

WHAT IS RIGHT FOR MY BIRD

WHITE BELLY CAIQUES



CAGE

- MINIMUM SIZE: 32" WIDE X 21" DEEP WITH 1/2" TO 3/4" BAR SPACING.
- BAR SPACING: 1/2" TO 3/4".
- OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: CAIQUES ARE KNOWN AS "CLOWNS" AND ARE VERY ACTIVE. A CAGE THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE MANY TOYS AND PERCHES TO KEEP THEM OCCUPIED IS CRUCIAL.

TOYS

- FOOT TOYS: THEY ESPECIALLY LOVE SMALL ITEMS THEY CAN GRASP WITH THEIR FEET, LIKE PLASTIC RINGS, WOOD PIECES, AND LEATHER SHAPES.
- ACRYLIC TOYS: CAIQUES ARE HEAVY CHEWERS, SO TOUGH ACRYLIC TOYS OFFER LONG-LASTING ENTERTAINMENT.
- CHEWABLE TOYS: A STEADY SUPPLY OF SHREDDABLE TOYS MADE OF WOOD, ROPE, AND LEATHER IS ESSENTIAL TO SATISFY THEIR CHEWING INSTINCTS.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

OWNING A WHITE-BELLIED CAIQUE MEANS COMMITTING TO A HIGHLY ENERGETIC, INTELLIGENT, AND SOCIAL BIRD OFTEN CALLED THE "CLOWN OF THE BIRD WORLD". THEY FORM STRONG BONDS WITH THEIR OWNERS AND REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT DAILY INTERACTION AND MENTAL STIMULATION TO THRIVE.

WHITE-BELLIED CAIQUES SHOULD GENERALLY NOT BE HOUSED WITH OTHER SPECIES OF BIRDS DUE TO THEIR AGGRESSIVE AND TERRITORIAL NATURE, WHICH CAN LEAD TO SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH FOR THE OTHER BIRD. THIS RISK IS ESPECIALLY HIGH WITH BIRDS OF DIFFERENT SIZES AND SPECIES, AS CAIQUES CAN BE PARTICULARLY AGGRESSIVE TOWARDS MUCH LARGER OR SMALLER BIRDS REGARDLESS OF THE SIZE DIFFERENCE. IT IS SAFER TO HOUSE CAIQUES SEPARATELY FROM OTHER BIRDS, WITH SUPERVISED INTERACTIONS ONLY IF THE BIRDS HAVE GROWN UP TOGETHER, ARE OF THE SAME SPECIES, AND HAVE ESTABLISHED A STRONG, PEACEFUL BOND.



WHITE BELLY CAIQUES



PERCHES

FOR A WHITE-BELLIED CAIQUE, GOOD PERCHES ARE NATURAL WOOD BRANCHES OF VARYING DIAMETERS AND SOFT ROPE, WHILE BAD PERCHES INCLUDE TOXIC WOOD, UNIFORM DOWEL RODS, AND ABRASIVE MATERIALS LIKE SANDPAPER OR CONCRETE PERCHES. VARIETY IS KEY TO MAINTAINING YOUR BIRD'S FOOT HEALTH AND PREVENTING PRESSURE SORES.

GOOD PERCHES FOR A CAIQUE

- **NATURAL WOOD BRANCHES:** THIS IS THE BEST OPTION BECAUSE THE IRREGULAR SHAPES AND WIDTHS ALLOW YOUR CAIQUE'S FEET TO EXERCISE AND PREVENT PRESSURE SORES FROM CONSTANT PRESSURE ON ONE SPOT. SAFE WOODS INCLUDE:
 - MANZANITA
 - JAVA WOOD
 - GRAPEVINE
 - APPLE OR OTHER FRUIT WOODS (ENSURE THEY ARE UNTREATED)
 - PINE (UNTREATED)
 - BALSA (FOR CHEWING, NOT A PERMANENT PERCH)
 - **ROPE PERCHES:** MADE FROM NATURAL FIBERS LIKE HEMP OR COTTON, BRAIDED ROPE PERCHES CAN BE A COMFORTABLE SURFACE FOR YOUR BIRD'S FEET. THESE ARE ESPECIALLY GOOD FOR OLDER BIRDS WITH ARTHRITIS.
 - **ABRASIVE PERCHES (IN MODERATION):** A SINGLE CONCRETE OR MINERAL PERCH CAN HELP KEEP YOUR CAIQUE'S NAILS AND BEAK TRIMMED NATURALLY. HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD NOT BE THE MAIN PERCH, AS TOO MUCH TIME ON A ROUGH SURFACE CAN CAUSE FOOT IRRITATION AND SORES. PLACE IT BY A FOOD BOWL TO LIMIT THE TIME SPENT ON IT.
 - **FLAT PERCHES:** A PLATFORM PERCH PROVIDES A SPACE FOR YOUR BIRD TO REST ITS FEET COMPLETELY FLAT, WHICH IS GREAT FOR FOOT HEALTH AND FOR STRETCHING.
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WHITE BELLY CAIQUES



PERCHES TO AVOID

- **WOODEN DOWEL PERCHES:** THE SMOOTH, UNIFORM SHAPE AND DIAMETER OF THESE PERCHES FORCE YOUR BIRD TO GRIP IN THE SAME WAY ALL THE TIME. THIS CAN LEAD TO FOOT PROBLEMS LIKE ARTHRITIS AND PRESSURE SORES, SOMETIMES CALLED "BUMBLEFOOT".
- **SANDPAPER-COVERED PERCHES:** THESE ARE TOO ABRASIVE AND CAN CAUSE PAINFUL CUTS AND IRRITATION ON THE BOTTOM OF YOUR CAIQUE'S FEET.
- **PLASTIC PERCHES:** THESE ARE OFTEN TOO SLIPPERY AND CAN LEAD TO FALLS. CAIQUES CAN ALSO CHEW ON THE PLASTIC AND INGEST SHARP PIECES.
- **TOXIC WOODS:** NEVER USE WOOD THAT IS TREATED OR FROM A TREE THAT HAS BEEN SPRAYED WITH PESTICIDES. SOME WOODS ARE NATURALLY TOXIC TO BIRDS. TOXIC WOODS TO AVOID INCLUDE:
 - CHERRY, PEACH, PLUM (THE PRUNUS SPECIES)
 - OAK (CONTROVERSIAL DUE TO TANNINS, BEST TO AVOID)
 - REDWOOD AND CEDAR
 - YEW, MISTLETOE, AND HOLLY
- **FUZZY HUTS AND FRAYED ROPE:** YOUR CAIQUE COULD CHEW AND INGEST THE FIBERS FROM THESE MATERIALS, LEADING TO LIFE-THREATENING CROP IMPACTIONS. IF YOU USE ROPE, INSPECT IT REGULARLY AND REMOVE IT IF IT STARTS TO FRAY.

BEST PRACTICES FOR SETTING UP PERCHES

- **PROVIDE VARIETY:** A HEALTHY CAGE FOR A CAIQUE WILL HAVE PERCHES OF VARYING SIZES, MATERIALS, AND TEXTURES. PLACE THEM AT DIFFERENT HEIGHTS TO CREATE A STIMULATING ENVIRONMENT.
 - **SIZE IT RIGHT:** YOUR CAIQUE'S TOES SHOULD WRAP ABOUT TWO-THIRDS TO THREE-QUARTERS OF THE WAY AROUND THE PERCH. IF ITS TOES OVERLAP, THE PERCH IS TOO SMALL.
 - **KEEP THEM CLEAN:** REGULARLY CLEAN ALL PERCHES TO PREVENT THE BUILDUP OF BACTERIA, WHICH CAN CAUSE FOOT INFECTIONS.
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