

Care Guide



Cockatiel

(nymphicus hollandicus)

Facts:

Average adult size: **11 to 14 inches**
Average life span: **20+ yrs with proper care**
Diet: **Herbivore**



Cockatiels are small, crested members of the parrot family. They are known for their mellow nature. Gray is the most common color, but they are also available in pearl, white-faced, white-faced pearl, lutino, pied and more color variations.

Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your bird's health.

Feeding & Nutrition:

Diet

- High-quality, fresh, commercial bird food.
- Do not feed birds avocado, fruit seeds, chocolate, caffeine or alcohol as these can cause serious medical conditions. Avoid sugar and high fat treats.

Water

- Clean, fresh, chlorine-free water, changed daily.

Frequency of Food

- Fresh food and water should always be available.
- Treats should not exceed 10% of total food intake.

Housing:

- Cockatiels acclimate well to average household temperatures, not to drop below 65°F or to exceed 80°F; be cautious of extreme temperature changes. The habitat should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.
- A habitat approximately 24"W x 24"D x 30"H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 1/2" apart, makes a good home for one cockatiel. It is best to provide the largest habitat possible.
- Perches should be at least 5" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended.
- A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with habitat paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.
- Cockatiels can be kept alone to bond with pet parent or in pairs to bond with each other.
- Birds should be socialized daily by the pet parent.
- **Different types of birds should not be housed together.**

Habitat Maintenance

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly with a 3% bleach solution; replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often as needed.
- Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat

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regularly.

- Ensure that there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird.
- Do not use a lot of cleaning agents around your bird as the fumes can be harmful. It is recommended to use a natural cleaning product.

Care:

Grooming & Hygiene

- Provide lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water.
- Clipping flight feathers, when done correctly, can help prevent injury or escape; consult an avian specialist on what is best for your bird.
- Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird.

Health

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Dry nares and bright, dry eyes
- Beak, legs and feet normal in appearance
- Clean, dry vent
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

Normal Behavior

- Cockatiels are known for mimicking repetitive sounds and noises.
- Bond easily with their human companions.
- Parent-raised cockatiels will require some time to acclimate to human handling.
- Provide foraging toys, which provide important mental stimulation.

Recommended Supplies:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate Size Habitat | <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Litter or Paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Habitat Cover | <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Water Dishes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-quality Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Millet Spray | <input type="checkbox"/> Bird Bath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone | <input type="checkbox"/> Play Gym |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treats | <input type="checkbox"/> Grooming Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perches | <input type="checkbox"/> Vitamins |

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