
 12-20 years

 9-13 inches

 Intermediate

 65-75° F

 Seeds



Cockatiels can be cuddly, curious, funny, and at times, feisty. This is what makes them the #1 pet bird in America. Cockatiels have a lot of personality, and if socialized properly, can make a great family pet! These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

CAGE SET UP

Cockatiels must have a well-ventilated home with a lot of space. For one cockatiel, a flight cage that is at least 26" x 14" x 30" would be sufficient for the time being, but a larger one is preferred. The large Prevue Flight cage is an excellent cage for cockatiels. Make sure they have room to walk, as they need floor space as well, and that their wings can spread without being impeded.

BEDDING

Horse pellet bedding, corn cob, newspaper, or aspen on the bottom of the cage (under the grate) works well. As always, NEVER use cedar shavings with any small animals or birds. It negatively affects the respiratory tracts in small animals.

TEMPERATURE

Room temperature, between 65-75°F, is ideal for cockatiels. If your house is cooler, you may use a low wattage heat light at night (kept at least 10 inches from the top of the cage) for extra warmth. Keep the cage in a safe area, away from windows and drafts.

FOOD AND WATER

Feed your cockatiel seeded foods, NOT pelleted food. The cockatiels have been raised on seeds, fruits, and grains; changing their diet could cause intestinal illnesses. Happy Hearts Cockatiel Seed or Blue Seal Cockatiel Seed are good choices. The cockatiel will need a food bowl and a water bowl. They like to forage on the floor of their cage, so we suggest the food dishes be on the bottom of the cage, as well as hanging on the sides of the cage if desired.

HANDLING

Young cockatiels are easy to tame, while older cockatiels, that have not been hand weaned, may take some extra time. Try teaching and handling them by offering treats when they relax. Then try whistling to them. Cockatiels love to whistle along to music!

ACCESSORIES

Cockatiels need ample space to walk and forage on the bottom of the cage, along with plenty of room to flap their wings. They love to play, and need to be occupied with assorted activities. Comfy perches are great for them to rest on, and the sand perches are wonderful for keeping their nails and beaks trimmed. The natural wood toys such as Cosmic Crunch and Java Wood will keep your cockatiel busy.