



African Grey

Psittacus erithacus



What is the history of my relationship to man?

African Greys have been kept as pets for over 4000 years. We see them depicted in Egyptian hieroglyphics as pets. King Henry the 8th also had an African Grey as his pet.

Habitat / Climate

Rain forest
Wet and mild

Where am I from?

I come from the rainforests of West and South Africa. Our primary species is named for the Congo area and river that runs through it. We would use large trees and their natural hollows for our nest sites



Other family members:

Psittaciformes
Conures
Macaws
Lovebirds

Who are my relatives?

I am related to all kinds of birds but my closest relative is another African Grey called a Timneh. The Timneh has a darker maroon tail (mine is red) and is smaller than we are.



Breeding Potential

Clutch size 3 eggs
Number of offspring per year?
3 to 6

How am I born?

I am hatched from an egg. There will probably be three of us. It will take one month for us to hatch. Our eggs are large and white. Mom is very aggressive at this time and wants to be left alone.

How long does it take me to grow up and how long do I live

After I have fledged into my adult feathers I will have a darker red tail until I am 18 months old and I molt. My eyes are also a different color than grown up birds. By the time I am 1 year old my eyes will go from pale grey to yellow. I will be a mature bird at 4 years and I will stand 13 inches head to tail. I will live as long as 50 years if well cared for.

Breeding Season

A	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
N	E	A	P	A	U	U	E	E	C	O	E
	B	R	R	Y	N	L	G	P	T	V	C

Names for:

Adult male- Male
Adult female-female
Young- Chicks
Group:- Flocks

What kind of family life do I have?

In the wild I live in flocks with other African greys. We are not migratory but we will fly to look for food and avoid predators. In captivity I will bond with my human and demand a lot of attention.

What do I eat and when do I eat?

I eat a variety of seeds, vegetables and fruits. I should try to avoid citrus fruits because they make me grumpy.

Who are my predators?

Deforestation is a big factor in the decline of wild populations of African Greys. This and the illegal trafficking of the birds have caused the largest loss of life.



Comments:

Did you know that apple seeds contain cyanide which is a poison that even in small amounts can kill birds.