eclectus are the most sexually dimorphic of all parrots - that means the males and females look very different. Males are mostly green with red patches on their sides and under the wings. Their upper beak is yellow with brown streaks when a youngster, and changes to candy corn shades of orange, shading to yellow at the tip when they are about a year old. Females are colored a rich red with blue or violet on the front. Some have a ring of blue feathers around their eyes and some have a band of bright yellow on the end of the tail. Their beaks are black with a little yellow when they are young, which turns a rich black by about a year of age. There are four subspecies of Eclectus parrots commonly available: Solomon Island, Grand, Red Sided and Vosmaeri. Of these, the Solomon Island is the smallest and the Vosmaeri is the largest.

General Personality

Eclectus parrots can make wonderful pets! They show affection, are intelligent, sensitive, like to play and are good talkers. They do like to study a new situation or person before “jumping in”. They need quality time and attention from their human family, but they don't need to be the center of attention all the time. Like other parrots their size, properly cared for Eclectus can live 30 years or more, so Eclectus ownership should be a lifetime commitment.

Food

Eclectus need a diet that is mostly fresh and cooked vegetables, greens, fruits, beans and grains. Sprouts and sprouted seeds are also important along with dry seeds and nuts to round out the diet. A chopped hard boiled or dry scrambled egg included once or twice a week is also good. Most of the vegetables and fruits chosen should be high in beta carotene—these would be the red, orange, yellow and deep green/leafy vegetables and fruits. Examples are hot and sweet peppers, yams, carrots, beets, kale,

collards and papaya. High Vitamin A is necessary and this can be found in mangoes and cantaloupe (plus the stringy mush and seeds). Quality pelleted foods (especially those without artificial colors or preservatives) can also be offered to Eclectus as a part of the overall diet. Do not give your Eclectus vitamins or other supplements unless directed to do so by an avian veterinarian. Grit and gravel are not necessary for caged birds.

Health Care

Be sure to take your Eclectus to the vet within a few days of purchase to ensure it is in good health. Eclectus parrots can get upset about going to the vet and, because of that, can show a highly elevated white blood cell count (called stress-related leukocytosis), even if they are not sick. Some vets unfamiliar with Eclectus may not know about this. They may become concerned that illness may exist, and want to treat with antibiotics. On your first visit to the vet, be sure your vet is aware of this “Eclectus quirk” so he/she can make the best decision about any need for antibiotics.

Several members of the Parrot Club of Manitoba have an Eclectus as a pet and would be able to tell you how these birds are in the home environment.

The Parrot Club of Manitoba meets the third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Alphonsus Hall, 341 Munroe Ave. Check our website (www.parroclubofman.ca) for any changes.

Winnipeg veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine are:

- Dr. Andrew Davidson of Corydon Animal Hospital
- Dr. Heather McDonald of Centennial Animal Hospital
- Dr. Lisa Sawka of Animal Ark Mobile Veterinary Services