



Birdie Bio!



Name: Hannah

Species: Cockatiel (male)

Age: over 20 years old

Favorite foods: dandelion greens and cooked wheat berries

Hannah's story:

Hannah came to us because his caregiver was going into assisted living. He lived over 20 years in a tiny cage, eating a typical store-bought dry seed mix. Here at the Sanctuary, his door is always open and he enjoys a fresh diet with coconut oil and ground flax seed. On his arrival to the Sanctuary, he presented with a heart murmur that is now gone!

Here at the Sanctuary, our cockatiels come and go from their cages as they please in a special room outfitted just for cockatiels. They receive fresh, specialized diets, enrichment, and veterinary care to keep them healthy and engaged.

SPECIES IN FOCUS

Cockatiel

Nymphicus hollandicus

Cockatiels are the smallest cockatoos and are only distantly related to their larger cousins. Male and female cockatiels are sexually dimorphic, meaning that the males and females have different appearances. Males tend to have brighter yellow heads and more vibrant orange crests than females, and females exhibit horizontal barring on their wings and tails. Juveniles resemble females. However, after years of selective breeding in captivity, many different color varieties can now be seen.

Cockatiels are found across most of the interior of Australia, where they travel in nomadic flocks, following fruiting grasses with the rain, but always near a permanent water source. Flocks may number in the hundreds, but during the breeding season, pairs select nesting holes which they defend from other pairs. Pairs often bond for life, which may be 15-25 years.

In captivity, cockatiels live very different lives. Instead of living in social flocks, they are often kept singly or in pairs in small cages that do not allow for space for long flights, or have their wings trimmed to disallow flight entirely. Like budgies, cockatiels are very hardy and adapted to living in harsh conditions in the dry Australian bush. For this reason, they are able to survive on poor diets, like dry seed mixes. However, these diets are not ideal and often lead to health problems, such as excess fat and vitamin deficiencies. Poor diets, limited options for exercise, and a tendency for owners to treat cockatiels as "starter pets" all negatively impact the welfare of these small birds and can shorten their lifespans.

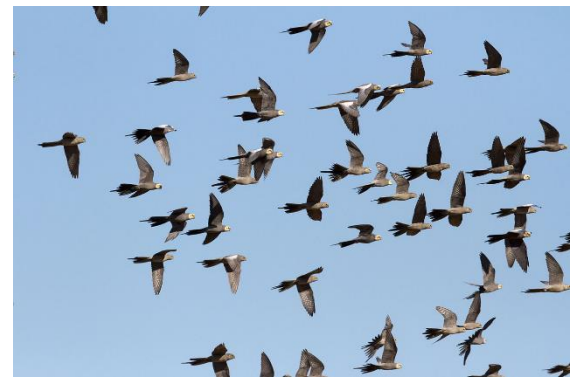


Photo of wild cockatiels by Jim Bendon via Wikimedia Commons

PARROT CARE TIP

Many natural supplements, such as coconut oil and flax seed, can be added to a parrot's diet to provide them with balanced nutrients. Talk to your avian veterinarian about adding nutritious foods to your parrot's diet!

Sanctuary Happenings



Fall Campaigns

Thank you to everyone who so kindly donated to either or both of our fall campaigns! Our winter email appeal “Will You Be My Sunshine?” was a success! Our goal of \$2,000 was reached and we were able to purchase 15 full spectrum 4-ft bulbs, 3 Austin Air Allergy Machines, and 2 GermGuardian replacement filters for our smaller existing air cleaners. These important purchases will allow us to give our birds the full-spectrum lighting and clean air that helps our birds stay happy and healthy!

Our #GivingTuesday campaign through Facebook garnered a

huge response from our generous supporters who not only donated directly to our appeal post but also set up their own Facebook appeals on our behalf! Together, we raised exactly \$2,500, with \$1,500 donated specifically to our vet fund. This fund will help us continue to provide top-notch veterinary care to our Sanctuary residents.

As a non-profit charitable organization, the Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary relies on public support through donations and our volunteers. We are truly grateful for the amazing show of support demonstrated through these campaigns!

Looking forward...

Soon we will be launching our own Sponsor-A-Parrot Program. Stay tuned for more information! Like us and follow us on [Facebook](#) to stay up to date on all of our sanctuary happenings!

We are also in the process of diligently searching for land in the Anne Arundel County region to expand our sanctuary. Any help is appreciated!



Did you know...?

Most parrots are adapted to fly, but in captivity, parrots are often confined to small enclosures or have their wings trimmed to prevent flight. This makes it more challenging for captive parrots to get adequate exercise, engage in natural behaviors, and have control over where they want to go. Unfortunately, if parrots do not gain opportunities to fly early in life, they often never learn to fly as adeptly as wild parrots, even when given opportunities to fly later in life. Feather-picking, a common problem in parrots under human care, can also limit flying ability. Here at CPS, we give even our poorest fliers opportunities to exercise their wings, and arrange our birds' living spaces so that our non-flying birds can climb everywhere they want to go.

BIRDS' WISHLIST

🐦 Nut gift bags from [Nuts.com](#) (we are on their sanctuary list)

🐦 [Amazon Wishlist](#)

Support the birds at the Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary with a tax-deductible donation! To donate, visit

[IcarusFoundation.org](#) OR send checks payable to Icarus

Foundation, Inc. to

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