

WHAT IS RIGHT FOR MY BIRD

GALAH COCKATOO



HELPFUL INFORMATION

OWNING A GALAH COCKATOO IS A SIGNIFICANT, LONG-TERM COMMITMENT REQUIRING IMMENSE PATIENCE, DEDICATION, AND TIME FOR A BIRD WITH HIGH SOCIAL, MENTAL, AND PHYSICAL NEEDS. GALAHS ARE INTELLIGENT, AFFECTIONATE, AND ENERGETIC BIRDS THAT REQUIRE EXTENSIVE DAILY INTERACTION, MENTAL STIMULATION THROUGH TOYS AND FORAGING ACTIVITIES, A LARGE ENCLOSURE, AND A VARIED, HEALTHY DIET TO PREVENT BOREDOM AND DESTRUCTIVE BEHAVIORS. OWNERS MUST ALSO BE PREPARED FOR THEIR POTENT BEAKS AND BITING POTENTIAL, MESSY HABITS, LOUD VOCALIZATIONS, POTENTIAL FOR MOODINESS, AND THE COMMITMENT TO A POTENTIALLY 40-YEAR OR LONGER LIFESPAN.

GALAH COCKATOOS SHOULD NOT BE CAGED WITH MOST OTHER BIRD SPECIES DUE TO THEIR POTENTIAL FOR AGGRESSION, SIZE DIFFERENCES, AND THE RISK OF DISEASE TRANSMISSION. SPECIES WITH SIMILAR NEEDS, SUCH AS OTHER GALAHS, COCKATOOS, AND CORELLAS, ARE GENERALLY BETTER COMPANIONS, THOUGH EVEN THESE CAN BE AGGRESSIVE. INTRODUCING ANY NEW BIRDS REQUIRES SLOW, CAREFUL MONITORING IN NEUTRAL TERRITORY TO ENSURE SAFETY AND PREVENT INJURY.

TOYS

- **CHEWABLE WOOD TOYS:** THEY NEED TOUGH TOYS TO WHITTLE AWAY AT. OFFER DURABLE BLOCKS AND NATURAL WOOD PERCHES.
 - **SHREDDING TOYS:** DESPITE THEIR STRONG BEAKS, THEY ALSO ENJOY SOFTER MATERIALS LIKE CARDBOARD AND PALM LEAF TO SHRED.
 - **CLIMBING FRAMES:** GALAHS LOVE TO CLIMB, SO LARGE ROPE NETS OR MULTI-LEVEL PLAY GYMS ARE A GREAT FIT.
- **CAGE**
 - **MINIMUM SIZE:** AT LEAST 36" WIDE X 24" DEEP X 36" HIGH. LARGER IS ALWAYS BETTER.
 - **BAR SPACING:** 3/4".
 - **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:** GALAHS ARE ACTIVE AND PLAYFUL. PROVIDE PLENTY OF DURABLE TOYS AND PERCHES. STRONG LOCKS ARE A MUST, AS COCKATOOS ARE KNOWN ESCAPE ARTISTS.



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PERCHES

GOOD PERCHES FOR A GALAH COCKATOO INCLUDE NATURAL, VARIED-DIAMETER BRANCHES WITH ROUGH TEXTURES, SUCH AS MANZANITA AND JAVA WOOD, FOR FOOT HEALTH. AVOID PERCHES THAT ARE UNIFORMLY SMOOTH, MADE OF TOXIC WOOD, OR HAVE SAND, CONCRETE, OR LOOSE ROPE FIBERS, AS THESE CAN CAUSE FOOT PROBLEMS OR POSE INGESTION RISKS. PROVIDE A VARIETY OF PERCHES IN DIFFERENT SHAPES, SIZES, AND MATERIALS TO OFFER EXERCISE AND PREVENT FOOT FATIGUE.

GOOD PERCHES

NATURAL WOOD BRANCHES:

- THESE ARE IDEAL BECAUSE THEIR VARYING DIAMETERS AND ROUGH SURFACES GIVE YOUR COCKATOO'S FEET A GOOD WORKOUT AND PREVENT REPETITIVE STRAIN.

HARDWOODS LIKE MANZANITA AND JAVA WOOD:

- THESE ARE DURABLE, SAFE, AND OFFER A HARD SURFACE THAT IS GOOD FOR YOUR PARROT'S FEET.

PLATFORM PERCHES:

- A FLAT SHELF OR PLATFORM CAN PROVIDE A RESTING PLACE FOR YOUR BIRD'S FEET TO LIE FLAT, OFFERING A DIFFERENT KIND OF COMFORT.





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BAD PERCHES

SMOOTH, DOWEL-STYLE PERCHES:

- THESE OFFER A SINGLE DIAMETER, WHICH CRAMPS A BIRD'S FEET AND CAN LEAD TO STIFFNESS AND DISCOMFORT OVER TIME.

SAND, CONCRETE, AND CALCIUM PERCHES:

- THESE ARE ABRASIVE AND CAN CAUSE PAINFUL CUTS, ABRASIONS, AND INFECTIONS ON YOUR BIRD'S FEET.

UNSAFE OR NON-BIRD-SAFE WOOD:

- ALWAYS USE NON-TOXIC, PROPERLY WASHED, AND DISINFECTED WOOD TO PREVENT POISONING FROM HARMFUL CHEMICALS.

ROPE PERCHES:

- THESE CAN BECOME DANGEROUS IF A BIRD CHEWS ON THEM, AS STRANDS CAN GET TANGLED AROUND THE TOES OR BE SWALLOWED, LEADING TO IMPACTION.

TIPS FOR CHOOSING AND USING PERCHES

- VARIETY IS KEY:
- OFFER A SELECTION OF DIFFERENT PERCHES TO PROVIDE DIFFERENT TYPES OF GRIP AND SURFACE FOR YOUR BIRD'S FEET.
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- MONITOR FOR WEAR AND TEAR:
- CHECK ROPE PERCHES REGULARLY FOR FRAYING AND REMOVE THEM IF THEY SHOW SIGNS OF DAMAGE.
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- BAKE AND CLEAN NATURAL WOOD:
- IF YOU COLLECT BRANCHES FROM OUTSIDE, ENSURE THEY ARE THOROUGHLY BAKED AND CLEANED BEFORE BEING PLACED IN THE CAGE.
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- VARY THE PERCH ANGLES:
- ARRANGE PERCHES AT DIFFERENT ANGLES TO ENCOURAGE YOUR COCKATOO TO CLIMB AND EXERCISE ITS JOINTS.

