



The AVIAN Caregiver

Number 13

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The Parrot Tower® is a bird-safe play gym. Avian Inc. 810-463-1686, 810-463-2451 <www.birdgym.com>

Play Time for Birds

Most psittacine pet birds need a regular amount of attention every day. Some may appreciate the opportunity for “out of cage” play time on a play gym. Because they love to chew, wood and rope-type toys make good outlets for this energy. Extra branches from pesticide-free, nontoxic trees may be provided in the enclosure.

Many birds enjoy frequent baths, showers or misting — they may even respond with open wings and enthusiastic vocalization.

Making a Difference in Avian Health

About Your Cockatiel

COCKATIELS ARE ONE OF THE most popular companion birds. They are relatively quiet, nondestructive, entertaining and easy to care for. They can be suitable pets for families with children. Although they may not mimic words as well as other species, some individuals are so good at whistling that their tunes are recognizable.

The best cockatiel to buy from the standpoint of disease prevention and longevity is the normal grey-colored bird. Lutino (with white feathers) and other color mutations have been inbred so much that many genetic disorders have been retained. These disorders may include balding on the head and developing a nervous disposition.

Some of the most common diseases in cockatiels — obesity, upper respiratory symptoms, eye problems, and feather picking — are often the result of malnutrition. Providing a high quality formulated diet, preferably organic, is the best way to ensure a long healthy life for your cockatiel.

| Vital Statistics | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| Body length. | 12.5 inches |
| Body weight | 75-100 grams |
| Age of sexual maturity. | 6-12 months |
| Maximum life span. | 32 years |



One can easily see the difference in this cockatiel before and after a diet change to Harrison's Bird Foods. (photo by Stephanie Moxley)

The Results Speak for Themselves

No More Infections

I just wanted you to know that your food has saved my parakeet's life. My bird used to get an infection whenever it molted. This time, however, I made sure to have feed him High Potency Fine® the entire time, and there was no infection!

Barbara Greenman

African Grey's Feathers Sleeker

I bought an 8-month-old female African grey. I began to grind up the High Potency Coarse® pellets in a garlic press and mix with soft foods for her. After only 2 days of this she devoured the pellet granules to the exclusion of everything else. Her feathering is now looking sleeker after only 2 months and she seems much happier than when I rescued her from a pet store, which was feeding her a seed mix.

Alec Pidgeon

New Feathers Everywhere

I have been working with the frustrating and complex problem of feather



Amazon parrot, before and after a diet change to Harrison's Bird Foods.

plucking/mutilation by my Goffin's cockatoo. One of my vet's very first suggestions was to change the diet to Harrison's.

This year my bird destroyed every single primary feather and was not eating. I decided to make a "baby" formula from the Harrison's High Po-

tency and try the bent spoon feeding method from his baby days. To my surprise, he took to it immediately and within 3 days he had new feathers growing out everywhere. I have never seen feathers grow so fast and so beautiful!

Marty M. Villafranca



The two photos of a Goffin's cockatoo were taken approximately 2 weeks apart.

Feather Picker

My African grey, Buzzy, started severely feather picking soon after I brought him home from the pet shop, and it continued for 2 months until he was completely naked (except for his head and shoulders)! I just started with Harrison's some days ago and I can see the difference already. He is all fuzzy with new feathers and he seems happier.

Sonia Brameister

No More Seed Junkies

My vet recently recommended that I get with the program and convert my two "seed junkies" over to Harrison's Adult Lifetime Fine®. I thought it would be nearly impossible. I am writing to let you know that within one week of our vet visit both my lovebird and parakeet are eating Harrison's. Thank you for a wonderful product my birds enjoy and that I know is good for them.

Susan Olson



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The Avian Caregiver is brought to you as a service of HBD International, Inc., makers and distributors of Harrison's Bird Foods. HBD is committed to the proper care of companion birds through education and providing nutritionally sound diets. Reader responses, comments and suggestions are encouraged.