

# Sulphur Crested, Red & Yellow Tail Cockatoos

## FACT SHEET

### Introduction and Origin

Cockatoos are VERY affectionate companion birds when raised properly. They love to cuddle, sometimes for an hour or more. They love to show off and get everybody's attention. They will spread their wings, bob their heads and "dance" around. They will find great joy in showing off the tricks you've taught them.

**Cockatoos use the feathers on their head to communicate to each other**

They love to play and chew their toys up. Their powerful beaks can destroy a hard wood toy in minutes. They love to solve puzzles and one

of them seems to be how to get out of their locked cage!

The various Cockatoos are found all over Australia, the Sulphur Crested Cockatoo is one of Australia's best known birds and are regularly kept as pets around the world. They are a large size bird with a length of up to 50cm including the tail.

The Black Cockatoos range from 60cm to 75cm (male Yellow Tail) All the Cockatoos can make excellent pets and are affectionate and friendly birds. Cockatoos need toys to play with, and objects to chew, to keep them from getting bored. They are not generally noisy, apart from early morning and evening, although some are the exception to the rule. The Sulphur Crested Cockatoo is a good talker and the Black Cockatoos do talk but not as extensively as other Cockatoos. The Yellow tail is the best talker in the Black Cockatoos.

### Getting Your Bird Home

Birds travel better in cardboard boxes or cages that provide good ventilation, but restrict visual stress. While travelling in the car, try to place the bird in a position out of direct sunlight, and away from noisy car speakers, which may cause stress.

When you arrive home ensure that your cage has been thoroughly cleaned with an avian safe disinfectant and before releasing the bird from the box, place everything it will require such as water, seed, nest boxes, toys etc into the cage. Once the cage is set up, place the bird inside and leave him or her to acclimatise to the new surroundings.

### Will my Cockatoo need a Feathered Friend?

Hand raised Cockatoos bond more closely to their human family members than their own species,



so they usually don't seek the company of other birds. By keeping your bird as an only child (bird) it will remain more closely bonded to you, although if you worry it may be lonely because your away from home a lot, you can house two together, but you should try to obtain them at the same time, preferably from the same clutch or at least two birds of similar age.

### Diet & Water

Cockatoos are predominantly a seed-eating species so their captive diet should consist of a good quality Fruit, Nut and Seed mix with minimal Sunflower seed Complete pellet diets preferred and birds from Kellyville are always weaned onto pellets. Grit assists with digestion, and therefore is an important part of any seed eating birds diet.

Seed alone is not a complete diet as it lacks many important vitamins and essential minerals. In order to complete your birds diet you should supplement their seed mix or pellet diet, daily with small portions of fresh fruits and vegetables such as diced apple, carrot, beans, peas, corn (Kernels or Cob), broccoli and leafy greens like spinach. Remember never to feed birds lettuce or avocado. Apples should always have the seed removed as it is toxic. If fresh fruit and vegetables cannot be provided daily a Vitamin supplement such as Soluvet® can be added to the birds water, two or three times a week. This is also essential during the moult. To provide calcium and iodine, Calcivet, cuttle bone and iodine bells can also be provided.

All birds should have a fresh supply of water, changed on a daily basis. Used glazed stoneware or terracotta bowls and position in the shade away from perches.

# Cockatoos

## Health and Quarantine

Kellyville pets tries it's best to provide customers with healthy, quality hand raised birds. To reinforce this we offer a 90 day health guarantee with all hand raised birds (See conditions on the Guarantee Certificate).

It is recommended that any new bird whether purchased from a pet shore or obtained by any other means, be quarantined for a period of no less than 30 days in a dedicated hospital/quarantine cage, which is isolated from all other pet birds. As prevention is always easier than cure, your bird should be sprayed with an insecticide such as Avian Insect Liquidator® every six weeks to kill and prevent mite and lice infestations. Worms can be fatal so treatment and prevention are a must. The use of a broad-spectrum wormer such as Worm-out Gel® will kill any worms present in the new arrival. Don't forget to repeat this worming treatment in a fortnight's time and routinely worm your birds every three months.

If any bird appears unwell during its quarantine period, please seek veterinary advice.



## Colouration and Sexing

The Yellow Tail Male has a smaller cheek patch than the female and the female also has black barring on the yellow tail. Juveniles look like females. The Red Tail Male is easily distinguished by the brilliant red

tail, females are have a orange tail and the head and shoulders are marked with golden spots. Sulphur crested Cockatoos are very similar in the sexes with mature female having a red brown eye and males a dark brown eye.



## Housing and Breeding

Today we are lucky to have many different sizes and styles of cages to house our birds. A cage with dimensions of 75cm (W) x 75(D) x 100cm(H) will give your pet enough room to spread and exercise his/her wings without the risk of injury from hitting the wire sides. Cages that open at the top, providing a perch are ideal for hand raised birds as they offer more freedom, and interaction with their family. Always remember to cage your bird at night and when it can't be supervised, to protect him or her from accidents and injury.

**Learn more  
from the team  
at Kellyville Pets**

Toys provide great mental stimulation for your pet, often relieving boredom, and can prevent the development of bad habits, such as feather picking, perch chewing etc. New objects such as toys, placed in the cage of older cockatiels can intimidate them, therefore we recommend you make your cockatiel accustom to new objects entering his or her cage from a young age. Young birds tend to learn faster, so by giving them a variety of toys, they will learn to play and keep themselves amused.

**Further information on diet, hygiene, worming, vitamins, bird stress, licensing, Avian Vets and much more is available from the team at Kellyville Pets.**

At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.

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