

PET

We Know Pets

COCKATIEL

The most likeable bird of the parrot world!

A cockatiel's crest represents it's emotional state.

Vertical = excited

Slightly vertical = relaxed

Flat = angry/defensive



The cockatiel is native to semi arid parts of Australia & is a popular pet all over the world. They are known for their fun personality & intelligence. They make wonderful companions as a hand raised birds. If you are not keeping one as a tame companion, they will enjoy the company of another cockatiel.

Hand raised cockatiels are especially affectionate, they will form a strong bond with you.

A cockatiel can turn practically any song into a whistled version!

Preferring to whistle a song rather than sing one, hand raised cockatiels are able to master words easily. They require a good amount of mental stimulation & you can train them easily to do simple tricks such as spinning around for a favourite treat!

Cockatiels will require worming every 3 months to prevent intestinal worms.

When choosing a house for your cockatiel it should be large enough for your bird to fly from perch to perch. Always replace one of the dowel perches with a native tree branch or a 'pedi perch'. These assist with keeping beaks & claws trim, as well as enabling the birds feet to stretch over a variety of thicknesses, as they would in their natural environment.

The bottom of the enclosure should be covered with oz pet litter to absorb waste. A stand on wheels that your bird enclosure will sit in allows you to move your bird around your home, ensuring that it always receives natural filtered sunlight. A bird tent inside their enclosure will provide them with a safe place to snuggle & keep warm.

A cockatiel can live for between 10-15 years when cared for correctly. This should be considered before acquiring one as a pet.

Their diet should consist of 80% extruded pellet diet & 20% fruits & vegetables to encourage interaction & provide variety & stimulation.

Remember to avoid avocado as it contains the fatal fat-soluble compound - persin.

They are classed as a small to medium sized parrot (about 30cm in length).

Cockatiels are commonly coloured grey with a yellow face & orange cheeks.

As a result of selective breeding, there are also variations such as cinnamon, latino & pearl.

Males (cocks) feature a bright orange cheek while females (hens) are slightly duller in colour. Sexing other coloured cockatiels varies.

Sleep is very important to the cockatiel. They need at least 12 hours rest every day in order to stay healthy & keep up with their quick metabolism!

