

General Care

Bathe your Cockatiel twice a week by misting him down using a spray bottle of lukewarm water. Always be sure to keep your bird out of drafts, especially while drying.

To begin training your new pet, work with him to accept your finger as a perch. Have him step from one hand to the next. To keep your Cockatiel from flying away from you, ask your pet store or veterinarian to show you how to trim the primary feathers on each wing. These feathers will grow back after molting. In addition, purchase the proper tools for nail trimming.

When you enter and leave your home, be careful your Cockatiel doesn't accidentally follow you. If he does get outside, quickly place his cage where he was last seen, with the door open and gently call him.

Enjoy Your New Pet!

This information is designed as a basic guide. There are several books and online resources available which provide in-depth information on cockatiels and their care.

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Caring for Your Cockatiel



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About Cockatiels

The cockatiel, originally from Australia, makes an excellent pet. They have playful and loving personalities, and are easy to care for. They tend to live for 15-20 years. Cockatiels learn to whistle quite easily, and have soft and chirpy voices.

Cockatiels are available in a variety of colors, including gray, lutino (yellow), albino, cinnamon, pied, and pearl white faced. They are also available in combinations of the above color mutations.

Playful by nature, Cockatiels like to sit on your head, shoulders, and hands. They enjoy having their heads scratched, and will whistle until you let them out of their cage and play with them.

Cockatiels are domestically raised. It's best to purchase a young bird that has been hand fed. A young Cockatiel requires a lot of attention. In return, your Cockatiel will become a lifelong bundle of joy, never failing to amuse and entertain the entire family with its whistles and comical antics.

Preparing Your Cockatiel's New Home

When choosing a cage for your Cockatiel, allow enough room for him to spread his wings and move about. The cage should be at least 18" in width, but the wider the better. Cockatiels like to fly horizontally, so you want to make sure you are providing enough room for them to enjoy their new home.

The spacing between the bars of the cage should be no wider than 3/4". You don't want the bars to be wide enough to allow the bird to squeeze his head through. A pull-out tray at the bottom of the cage will make weekly cleaning easier.

Remember that the cage is your bird's home and security blanket. It should have sufficient space for climbing and flapping wings, as well as room for toys, mirrors, swings, bells, chews, hanging treats, fruits, vegetables, and an assortment of perches and branches.

Cockatiels are very social birds, therefore locate their cage in a room with plenty of family activity. Avoid placing the cage near the air conditioning or heating vent, in direct sunlight, or near a stove.

A cage cover is helpful when you put your bird to "bed" at night, and a cage stand will help protect your Cockatiel from the other pets in your home. Bird playpens can be very helpful during training periods.

Diet

Supply your cockatiel with fresh food and water daily. The staple diet for your new pet is a commercially prepared pelleted food for Cockatiels. In addition, purchase a Cockatiel seed mixture which contains several seeds that are essential for basic nourishment. Supplement your Cockatiels diet with specialty foods such as spray millet, treats, and conditioners.

Your Cockatiel will also benefit from and enjoy fresh fruits and vegetables such as apple, pear, orange (with peel), carrot sticks, dandelion sprigs, broccoli, and romaine lettuce. Stay away from parsley and watery vegetables like iceberg lettuce and celery. This varied diet will provide your Cockatiel with the nutrition and amino acids his high metabolism requires. Be careful not to over-do it because too much fruit can cause diarrhea.

A vitamin and mineral supplement should be administered daily. Add a cuttlebone and mineral block to give your Cockatiel the calcium and essential minerals he needs. Your Cockatiel's beak continues to grow. To keep the beak properly aligned, purchase a beak conditioner that hangs in the cage. If pellets are a significant part of your cockatiel's diet, supplements are not needed.

Although Cockatiels originate from a dry climate, daily fresh water is essential.