



All About the **Cockatiel**

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The Cockatiel

About the Cockatiel

The cockatiel ranks as one of the most popular household birds, next to the parakeet. The first birds bred in captivity can be traced all the way back to the late 1800s. With their gentle, sensitive, and cheerful personalities, cockatiels are an excellent choice for homes with young children.

Cockatiel Characteristics

Cockatiels are very intelligent and social birds. Like other members of the parrot family, the cockatiel loves to whistle, and can even be trained to talk. They love to do tricks and entertain their owners, hoping to gain more attention. Cockatiels need to be held and played with often, a minimum of 15 minutes per day.

Selecting Your Cockatiel

A Few Words about Breeders

There are a lot of good cockatiel breeders out there that are very experienced and helpful to people interested in owning a bird. If your reason for purchasing directly from a breeder is to obtain a high-quality cockatiel, be sure to ask plenty of questions from your chosen breeder to ensure the birds are top-notch. Try and select a breeder that is experienced and is very knowledgeable about their birds. The key to a high-quality bird is high-quality parents. The best breeders have invested good money in their breeding pairs. Breeders that are out to make a few quick extra bucks should be avoided.

A Few Words about Pet Stores

Local pet stores can often provide a decent selection of cockatiels for you to choose from. Try and purchase your bird from a pet store that is knowledgeable about cockatiels and can provide you with information about how the bird has been handled. Hand-fed cockatiels usually make the very best pets. Check for clean cages and healthy birds. Just because the bird you've chosen does not look ill, does not mean it is healthy. Other birds in the same or neighboring cages can easily pass disease. Never purchase a bird without some sort of health guarantee at hand. Many stores will offer to replace a bird that is sick, or dies within a certain amount of time after purchase. Of course, it is always better to have a healthy bird at the beginning. No one wants to replace his new cockatiel after being able to establish a relationship with the bird.



- [Toys for Your Cockatiel](#)
- [Treats for Your Cockatiel](#)



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How to Choose your Cockatiel

In order to select your new cockatiel, you need to know what to look for. As mentioned above, it is best to purchase a cockatiel that has been hand-fed, or at least handed with food regularly. Select a bird that is clean, alert and exhibits a playful personality, as any bird should. Birds that are withdrawn or unfriendly have most likely been neglected or are ill, and should be avoided. Cockatiels are normally found in a variety of gray and white. The checks are bright orange and faces are yellow.

Be sure and prepare a place in your home for your new bird. He should be located in an area where he can be around people, which will provide him the amount of social interaction that he requires daily. Putting the bird in the kitchen is not advised, due to exposure to heat and fumes.

Through the Years

The Cockatiel Chick

You can be amazed at how quickly your new baby cockatiel grows. In just a few weeks, your new bird will be eating on its own. Cockatiels that have been hand-fed will be more trusting with their new owners and will be much tamer.

The Cockatiel Adult

At this point, you have become the audience of your star performer. Cockatiels love to entertain and be the center of attention. To ensure a long and healthy life for your bird, make sure that his diet consists of a variety of seeds, vegetables, fruit and millet. Wings and nails need to be clipped; if you are not comfortable doing this on your own, there are many grooming professionals that can assist and teach you. It is also advisable to allow your bird out of his cage. It is best to work with the bird in a small, closed room at first so that he can't fly too far.

The Cockatiel Senior

Like most birds, a cockatiel's behavior does not change too much with age. If you are taking over ownership of an older bird, you may have a little more work ahead of you, depending on what kind of life the bird has been accustomed to. Cockatiels that have been abused or neglected can show some signs of aggression or withdrawal. With a lot of patience, love, and extra care, these poor behaviors can be reversed. These birds desire closeness with their owners, and are willing to trust again if given the chance. The life expectancy of these birds is fairly widespread. Typically, they can live up to 10-15 years, although you will often hear of 25-year-old cockatiels.



You'll need these basics before your Cockatiel comes home. Click the items below to go to CheapPetStore.com to find the best prices for online pet supplies.

- [Cockatiel nesting box](#)
- [Natural fiber disc for nest](#)
- [Nesting Hair](#)
- [Nesting material](#)
- [Avian weaning diet](#)
- [Nesting food for Parakeets & Cockatiels](#)
- [Nestling Food](#)
- [Embrace hand feed](#)
- [Exact hand feed for baby birds](#)

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Medical Considerations

Cockatiels have tendencies to become obese if they are not properly fed or allowed to exercise regularly. Bacterial infections, fatty livers, and kidney disease are other health issues affecting these birds. The best method of disease prevention is to give them a proper balanced diet and plenty of exercise in and out of their cages.

Necessary Items

You will need to purchase a cage for your new bird before bringing him home. The minimum size of a cockatiel cage should be 20 inches wide and 26 inches tall. While cockatiels are smaller birds, they still need room to flap their wings and move about. Since cockatiels are playful, they usually enjoy a variety of toys. Specialty seeds and millet for your cockatiels can be purchased from a local pet store or online.



Can't miss gifts for the Cockatiel owner:

- [Carrying Properly for Cockatiels](#)
- [Cockatiels as a new pet](#)
- [Guide to Owning a Cockatiel](#)
- [Taming and Training Cockatiels](#)
- [Your First Cockatiel](#)

Popular Products for Your Cockatiel

- [BeakTreat Conditioner Lava/Honey](#)
- [Cockatiel - Natures Variety Jar](#)
- [Cockatiel Biscuits](#)
- [Cockatiel Citrus Stick](#)
- [Bird Claw Clipper](#)
- [Bird Bath Pump Spray](#)
- [Walnut Shell Avian Pet Litter](#)
- [Ultra Litter Scoop](#)
- [Gravel Paper](#)
- [Bird Cage Cover](#)
- [Cozy Pocket](#)
- [Simple Solution Bird Dropping Remover](#)
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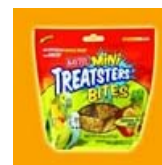
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