



Cockatoo



www.parrotclubofman.ca
email: info@parrotclubofman.ca
P.O. Box 68020 R.P.O Osborne Village
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3L 2X9 (204)942-2993

Cockatoo

Not only are they highly intelligent, they are one of the most dedicated and loving pets of all the parrots in the world. The cockatoo is perhaps the most demanding of its owner's attention.

Origin

Cockatoos originate in the South Pacific, Indonesia, Australia and an array of smaller islands. Cockatoos can be white, pink, black or pink and gray. They have large crests that are nothing less than spectacular. These birds vary in size from the smallest of the species at 30 cm (12 inches) in length to the largest at 60 cm (24 inches) in length. Some of the more common cockatoos that you may have seen would be Moluccan, Sulphur Crested, Lesser Sulphur Crested, Umbrella, or Goffin. Although not recommended, there has been interbreeding of some of the cockatoo species which results in mixed breed birds. Cockatoos have an average life expectancy of 40 years. Males generally have darker eyes than the females.

General Personality

A cockatoo will demand a lot of time and attention from its owner. They are known for being very affectionate, loving, intelligent and extremely comical. When talking about cockatoos the word "quiet" does not exist especially in the larger birds. Cockatoos love to make noise and they love to let everyone know they are alive. These birds can become bored quickly and behaviour problems including feather picking and/or screaming can develop. Cockatoos have a high amount of feather dust and may not be suitable for those with respiratory difficulty.

Food

Their primary food source should be a quality parrot pellet which is available at pet stores. This should be offered daily along with clean water, fruits, vegetables and occasionally a mix of seeds. Sunflower seeds are high in fat and should be offered only as a treat. Grit or gravel is not necessary for most caged birds.

Housing

Cockatoos need a strong, spacious cage and make sure to protect all woodwork from their powerful bills. Chewing and shredding are a natural part of cockatoo behaviour so be prepared to replace your perches regularly as these birds will chew anything. Natural tree branches that vary in thickness make good perches inside the cage. Toys are also an important part of a bird's life as they provide entertainment while inside their cage. Make sure you give your bird a variety of safe toys suited for its size. Clean droppings from the cage bottom and perches daily.

Health Care

Wing trimming is essential for your bird's safety. The loss of a pet bird flying out an open door is devastating. Nail trimming is also necessary for proper grip on perches and a comfortable grip on arms and fingers. Most birds love to bathe whether it be in a dish of warm water, spritzed with a pump sprayer or in the shower with its owner. Parrots should have a bath or shower at least weekly.

THE PARROT CLUB OF MANITOBA meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm at St. Alban's Anglican Church, basement level, 486 Rathgar (off Osborne). Check community announcements or contact the club in case of changes. Several members of the Parrot Club of Manitoba have cocktoos as pets and would be able to tell you how these birds are in the home environment.

Winnipeg veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine are:

- Dr. Heather McDonald of Centennial Animal Hospital
- Dr. Nancy McQuade of Winrose Animal Hospital
- Dr. Carolyn Eickhorn of Winrose Animal Hospital
- Dr. Birte Klug of Winrose Animal Hospital
- Dr. Andrew Davidson of Corydon Animal Hospital
- Dr. C. Skavinsky of Anderson Animal Hospital
- Dr. Lisa Sawka of Charleswood Veterinary Clinic