



About your “tiel”:

Cockatiels are wonderful interactive birds that need attention. They love to preen and play. Because they are social they flourish with both your attention and with the attention of another cockatiel.

Housing:

- Cockatiels need a minimum cage size of 16 inches wide by 16 inches deep. They should be able to open and flap their wings inside their cages. (Cockatiels often startle awake at night during what is called “night frights”. During a night fright a cockatiel can bang into the sides of a small cage and injure himself)
- Cockatiel cages should not be cylindrical—they should have corners to offer the birds security.
- Bar spacing should be under 5/8 of an inch to avoid the bird getting it’s head caught.
- Grate bottoms should pull out for easy cleaning.
- Cockatiels love to climb so ladders, perches, swings are all excellent additions to a cage
- Cockatiels also love to untie knots so try this toy. Use natural wood ABC blocks that are available in most toy stores. Drill a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch hole and string them up with natural leather (no dyes or tannings). The tiels will untie the knots but the blocks are too big for them to swallow.
- Paper lining the bottom is an easy way to keep the pan clean. Black and white newsprint is ok—but avoid the colored inks on supplements—many contain lead.
- Change the paper and give the grate a scrape once a day
- **When cleaning the cage take your bird out of the room. Cleaning solvents give off fumes that can be fatal to your cockatiel so you may want to see which cleanser your pet store or veterinarian recommends.**

Nutrition:

A cockatiels diet should be varied for optimum health. The bulk of your birds diet should be seed mix, and cockatiel pellets. However adding fresh greens like rinsed kale, spinach, cooked sweet potato, corn rice pasta and beans are all good supplements. You may want to look for “organic” labels on all foods because birds are very susceptible to pesticides and toxins. Your tiel also needs daily fresh water—glass water bottles or stainless steel cups are good choices.

When happy and healthy your cockatiel will give off a powdery dust from its down. This is normal and is the sign your bird is healthy. Interacting will also keep your bird mentally stimulated and healthy too—so have fun and play with your companion!

If you suspect any health problems in your bird you should immediately consult your veterinarian.