



Monticello Animal Hospital
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CARE SHEET COCKATIELS

General Information:

Cockatiels are medium-sized, trim birds native to Australia. They are one of the most popular companion birds and adapt well to captivity. Cockatiels have a body length of about 12.5 in and weigh 75-100 g. The average life span is 15-20 years. Cockatiels are relatively quiet, nondestructive, gentle, and entertaining birds as pets.

Diet:

Cockatiels should be fed a high quality toxin-free organic pellet and seed diet. Treats can include a small amount of organic chopped vegetables and fruits. Fresh water should always be available in the opposite end of the enclosure from the food and uneaten fruits and vegetables need to be discarded within a few hours.

Housing:

It is best to provide the largest habitat possible at least 18" W x 18" D x 24" H with metal bars no greater than ½" apart. Place the habitat off the floor in a well-lit area away from drafts. Cockatiels acclimate well to average household temperatures that should not exceed 80 degrees F. Avoid placing perches directly over food and water dishes. Habitats should be cleaned at least twice daily with a natural cleaning product.

Health:

Cockatiels should be provided with chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing or can be misted as an alternative. Nails should also stay trimmed to avoid injury to the bird. Clipping flight feathers is not required but can help prevent injury or escape. Having your cockatiel examined regularly by a veterinarian will help prevent many diseases. Signs of a healthy cockatiel include dry open nostrils, smooth beak, clear bright eyes, body free of lumps and bumps, trimmed nails, smooth skin on feet, bright feathers, and an alert, erect posture. Cockatiels should be taken to a vet for beak swelling, fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers, sitting on the floor of habitat, wheezing or coughing, runny or discolored stools, favoring one foot, eye or nasal discharge, red or swollen eyes, or loss of appetite.