

cages so lovingly filled with "entertainment" the bird becomes overwhelmed and unhappy. A cluttered cage is also difficult to clean and consequently stays dirty!

What to Feed

A varied diet of seeds, pelleted food, fresh fruits and vegetables is mandatory. A powdered vitamin supplement also is a must.

Buy seed where the turnover is good. Moldy seed can be dangerous. Buggy seed is difficult to avoid but freezing the seed in an airtight baggie for 24 hours will kill those buggers and keep your cupboard free of little white moths. Seed must stay dry so store it in a cool dry spot.

Fruits and veggies are often times more acceptable when chopped finely. Remove uneaten fresh food daily before it spoils. Hard-boiled egg with shell is also a great food source but again, small bite size pieces!

Clean fresh water must always be available. During summer months change it more often during the day!

Get Good Advice

Again, buy from a reputable business and the odds are in your favor you'll get good advice. Get specific instructions for feeding and general care. Ask about taming and training and names of vets who treat birds. Buy a good book - one that cov-

ers housing, feeding, training, maintenance and health.

Enjoy!

Take your bird home and leave him alone for the first day. Give him time to investigate his new surroundings and make certain he is eating and drinking.

After the first day have fun. Take him out (make certain his wings have been clipped - no it does not hurt - or he may fly into the window pane or out the door) and involve him in your daily routine.

His playpen is portable so move it around. Place his cage somewhere people are - do not isolate him.

Talk to your cockatiel - he'll talk back and whistle and sing and jabber. Repetition is the key to teaching him words, phrases or tunes.

Mist him with water (keep him warm and draft free) or offer him a shallow bowl to splash in. In the wild cockatiels roll around in wet grass.

Cockatiels are a great source of enjoyment for the young and old alike. Do it right and you'll get back far more than you give.

— Enjoy!!!

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