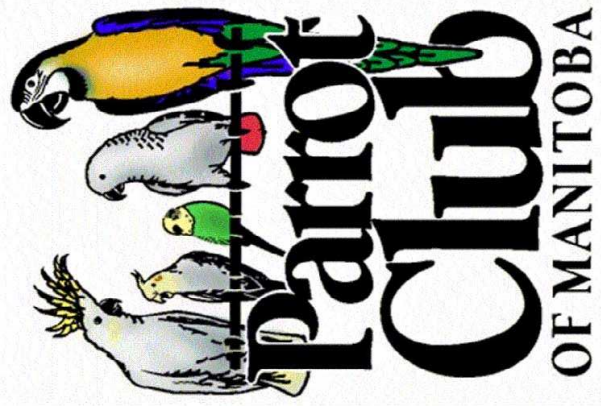


Cockatoo



Moluccan



Established 1980

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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 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 food which is available at pet stores. This should be offered daily along with clean water, fruits, vegetables, pasta, grains, sprouts. Cockatoos need a little more fat content in their diet so the addition of nuts to their diet is recommended.

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

Consider wing trimming is 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. Cockatoos should have a bath or shower 2 or 3 times a week.

Several members of the Parrot Club of Manitoba have Cockatoos as pets and would be able to tell you how these birds are in the home environment.

The Parrot Club of Manitoba meets the third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Alphonsus Hall, 341 Munroe Ave. Check our website (www.parrotclubofman.ca) for any changes.

Winnipeg veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine are:

- Dr. Andrew Davidson of Corydon Animal Hospital
- Dr. Heather McDonald of Centennial Animal Hospital
- Dr. Lisa Sawka of Animal Ark Mobile Veterinary Services