

# Galahs

## FACT SHEET

**Cacatua roseicapilla (Kuhli), Cacatua albiceps (eastern)**

### Introduction and Origin

The Galah is one of Australia's best known birds and is sometimes kept as a pet. The Galah can make an excellent pet and are affectionate and friendly birds. They are extremely playful and intelligent birds, which, like most cockatoos, need constant stimulation with toys to play with, and

**The word galah, is a cross between the Aboriginal names of gulah, gillar and galar.**

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. Both sexes

can become good talkers, possibly with the males being somewhat better. The Galah has 2 main races in Australia. To the north west of the continent with a grey eye ring, lighter grey plumage and pink head is the *Cacatua roseicapilla*. In the south east of Australia with a red eye ring is the *Cacatua albiceps*. It is a member of the cockatoo family, a medium size bird with a length of 360mm, including the 150mm tail. The back, wings and tail are light grey, with a darker grey on the wing quills and tip of the tail. The under body and leading edge of the under wing is pink; while the rest of underwing, under the tail, the legs and the feet, are all grey. The head and beak are whitish and the head has a white flat crest. Juveniles have grey eyes and the pink underbody is smeared with grey.

### 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 such as *Avi-Safe®* and before releasing the bird from the box, place everything it will require such as water, seed, 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. At night cover the cage with a sheet or cage cover, to prevent drafts and reduce visual stress.



### Will my Galah need a Feathered Friend?

Hand raised Galahs 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

Galahs are predominantly a seed-eating species so their captive diet should consist of a good quality lovebird or cockatiel seed mix, which should consist of a variety of seeds such as french white millet, plain canary, hulled oats, panicum, saff flower and sunflower. Complete diets such as *Vetfarm Parrot Pellets®* are 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 it lacks many important vitamins and essential minerals. In order to complete your birds diet you should

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from the team  
at Kellyville Pets**



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At Kellyville Pets, we encourage responsible pet ownership.

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