



# Cockatiels and Parakeets



<b>Room Whiteboard</b>	Animal ID # and cage number of each cockatiel (update when cockatiel come and go). Draw map of cages (showing cage #'s).
<b>Owner Equipment</b>	Label all owner equipment.  List owner equipment on the Animal Care Schedule.
<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing: Cage: Must be at least large enough for full wingspan and turning around.</li> <li>• Newspaper lining only!</li> <li>• Toys: No small enough to swallow parts or metal.</li> <li>• Cuttlebone: or mineral block may give some calcium.</li> <li>• Perches: should be wood dowels or natural branches.</li> <li>• Plastic or sandpaper may cause bumblefoot.</li> </ul>
<b>Handling</b>	<p><b>No handling unless necessary!</b> Always wash hands well before and after entering the Exotics room.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Use disposable gloves and change if handled.</u></li> <li>• *Even with clipped wings birds can fly.</li> <li>• Birds have no diaphragms. Holding them around the chest is constricting to breathing.</li> <li>• Hand raised: need special attention daily or will get sick, feather picking, mental issues.</li> <li>• **Psittacosis, a disease particular to parakeets and cockatiels that can be transferred to humans.</li> </ul>
<b>Dietary Needs (Owner Feed)</b>	<p><b>Follow owners' dietary instructions. <u>Label</u> any owner feed.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 80% Veg, 20% Fruit, cheese, egg.</li> <li>• *Avocados are toxic!</li> <li>• Seed only diets are not recommended by vets. If they are used to a seed only diet.</li> <li>• Birds will toss out fresh fruit and vegetable in favor of the high fat tasty seeds.</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	Use a ceramic water cup bowl.
<b>Daily Cleaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Always use disposable gloves and change between each cage.</u></li> <li>• Remove poop and urine soiled litter. Add more litter as needed.</li> <li>• Use a paper towel with water for any additional cleaning.</li> <li>• No Grit in the bottom of the cage.</li> </ul>
<b>Health Issues</b>	<p><b>Contact the Shelter Lead</b>, if there is a bird with a medical issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lethargy, not eating, fluffed up, falling over. Changes or blood in droppings. Nasal or eye discharge. Violent feather picking.</li> <li>• Any injury or infection in the legs is very serious and must be reported immediately.</li> <li>• Document on Animal Care Schedule (and highlight it).</li> <li>• Attach cage card (Vet Needed) on clipboard and note on whiteboard.</li> <li>• <u>Veterinary staff may not be activated.</u></li> </ul>
<b>Demobilization</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove Animal ID # from whiteboard, once the animal is released to owner.</li> <li>• When a cage is no longer needed (Exotic has left), put cage card (Dirty) on clipboard.</li> <li>• If appropriate, take the cage / kennel to the wash station. After cleaning, spray with Rescue Solution, and let sit for 5 minutes.</li> <li>• Clean food, water bowls/bottles, and housing. Rinse well with water and return to Exotic room.</li> <li>• Put cage card (Clean) on clipboard.</li> </ul>