



WHAT IS RIGHT FOR MY BIRD

COCKATIELS



TOYS

- **DESTROYABLE TOYS:** THEY APPRECIATE SHREDDABLE TOYS MADE FROM SOFTER MATERIALS LIKE WOVEN PALM, PAPER, AND Balsa WOOD.
- **FORAGING TOYS:** HIDING TREATS IN CARDBOARD ROLLS OR SHALLOW DISHES WITH PAPER IS A GREAT WAY TO ENGAGE THEM.
- **BELLS AND SWINGS:** COCKATIELS ENJOY SIMPLE NOISE-MAKING TOYS AND SWINGS, WHICH PROVIDE GENTLE MOVEMENT AND ENRICHMENT.

CAGE

- **MINIMUM SIZE:** 24" X 24" WITH 1/2" BAR SPACING IS A MINIMUM, BUT A FLIGHT CAGE IS PREFERABLE.
- **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:** ENSURE APPROPRIATE BAR SPACING FOR CLIMBING AND PROVIDE PLENTY OF PERCHES AND TOYS.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

OWNING A COCKATIEL INVOLVES PROVIDING DAILY COMPANIONSHIP, A LARGE CAGE WITH TOYS FOR MENTAL STIMULATION, A DIVERSE DIET OF PELLETS AND FRESH FOODS, AND 12 HOURS OF UNINTERRUPTED DARKNESS FOR SLEEP. THESE SOCIAL BIRDS CAN BE AFFECTIONATE AND LEARN TO TALK AND WHISTLE, BUT THEY ALSO REQUIRE TIME AND PATIENCE DUE TO THEIR INTELLIGENT, FLIGHTY, AND SOMETIMES NEOPHOBIC (FEARFUL OF NEW THINGS) NATURE. POTENTIAL OWNERS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT, AS COCKATIELS CAN LIVE FOR OVER 20 YEARS.

COCKATIELS SHOULD NOT BE CAGED WITH BIRDS THAT ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LARGER THAN THEM, HAVE MORE AGGRESSIVE PERSONALITIES, OR POSSESS HOOKED BEAKS, SUCH AS LARGER PARROTS LIKE QUAKERS AND CONURES, TO PREVENT SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH. IT'S ALSO UNSAFE TO HOUSE A COCKATIEL WITH SMALLER BIRDS LIKE CANARIES OR FINCHES, AS THE COCKATIEL CAN HARM THEM. WHILE IT'S OFTEN NOT RECOMMENDED TO MIX DIFFERENT PARROT SPECIES EVEN WHEN THEY ARE SIMILAR IN SIZE, THE BEST PRACTICE IS TO PROVIDE EACH BIRD WITH ITS OWN CAGE AND INTRODUCE THEM SLOWLY IN A COMMON AREA UNDER SUPERVISION.





COCKATIELS



PERCHES

GOOD PERCHES FOR A COCKATIEL INCLUDE A VARIETY OF NATURAL WOOD, ROPE (UNTREATED COTTON OR HEMP), AND MANZANITA BRANCHES OF DIFFERENT TEXTURES AND DIAMETERS TO PROMOTE FOOT HEALTH. AVOID PERCHES MADE OF SANDPAPER, PLASTIC, CONCRETE, OR OTHER SYNTHETIC MATERIALS, AS WELL AS TREATED WOOD, BECAUSE THESE CAN INJURE A BIRD'S FEET OR RELEASE HARMFUL SUBSTANCES.

GOOD PERCHES

NATURAL WOOD:

- USE PERCHES MADE FROM SAFE, NATURAL WOOD LIKE FIR OR DRAGON WOOD, OFFERING DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES TO PROVIDE EXERCISE FOR THE FEET.

ROPE PERCHES:

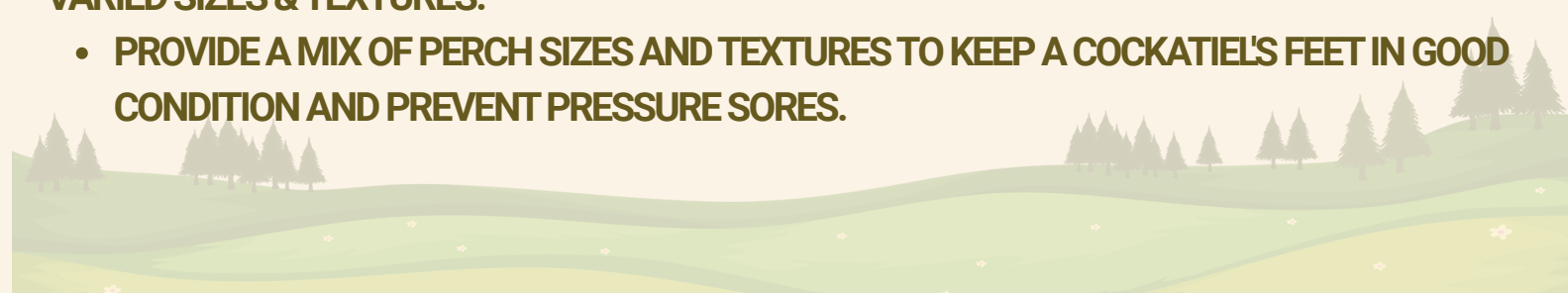
- BRAIDED ROPE MADE FROM NATURAL, UNTREATED COTTON OR HEMP IS A COMFORTABLE OPTION, ESPECIALLY FOR OLDER BIRDS. HOWEVER, MONITOR FOR FRAYING, AS THREADS CAN CAUSE BLOCKAGES IF INGESTED.

MANZANITA PERCHES:

- THESE ARE ACCEPTABLE AND OFFER A NATURAL LOOK AND TEXTURE, THOUGH THEY CAN BE A BIT SLIPPERY.

VARIED SIZES & TEXTURES:

- PROVIDE A MIX OF PERCH SIZES AND TEXTURES TO KEEP A COCKATIEL'S FEET IN GOOD CONDITION AND PREVENT PRESSURE SORES.





COCKATIELS



PERCHES TO AVOID

SANDPAPER AND CONCRETE PERCHES:

- THE ROUGH TEXTURE OF THESE PERCHES CAN CAUSE IRRITATION, CUTS, AND INFECTIONS ON YOUR BIRD'S FEET.

PLASTIC PERCHES:

- THESE ARE GENERALLY TOO SMOOTH, ALLOWING THE BIRD'S FOOT TO FLATTEN, AND THEY DON'T OFFER THE NECESSARY TEXTURE FOR GOOD FOOT HEALTH.

TREATED OR SYNTHETIC WOOD:

- AVOID ANY WOOD THAT IS TREATED OR ANY PERCH MADE OF SYNTHETIC MATERIALS, AS THEY MAY RELEASE HARMFUL CHEMICALS OR FUMES.

PERCHES WITH HARMFUL FEATURES:

- DO NOT USE PERCHES WITH SHARP EDGES, SPLINTERS, OR LOOSE PARTS THAT COULD INJURE YOUR BIRD OR BECOME ENTANGLED IN THEIR FEET.

