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## Excessive Egg Laying In Your Pet Cockatiel

Pet cockatiels will only lay eggs if they are "in love" with their owners. This display of affection reflects a very content pet bird. There are a few things you should do when your pet Cockatiel continues to lay eggs.

You will need to provide a nest, such as a small towel, etc., because your Cockatiel will not release her own droppings so as to keep her nest clean. She should be taken out of her cage twice daily so she can release her droppings. This also stimulates fitness and stomach-muscle tone.

After laying her first egg, your Cockatiel must receive supplementary nutrition, in the form of extra minerals, protein, vitamins and energy. This is provided by the following nutritional program. Continue this program for a further three weeks after the eggs have been removed.

Your Cockatiel should lay an egg each second day - if the interval is longer, she may experience uterus problems. If this happens, it is an indication of a nutritional imbalance.

Allow your Cockatiel to incubate (sit on) her eggs for ten days after she has laid the final egg of the clutch (4 - 6 eggs). This allows her hormone system to complete its cycle and for her body to replenish its energy, mineral and protein levels after the physical burden of producing and laying eggs. After the ten days are up, remove the eggs from the cage and allow her plenty of free exercise to fully regain her fitness levels. This will also take her mind off the emotional traumas of losing her eggs.

Your Cockatiel may continue to lay eggs at regular intervals after this time, but she must be provided with an ongoing program and remain very fit; she must receive daily exercise. During the cold of winter and the heat of summer, your Cockatiel must not lay eggs. To avoid her laying eggs, the cage and your Cockatiel must be moved from her normal room. The moving of the cage into a different and new environment temporarily takes her out of "breeding condition" and stops her from laying eggs. She may require hormonal therapy if she continues to lay eggs during this time.

At the first sign of impending egg-laying (dropped tail, enlarged rump, behavioral changes associated with nest making activity), start the following program and continue for three weeks after your Cockatiel has incubated her eggs for ten days and the eggs have been removed. After this time, follow the Ongoing Health Program for Pet & Aviary Birds