

## Cockatoo

**Characteristics-** Cockatoos are bright and charming companions. Some are very good talkers. Cockatoos are originally from the South Pacific. We recommend DNA sexing by three years of age.

**Behavior-** Cockatoos are very sociable and affectionate. It is very important to start your cockatoo with the Good Citizen Program to properly socialize your bird as a member of the family flock. Regular training reduces stress and lessens the chance of common behavior disorders seen in cockatoos.

**Diet-** Cockatoos are somewhat susceptible to excess fat, causing liver problems. Parrot "mixes" are not balanced diets. These seed blends are loaded with fat, deficient in vitamins, minerals and proteins. Factory enrichment of these seed mixes doesn't lead to a balanced diet. Recommendation: Feed 80-90% of caloric intake with a formulated diet (pellets, crumbles), such as Harrison's or Roudybush. Other national brands available include:



Zupreem, Exact, Pretty Bird. Feed 10-20% of the caloric intake with: scant amount of seed, fresh leafy or orange-colored vegetables, starches (rice, bread, pasta, banana), small quantities of people food items (food groups from the kitchen).

**Environment-** Cockatoos enjoy toys; stick to safe, sturdy commercial products. Free flying in the house for exercise is hazardous. Uncaged cockatoos should be closely supervised because they can frequently ingest toxic and harmful objects. We recommend newspaper or equivalent for cage bottoms. Good room ventilation is very important.

**Health-** Young cockatoos are susceptible to psittacine circovirus (PBCFV). Avoid exposure to other Old World birds, particularly lovebirds. Young and mature Cockatoos are sometimes susceptible to *Chlamydophila* (*Chlamydia*), bacteria, or fungal infections.

**Young Cockatoo Checkup-** In addition to a thorough physical examination, the following laboratory tests are recommended to screen your young Cockatoo:

Complete Blood Count- to screen for signs of infection

Culture- a thorough screen for bacteria and fungus.

Chlamydophila test- to screen for the disease people can get from their birds

Viral testing- may be recommended, depending on history

### **Mature Cockatoo Checkup**

Complete Blood Count and Chemistry Panel- to screen for signs of infection and to check organ function.

Culture- a thorough screen for bacteria and fungus.

Whole Body Xrays with gas sedation