



Conure Care Sheet

The Sun Parakeet or Sun Conure (*Aratinga solstitialis*) is a medium-sized brightly colored [parrot](#) native to northeastern [South America](#).

Given adequate attention, the Sun Conures are loving little birds that are easy to train and thrive on their owners' companionship. As with other bird species, owners should make sure to provide safe areas for the Sun Conure to explore and investigate. Conures are not shy birds and will let you know if their needs are not being met. Their loud, shrill call is a tool that they use to bring attention to important situations, and many have been known to become excellent "watch dogs."

Get the right size of [cage](#). Conures need big cages and lots of toys. Intelligent and constantly busy, you'll need a large cage so that he can spread his wings without touching the sides of the cage. His tail should not touch the cage bottom or brush the cage top when standing in it. While a cage measuring around 2 x 2 x 3 feet (60 x 60 x 90cm) is the minimum, bear in mind the basic rules of thumb that "bigger is always better" and "one size larger than the pet store recommends". Choose a cage with some horizontal bars in it, to allow for climbing exercise. Be sure that the cage tray is easy to move in and out as you'll be changing it daily.

- Do not choose a bamboo or wooden cage. The conure will chew on it until he's out of it!
- Check the cage door to ensure that it opens easily for you but is secure enough to keep the conure inside. Conures can learn to undo doors to their cage, and if this happens, you might need to include a padlock!
- Get a cage cover for nighttime.

Conures are inquisitive, intelligent birds and need to be kept entertained, so be sure to add some sturdy toys that your conure cannot rip apart. As well, add wooden or rope perches and some toys that can be ripped apart and disposed of. Mirrored toys are much enjoyed by many conures but be careful as mirror toys can create behavioral problems in some birds; use it in moderation.

- Add essentials such as a feeding bowl (stainless steel), seed guard, water container, etc.
- Be prepared to rotate toys regularly to introduce novelty and to reduce the chances of boredom.
- Safe toys include ones made from untreated wood and rope toys (just be sure that the rope cannot fray; if it does, remove frayed edges to prevent the nails from catching on it). Avoid any toys that are brittle or easily broken. Anything that can catch on beaks, tongues, or toenails should also be avoided.
- Provide perches at different heights to make it more interesting.

Place the cage with a solid wall to the back of it. This provides security as it blocks off any possibility of being sneaked up on. Also, place the cage where there is frequent household activity so that your conure is a part of everyday happenings. The only places to keep your bird away from are the kitchen and the bathroom, as these areas can produce chemical fumes dangerous for your conure (Teflon, hairspray, air freshener, etc.).

Conures can be very, very loud. Generally the Aratinga Conures (such as the Sun Conure and Jenday Conure) are louder and have more mischievous personalities than the Pyrrhura Conures (such as the Green-cheeked Conure), and have fancier plumage, but Pyrrhura Conures can hold their own, too. Whatever type of conure you choose to own, you'll be dealing with screaming, especially early in the morning and at dusk. Remember to get that cage cover!