

Daily Routine For Cockatoos & King Parrots

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EXERCISE

Before releasing your bird for free flight in the home open the cage and ask him to step up onto your finger or hand. Once outside the cage release for supervised free flight whilst preparing the morning meal of seed, vegetables or pulses.

BREAKFAST

Encourage your bird to be included in the food preparation and create learning situations, as this is an important training time for your bird. For example, introduce clicker training as a foraging tool where your bird must work to get a click and food reward. This training stimulates the same mental behaviour required for searching, locating and remembering where food is found in wild cockatoos (See our web page or ask Tailai about clicker training).

CAGE PREPARATION

Remove all vegetables after one hour and replace with seed mix. Then position hardwood native branches inside the cage as cockatoos and Australian timberland parrots love chewing these for entertainment during the day.



What to Provide

Supervised free flight

Clicker training & interaction

Morning meal

Set up branches for chewing

Seed dish may remain in the cage during the day

Weekly bathing opportunity

Place foraging fresh hardwood branches and treats or puzzles in cage

Supervised free flight

Clicker training

Games, singing & dancing exercise

Shared meal with humans

Social interaction

Remove all food from cage

Cover cage & give bedtime treat

MORNING

DAY TIME

RETURN TO CAGE FOR FORAGING/REST

Cockatoos and King parrots should not spend unsupervised time outside the cage. Whilst in their cage they must be provided with time consuming foraging opportunities.

For the large cockatoo species it is necessary to pack the cage with fresh branches leaves and all for daily foraging and entertainment during the day. When at home during the day this is an ideal bonding time when your bird will enjoy learning new words or have a waterspray shower.

EXERCISE & TRAINING

Towards sunset release your bird from its cage and allow supervised free flight. Play games, talk or sing with your bird as you prepare the evening meal as this is a natural time for learning. This is a good time for a reward based training session.

DINNER

Remove any remaining seed treats from the cage and call your bird in for a shared evening meal. Place the cage alongside the family dinner table and eat your evening meal at the same time.

EVENING SOCIALISING

Following the evening meal is a good opportunity to rest and socialise with your bird and teach it to accept touching and holding. Practice holding the wings out then touching the entire body, turn him on his back, rub his stomach and massage the feet in preparation for nail clipping and harnessing.

ROOSTING/ BEDTIME

Remove all foodstuff from the cage and implement nightly bedtime routine.



Weekly Health Programme for Cockatoos & King Parrots

Add to Drinking Water		Mix into Sterile Food	Ongoing Health Care
Day 1	KD Powder ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ⁴	<p>Lice & Mite Protection: S76 should be administered in the drinking water every month during summer and each three months during the cooler seasons. Add 0.5ml of S76 into 100ml drinking water and leave for two days. A lice and mite spray (AIL) should be applied on the same days</p> <p>Worm Protection: Gentle Wormer should be administered in the drinking water each three months. Add 3ml of Gentle Wormer into 100ml drinking water and leave for two days.</p> <p>³ Moult Support: During the moult from October to February Quik Gel should be given in the drinking water for two days each week.</p>
Day 2	Dufoplus & Ioford ²	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ⁴	
Day 3	Dufoplus & Ioford ²	Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite ⁴	
Day 4	Fresh water	Fresh seed ⁵	
Day 5	Quik Gel ³	Fresh seed ⁵	
Day 6	Quik Gel ³	Fresh seed ⁵	
Day 7	Fresh water	⁵ During the Moult: Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite are provided fresh each day.	

¹ KD Powder is given in the drinking water for one day a week acting as a mouth and crop wash to maintain protection from environmental germs. It is made up by adding 1/4 teaspoon (1gm or a level white spoon) into a litre of water. The drinking vessel is filled from this litre and the remainder is used to clean out the cage.

² Dufoplus (5 drops) & Ioford (10 drops) are mixed together in 100ml of drinking water and safely left for two days as they are sugar free. Dufoplus and Ioford provide the vitamins and trace elements necessary for good health but which are missing from a seed diet.

³ Quik Gel provides an immediate energy boost to your bird and should be given whenever you feel your bird is tired or unwell. Quik Gel is also given for two consecutive days a week to protect health during the moult, which is a period when many budgerigars fall ill. Quik Gel is prepared by mixing 1 drop (0.1ml) thoroughly into 100ml drinking water.

⁴ 6 drops of Turbobooster is mixed thoroughly into 100gm of seed, then 1/4 teaspoon (1 gram) of E-Powder and F-Vite are mixed into it. These powders stick to the oil impregnated seed providing your bird with additional energy, protein, vitamin and mineral supplements necessary for top health. During the moult and for some birds, Dr Marshall may recommend Turbobooster, E-Powder and F-Vite are given daily. Nutritional supplements may also be added to fresh vegetables or pulse mix.



Food & Foraging Opportunities

A daily routine that includes two shared meals and time outside the cage exercising, socializing and playing is important for your pet cockatoo as it gives your bird emotional stability and the confidence to happily occupy itself whilst you are away from home.

The morning and evening meal should include organic vegetables or pulses. Vary your bird's diet according to what is fresh and in season. Cockatoos prefer diced (1- 2cm pieces) par cooked vegetables. One of the following foods - butter pumpkin, sweet potato, sliced carrots and long beans - should be included in at least one daily meal as these vegetables are of highest food value. Corn on the cob and multi-grain toast are excellent choices and time consuming food items. Cockatoos also enjoy rehydrated pulses as part of their diet (see recipe below).

Pulse Mix Recipe

1. Soak dry soup mix in cold water overnight.
2. Rinse soaked pulses thoroughly and strain.
3. Boil for 45 minutes or until soft.
4. Divide into 100gm portions and freeze.
5. Prepare meal each morning as follows:



To prepare the morning feed, warm the frozen pulse mix in the microwave. Boiled rice, diced and cooked vegetables may be incorporated into the mix. To this finished meal add 6 drops Turbobooster and mix thoroughly. Then, sprinkle 1/4 tspn E-Powder & 1/4 tspn F-Vite onto the mix and provide as the morning meal. Dufoplus (5 drops) and Ioford (10 drops) can also be added here instead of in the drinking water.



Cockatoos are naturally busy during the day and require time consuming foraging opportunities such as toasted wholemeal bread and corn on the cob.