



# Cockatiels at a Glance

Difficulty of care: **Beginner**

Average lifespan: **25 years, with proper care**

Average adult size: **11–14 inches**

Diet: **Granivorous**

Minimum habitat size: **30" L x 24" W x 30" H**

Temperature: **65–80 F**



**Fun fact** ↪ Cockatiels are part of the parrot family and have similar features; their feet have two toes pointing forward and two backward.

## Enclosure Setup and Maintenance

- Cockatiel cages should be at least 30 inches long by 24 inches wide by 30 inches high. There should be a ½-inch to 1-inch space between the bars.
- Cockatiels can live in the same enclosure with other cockatiels. You should size up appropriately if you have more than one bird in the cage.
- Your cockatiel should have enough space to stretch and open their wings. The bigger the cage, the better.
- Add toys, décor, and perches for your bird. Don't put food and water bowls under the perches; they could become covered in droppings.
- Spot clean the cage every day and thoroughly clean the cage weekly. Make sure your bird is in a secure cage while you're cleaning the main enclosure.

## Supply Checklist

- Appropriately sized habitat
- High-quality cockatiel food
- Treats, including millet spray and millet holder
- Cuttlebone and holder
- Habitat paper or litter
- Food and water dishes
- Perches
- Toys
- Bird bath
- Grooming supplies
- UV light



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## Handling

Cockatiels are very social and enjoy human company. Spend time with your bird in their cage so they can get to know you before you try regular handling.

After building trust, put your hand inside the cage and point a finger below your pet's feet so the bird can step on it. Your bird may enjoy perching over more invasive handling.

**Fun fact** ↪ Cockatiels are native to Australia and are related to the cockatoo.

## Diet

Feed your cockatiels a grain-heavy diet. Grains and seeds should make up 60–70% of their diet. The rest of their diet comes from supplemental pellets, nutritious vegetables, and fruit. Cuttlebones are a calcium supplement vital to building eggshells for egg-laying birds. If you have a bird that lays eggs, make sure they have a cuttlebone available.

## Health

Your bird should have regular access to natural sunlight. You can supplement with UV light that's made for bird cages. Cockatiels should see their vet annually for routine checkups. Call your vet immediately if you notice anything out of the ordinary, like if your bird is lethargic, rapidly breathing, or abnormally holding a wing.

