



Cockatiels bring a gentle, easy-going presence and a real fondness for their owners — many will happily perch on a shoulder, whistle along to a tune, or tap on the cage bars to say hello. They're a lovely, easy-going companion, playful and characterful, without the intensity of a full parrot.

KEY FACTS

EXPERIENCE	Beginner	LIFESPAN	15–20 years, sometimes longer with good care
TEMPERAMENT	Affectionate, easy-going, quick to bond	TAMEABILITY	Tames well with patience, especially when interaction starts young
TALKABILITY	Whistling and mimicking sounds far more common than actual talking	NOISE LEVEL	Low to moderate – whistling and contact calls
SOCIAL NEEDS	Bonds strongly with people	SIZE	Approx. 30–33 cm, head to tail
GENDER	Gender only determined by DNA testing. Many adults can be sexed visually, but not babies or some colour mutations		
HYPOALLERGENIC	Produces a fine feather dust (a natural powder down) – worth bearing in mind if anyone in the household is sensitive to dust or dander		

PERSONALITY

- Gentle, affectionate birds that bond closely with their owner.
- Playful and characterful, without the intensity of a full parrot.
- Many enjoy perching on a shoulder or whistling along to a tune.
- Tames well with patience, especially when started young.
- More likely to whistle and mimic sounds than hold a conversation.
- Can startle easily at night (“night frights”) – a small night light near the cage helps them settle.

ONE OR TWO?

For a bird that bonds closely and tames really well, **keep just one** – but that means dedicating daily time with them outside the cage, since a single bird relies on you for company. Two cockatiels together will usually bond to each other rather than to their owner, though a well-tamed pair can still both be friendly with regular handling.

WHAT THEY NEED

- A suitable cage** – please check with us; cockatiels need more headroom and perch space.
- A quality seed or pellet mix** in open dishes, changed daily.
- Grit** – a pinch twice a week aids digestion.
- Calcium & vitamins** – a supplement powder, or a cuttlefish and iodine block.
- Varied perches** – washed apple or hazel branches, plus a pedicure perch.
- Toys**, rotated regularly (no mirrors – they raise hormones).
- Fresh water** daily, and a bath or light spray a few times a week.



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Based on our own years of experience breeding and keeping birds — every bird is an individual, so this is a guide rather than a guarantee.