

*Lories and lorikeets are native to areas in Australia and the South Pacific islands. Because they are not legally exported from Australia, most companion birds are obtained through quality domestic breeders.*

*In general, lorikeets may be slightly smaller than lories in size. Lorikeets have pointed tails; lories have rounded tails. The Blue Mountain lorikeet and blue-streaked lory are species commonly maintained as pets due to their cheerful, affectionate nature. Lories are distinguished from other psittacines by their tongues, which have elongated papillae that form brush-like tips adapted for the collection of pollen and nectar. In captivity, their dietary requirements are specialized. Your avian veterinarian can recommend the appropriate diet for your lory or lorikeet.*

## Most Common Disorders of Lories

- Liver disease
- Hemochromatosis
- Obesity
- Viral infections
- Fungal infections
- Bacterial infections
- Injuries
- Reproductive disorders

Many diseases can be prevented with regular veterinary care, proper diet and housing. For these reasons, it is important to develop a relationship with a veterinarian who is experienced in avian preventive care, medicine and surgery. For help in finding an avian veterinarian in your area, contact the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) by visiting [www.AAV.org](http://www.AAV.org) and click on "Find a Vet" or contact the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, [www.ABVP.com/diplomate](http://www.ABVP.com/diplomate).

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Companion Bird Care  
**SERIES**

# LORIES

## What to Expect from Your Lory

Lories are brilliantly colored, playful birds with inverted personalities and entertaining antics. They are among the most colorful of all parrots. Although they have

limited talking ability, they make a variety of high-pitched sounds, some of which can be objectionable.

It should also be noted that lories on liquid diets tend to produce loose, watery

droppings that can be projected outside the enclosure.

Like many parrots, lories are intelligent and energetic, and can be destructive if not supervised carefully. Toxin exposure and trauma are risks when birds are allowed unsupervised outside of the enclosure.

### Is Your Lory a Male or a Female?

In most lory species it is difficult to reliably distinguish a male from a female based on physical characteristics; therefore, laboratory methods using DNA technology may be used for sex determination. Lories and lorikeets are somewhat of a challenge to breed but the offspring are easy to hand raise.

### What Should You Feed Your Lory?

In the wild, the majority of most lory species diets are composed of nectars and pollens. The detailed nutritional requirements for each species are unknown. Most avian veterinarians recommend feeding a commercially manufactured diet, specifically designed for Lories, with the addition of a small amount of fresh fruit.

### What Do Lories Do All Day?

Lories are playful and can chase, retrieve and roll over. They are easily amused with simple toys. Because they love to chew, any toys must be free of toxic metals, hooks, sharp objects or small, easily consumed components.

Providing fresh-cut branches from nontoxic, pesticide-free trees is suggested. Check with local authorities for recommendations of safe trees.

### Are Lories Tame?

Young, hand-raised lories adapt readily to new surroundings and handling procedures. They should be exposed early in life to novel situations (car travel, hospital visits, multiple visitors in the household, other household pets) so they are well adjusted to these events. Lories tame easily and seek the company of their owners. Lories are the companion bird species least likely to revert to a "wild" state if the level of attention is reduced.

### How to Identify Your Bird

Lories occasionally escape outdoors, and permanent identification may help to return birds to their owners. One method used to permanently identify your bird is implantation of a microchip, as is performed in other pets. Some birds already have leg bands for identification. Although closed leg bands seldom cause injury, some owners prefer to have them removed.

### Should the Wings be Clipped?

The decision to clip wings or allow free flight should be made carefully. Birds allowed free flight benefit from exercise and mental stimulation; however, free flying birds may be injured by hitting windows or ceiling fans or hurt by encountering toxic materials. With careful planning and training, some birds may be allowed free flight in a safe area. The goal of clipping the wings is not to make the bird incapable of flight but to prevent it from developing rapid and sustained flight and to prevent escape. Clipping must be done carefully and tailored to each individual to prevent flight and injuries from falling.

## What Your Veterinarian Looks for in a Healthy Lory

Alert, erect posture

Clear, bright eyes, no discharge

Dry, open nares

Smooth beak

Good body condition

Even pattern of skin on the feet, nails of appropriate length

Smooth, bright feathers that are not ragged, discolored or broken



## How to Keep Your Lory Healthy, Happy and Safe!

- ✓ Take your lory to your veterinarian immediately after purchase, then once annually for examinations.
- ✓ Provide stimulating environmental enrichment by offering toys, social interaction and foraging opportunities.
- ✓ Feed a commercially manufactured diet, specifically designed for lories, with the addition of a small amount of fresh fruit.
- ✓ Provide clean, fresh uncontaminated drinking water and change frequently. Greys can be trained to use a water bottle.
- ✓ Many birds enjoy bathing. Try providing a warm water bath, or gently spraying with clean warm water daily if possible.
- ✓ Avoid spraying house with insecticides.

Housing for your lory should:

- ✓ be as large as possible.
- ✓ be clean, secure and safe.
- ✓ be constructed of nontoxic materials (some cages may contain toxic metals, such as zinc).
- ✓ contain variable-sized perches made of clean, nontoxic, pesticide-free wood or branches.
- ✓ have easy-to-clean food and water containers.
- ✓ have perches not placed directly over food or water bowls.
- ✓ offer opportunities for protected outdoor exposure to fresh air, direct sunlight and exercise.

Lories are very curious and will investigate anything new in their environment. That is why it is important to prevent their access to:

- ✗ ceiling fans
- ✗ stove tops with hot burners, pans or skillets
- ✗ fumes from overheated non-stick cookware
- ✗ leg chains
- ✗ sandpaper-covered perches
- ✗ tobacco and cigarette smoke
- ✗ chocolate, avocado, salt, alcohol
- ✗ toxic houseplants
- ✗ easily dismantled toys
- ✗ dogs, cats and young children
- ✗ cedar, redwood wood shavings
- ✗ sources of lead or zinc
- ✗ plug-in air fresheners
- ✗ scented candles