

SHOPPING LIST:



information leaflet about cockatiels

- large cage
- perches (different diameters, springy)
- food bowls
- water bowl
- bathing house
- toys (ladders, rope, little bell)
- bird sand (e.g. MultiFit with limestone and important minerals)
- cockatiel food
- stomach grit
- Pickstone
- vitamin supplements
- treats
- fox-tail millet
- nibble sticks
- disinfectant/detergent for cleaning the cage
- book about cockatiels

DO I LIKE COMPANY?

Cockatiels are very social creatures and a minimum of two should always be kept together. Most birds that are kept on their own develop behavioural disturbances which can make them ill. Of the exotically coloured birds it is usually the males that are more intensely coloured with larger cheek patches. It is very difficult and sometimes impossible to differentiate between males and females belonging to other coloured varieties.

UNSUITABLE ACCESSORIES

Plastic birds and mirrors are no substitute for a partner and can increase behavioural abnormalities in birds that are kept on their own. Cage bars wrapped in sandpaper or with insecticide filling are harmful to the bird and should not be used. Extremely smooth bars or plastic bars with sharp edges should also be avoided. A round cage is not recommended (unless it is a large aviary), since these types of cages are not well structured and do not give the birds a chance to retreat.

MOULTING

As a rule, the cockatiels renew their plumage two to three times a year. This process is called "moulting". When they first appear, the new feathers are encased in a sheath. The body is under extreme pressure during this time and the birds can often struggle to fly. Therefore, support your bird by providing lots of peace and quiet, special high protein food (egg feed) and special vitamins (moulting aid), so that it can form a beautiful new plumage.

KEEP ME FIT AND HEALTHY

You can tell that a cockatiel is healthy by its clear eyes, dry nostrils and clean, well preened and shiny plumage. The bird should breathe softly and gently and its eyes should be fully open. The claws should be checked regularly to make sure that they aren't getting too long. A daily free flight is very important for its health!

If you notice that your cockatiel looks unwell you should take it to a vet as quickly as possible.



My cockatiels

Everything you need to know about cockatiels as pets



Everything for your pet

www.maxizoo.ie

For more tips and further information on cockatiels visit our website at: www.maxizoo.ie

AM I THE RIGHT PET FOR YOU?

Cockatiels are ideal for children over the age of around 10. They are very trusting and lively creatures. If a lot of time is devoted to them they become very tame. Cockatiels have a life expectancy of up to 25 years!

WHERE DO I ORIGINATE FROM?

The semi-arid to arid territories of the Australian outback are the original home of the wild cockatiel and it lives here in large swarms. A strict ban on exporting wild cockatiels from Australia was imposed in 1894.



WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE?

Cockatiels need a great deal of space in their cage so that they can fly for short distances without their wings beating against the bars of the cage. The bigger the cage, the more pleasant it is for the birds and they are particularly happy in a large indoor aviary. Our staff at Maxi zoo will be happy to advise you! The birds also need to fly around freely for several hours a day. The cage should stand at eye level in a peaceful location. It must be protected from draughts, cigarette smoke, cooking fumes and other interferences (e.g. television). Don't put the birds too near to the window either, as they have a very low tolerance to changes in temperature. The cage should be made dark at night to ensure that they get 10 hours sleep. A nesting box should only be provided if breeding is intended.

The most suitable perches are made of natural wood, since the uneven exterior diameter of wood prevents pressure calluses. Where possible, the sticks should only be fixed in place at one end, so that they give slightly when the bird lands, just as they would in a natural environment.

The cockatiel is extremely inquisitive and needs a diverse range of things to play with, such as ladders, ropes, balls etc. as well as things to gnaw on.

Food and water bowls must be secured in such a way that the bird can't soil them.

The birds need to be able to bathe several times a week. A large "bath house" is therefore one of the essential pieces of equipment needed for the cage. Some birds also like to spray themselves with lukewarm water.

It goes without saying that the cage should be kept clean at all times, since droppings and stale food don't just smell unpleasant to human beings, but can also damage the cockatiel's health.

HEALTH CHECKLIST

My cockatiel is healthy if:

- the eyes are not weepy or inflamed and are fully open.
- the plumage is clean and well preened.
- there are no noticeable changes to the beak (e.g. discolouration of the cere),
- it has clean, dry nostrils,
- the anus area is clean and free of encrustations,
- the claws are not too long,
- you cannot feel any lumps or swellings,
- it is alert and has a healthy appetite.

HOW I SHOULD BE HANDLED?

In the beginning it is very important that the birds stay in the cage for 2-3 weeks so that they can settle down in their new home without any stress. During this time you should get them used to your hand by carefully offering little treats. After that you can

start to let the birds fly around freely every day. Draw the curtains across the windows the first time, for the birds need to learn where the window panes are. A lot of time also needs to be put aside for this. If there are treats in the cage the birds will return to it of their own accord after a while. The more time you spend with your new friends, the quicker they will get used to you, too. Cockatiels are very inquisitive creatures who would love to be able to investigate as much as possible, so you should keep a close eye on doors and windows. Poisonous plants, containers filled with liquid and anything else that can potentially injure or poison the bird must also be removed from the "free flight room".

WHAT DO I LIKE TO EAT?

A healthy and well-balanced diet is the basis of your cockatiel's well being. To ensure a varied diet you should supplement prepared mixed feed with special egg food, greens (e.g. chickweed, dandelion or lettuce), fresh fruit, treats, nibble sticks and fox-tail millet.

For proper digestion the birds need a special grit that grinds the food in their stomach. Mineral mixtures and limestone (cuttlebones) should be offered regularly.

