

Clark's Pet Emporium

Cockatiel Care Sheet



Species - Cockatiel
Color - White Face Grey

Clark's Pet Emporium has taken pride in sharing quality pets with our community for over 40 years. Now you can give your pet the very best care, from our home to yours, with Clark's Care Sheets.

The Cockatiel care sheet will provide you with basic knowledge to begin your new life with a bird, ranging from diet to habitat and bird husbandry. For further details regarding specific species care, please contact Clark's with your questions and concerns.

Is a Cockatiel the right pet for you?

Please take a moment to ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you enjoy spending a fair amount of time at home where your bird will live?
- Are you the type of person that will avidly clean a pet's habitat every day / week?
- Are you willing to make fundamental changes to your lifestyle to ensure your pet's safety if necessary?
- Can you tolerate loud, vocal pets?
- Do you have large, well-lit space to house a bird cage?
- Do you prefer to spend quality time dedicated to entertaining a social, lovable animal?
- Does your lifestyle and / or future lifestyle support the fact that this pet will be a part of your family for the next 10-30 years?

If you answered "absolutely!" to ALL of these questions, read through the rest of this care sheet and visit your favorite Clark's location to inquire about adopting a Cockatiel.

Shopping Check-List:

- Cockatiel book / reading material
- Appropriate sized enclosure with bowls
- Enclosure substrate / paper
- Variety of different perch sizes and materials
- Cage cover
- Bath container and / or sprayer
- Diet supplies - Seed, pellets, and nutrition supplements
- Proclivity supplies - Cuttlebone, millet, chew toys
- Millet and cuttlebone clip
- Avian-safe cleaning supplies



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Dietary Needs:

- Seed diet - Cockatiel seed is available in several brands and mixes
- Pellet diet - Cockatiel pellets (natural or flavored)
- Fresh fruit and vegetables - Collard greens, Parsley, Kale, Carrot, Mango, Pear, and Papaya are a healthy habit once per week or more
- Treats - Dehydrated fruit cubes, Sunflower seeds, Pumpkin seeds, Treat Cakes
- Fresh, cool water
- Millet Spray is a comforting food item for cockatiels
- Cuttlebone is essential for chewing and calcium



Housing:

- Cockatiels are active climbing and foraging birds. One cockatiel will require a cage at least 18" w X 18" d X 36" h, preferably with access to bedding material on the bottom to forage and play in
- The enclosure must be an actual bird cage - powder coated with bar spacing no greater than 1/2" apart
- Direct sunlight is physically and mentally healthy for all birds - house your bird in a well lit area and allow daily access to sun and shade
- Housing should be placed in a draft-free room - Drafts can negate the fluffy down feathers that birds use to stay warm during cool times
- Avoid housing a cockatiel in high-traffic areas that will prevent the bird from acclimating, but take care not to isolate him either!
- Place toys, perches, and bowls in the cage, but do not over clutter the living space
- Always keep a large water source for the bird to bathe

Safety Tips:

Avoid animal toys with twined string. These strings can fray and pose a hazard to your bird's legs and feet! Stick to plastic, wood, and metal made with pet-safe paints and dyes.

Teflon (non-stick) coated pots and pans are the number one killer of domestic birds! They release lethal fumes when heated. Make sure you only use stainless steel and cast iron implements!

House fans rotate with enough inertia to cripple or kill any birds on impact. Even a clipped bird can gain enough thrust to fly into a fan accidentally. Turn fans off!

Avocado, apple seeds, and fruit pits contain arsenic! They are lethal to all birds! Chocolate, caffeine, and alcohol are also toxic. Do not allow access to these substances!

Feeding Practice:

- Ensure cockatiel seed mix and water are always available fresh every day
- Either mix pellets into seed bowl, or provide a separate bowl
- Provide fresh vegetable / fruit mix at least once per week
- Allow 3 hours for fresh consumption, then remove the vegetables and fruit - bacteria start to grow on this food after about 3 hours

Let's Have Some Fun:

- Unlike many animals, socializing and play are essential for birds' health!
- Cockatiels are very social animals - take time to talk to your bird regularly during cleaning, feeding, and socializing. Eventually, he may even whistle and mimic your words during conversations
- Go slow - it may even take a few months for a cockatiel to willingly step up to your finger, greet your presence, or even acknowledge you in a friendly manner
- When eating bird-safe foods like bread and fruit, try offering a nibble to your cockatiel
- Once your bird is comfortable with you, create fun activities - fill a tub or tote with 1/2" of water, then splash in it with your hand to invite the bird to bathe. The tone of your voice is important, too!
- Birds love new experiences - Create toys for them. A crumpled piece of paper with a seed in the middle is an avian favorite!
- Most of all, spend time together. Try eating, playing, and waking up at the same time

Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Routinely remove soiled food and water every day, replacing with fresh food in clean bowls
- Perches, toys, and cage will need to be cleaned about once per week, in addition to daily sweeping as cockatiels can throw much food and bedding outside the cage during foraging, flying, and play time
- Use hot water to scrub housing, or use an avian-safe cleaning product like Aviclean only!
- Some cockatiels can stress out! If so, you may need to clean with a dust pan instead of a loud vacuum



Clark's Pet Supply

11200 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87112

Phone: (505)-292-6288
Fax: (505)-292-0962



Clark's Pet Emporium

4914 Lomas Blvd NE,
Albuquerque, NM, 87110

Phone: (505)-268-5977
Fax: (505)-266-2306