

COCKATIELS

Cockatiels originate from the Australian grasslands and savannah. In the wild, Cockatiels live in colonies of 12 or more birds. In 1894 a ban was placed on the exportation of birds from Australia, since then Cockatiels have become a popular domesticated breed in North America.

Cockatiels belong to the cockatoo family (Cacatuidae). They share many similarities including the characteristic crest, and broad head. These birds' feathers contain a powder that helps them with preening. This powder tends to coat everything the bird touches and can irritate people with allergies. Cockatiels are small parrots that come in a variety of color mutations such as the normal grey found in the wild, lutino, pearl, pied, cinnamon, fallow, charcoal and albino.

LIFESPAN

15 to 20 years

HANDLING

Cockatiels are extremely friendly birds that enjoy being handled. It is best to handle the cockatiel by placing your hand around its back so you cup their wings in your palm and have the bird's head between your thumb and finger.

BEHAVIOR

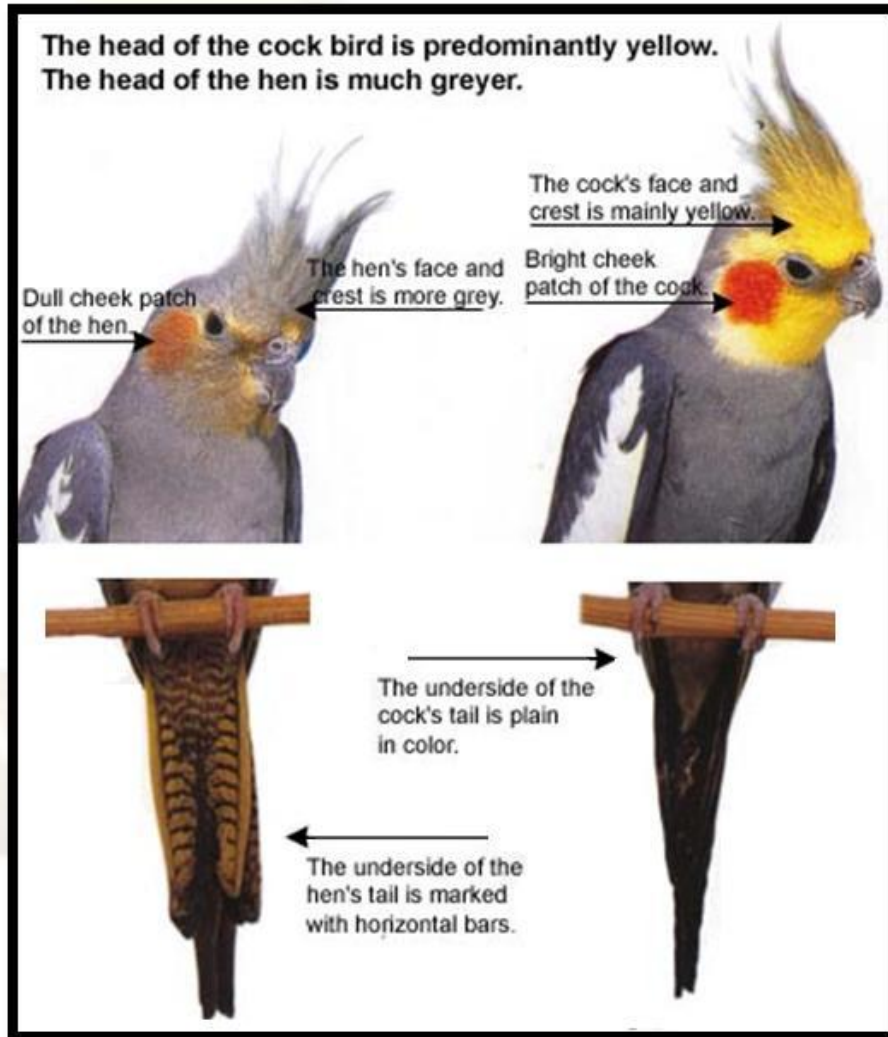
If these birds are handled a lot when they are young they will be extremely tame friendly when they are older. Cockatiels need to be handled regularly or they will retreat back into their skittish behaviors. If you keep one cockatiel, it will require even more attention from you than a pair or a group of cockatiels.

Hissing is a sign that the cockatiel feels threatened or frightened. In the event that a cockatiel is hissing try and find out the source of their fear and remove it as soon as possible.

At night **some** cockatiels will thrash about their cage bumping into things. If the cockatiel has night frights try using a night light so the bird can see and lessen the fear of objects in the night.

HOW TO SEX

Sexing can be done after the first molt, before then it's very hard to tell.



For more information see "Bird Care Sheet", call 780-459-6896 or come visit us!