

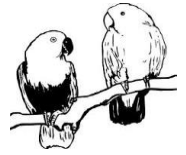
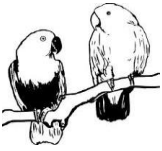
Eclectus 101 Care Sheet

The Eclectus (Ekkie) has the longest digestive track of all parrots, therefore, food sits longer in the intestines allowing for greater absorption of nutrients. Eclectus require more vitamin A than other parrot species. When fed a proper diet, supplements are not necessary nor should be used due to the tendency to over supplement creating more problems. Poor diet can play a role in screaming, toe-tapping, wing flipping, aggression, plucking, anxiety, exaggerated breeding behavior, poor feather condition, poor immune system, to name a few.

The ideal Eclectus diet is balanced between veggies, fruit, cooked beans, pellets. Most Eclectus will prefer fruit over their veggies, however, since fruit is higher in sugar, the fruit should be approximately 1/3 of the veggie/fruit intake. Below are Eclectus safe foods and unsafe foods along with the recommended pellets:

Fruits	Veggies	Misc.	Pellets	Avoid
apple	artichoke	almonds	Tops	avocado
banana	beans - fully cooked	barley	Harrison	dairy - all
blackberry	bell peppers	brown rice	RoudyBush	fruit rinds
cantaloupe	broccoli	buckwheat	Pretty Bird*	rhubarb
cranberry	brussel sprouts	grouts		raw meats
dried dates	carrots	cooked chicken		onions
figs - eaten in the wild	cauliflower	cooked noodles		garlic
gooseberries	celery	egg		chocolate
guava	Chinese cabbage	lentils		salty/sugary foods
honeydew	corn	millet		alcohol
kiwi fruit	cucumber	oat groats		all fruit pits & seeds
mandarin	eggplant - fruit part only	old fashion oats		PEANUTS
nectarine	endive	pecans		uncooked rice
orange	fennel	quinoa		caffeine
papaya	green beans	walnuts		mayo
peach	hot peppers	wheat germ		fried foods
pear	kale			asparagus
pineapple	peas			soda
pomegranate	radish			leeks
red raspberry	red beet - fresh only			Gatorade
strawberry	sprouts - pea or lentil only			olives
tangerine	squash			parsley
watermelon	sweet potato - cooked			uncooked beans
	yams			Spirulina – too rich
	zucchini			Artificial Coloring
				Fortified Foods

*Pretty Bird Eclectus does have artificial coloring, so if your bird has an issue with artificial coloring, do not use.



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Eclectus Overview for the Potential/New Parent:

Life Span: 40 to 50 years

Origin: New Guinea, Northern Australia, Solomon Island, Maluku Islands, islands of eastern Indonesia.

Sub-species: 10 different subspecies with the most common seen in captivity being the Solomon, Grand, Red-sided and Vosmaeri.

Vocalization and Intelligence: Considered as smart as the African Grey. For those Eclectus that choose to talk, their speech is clear. It is not unusual for an Eclectus to be a non-talker to minimal talker until age of 7, at that point, your Eclectus may just wake up and start chattering. Please keep in mind, that each bird is an individual, therefore, the desire to talk will be based on the bird and how much time is spent with the bird talking to them.

Personality: Both males and females are equally affectionate. Some believe the male is more playful and a better talker. However, this is unproven. Eclectus is a parrot that behavior in the wild does not necessarily translate to behavior as a pet. In the wild, males are seen caring for multiple hens, while, the hens are left to raise and guard the nest. Based on that, it would be easy to think that the males are sweeter and the hens are more aggressive. On the contrary, in captivity, both sexes can be territorial of their cage, stand or toy. The Eclectus may have a preference for a particular person in the home but they are known to want attention from all those in the home. Some Eclectus will prefer toys that they can take apart, others prefer to shred and chew, and some love their swings. It is best to offer a varied selection of toys. When an Eclectus feels threatened, they will "freeze" their position and watch the situation to determine their reaction.

Diet: To recap, the Eclectus has the longest digestive track of all parrots. Because of this, they are able to absorb more nutrients from their foods than other birds or even humans. It is important to avoid/limit artificial preservatives, coloring and fortified (vitamin) foods. An Eclectus can be very sensitive to these and could build up in their system resulting in toe-tapping, plucking, allergies, itchy (other than when molting), aggression and dull feathers to name a few.

Recommended sites for further learning:

<http://www.landofvos.com>

http://www.ccbirdclub.com/index_files/Eclectus.htm

http://birdhealth.com.au/petbirds/care/care_Eclectus.html

Thank you for reading this. All the information I have provided is a snapshot of the care required. I am constantly researching the species myself. Please note, you may come across conflicting information, it is best to error on the side of caution.

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