

Canary Care Sheet

CREATURE COMFORTS



Your Pets Super Store

1250 Upper Front Street, Binghamton NY 13901

607-723-2666

info@ccpetstore.com



Congratulations on your new pet. These colorful birds make excellent companions with the male being noted for their lovely singing voices. Though they cannot be handled they never fail to brighten up any room. Canaries are inquisitive and easy to care for making them an excellent choice for any level of pet parent. Canaries can live 10 years with proper care.

HOUSING-----

Birds acclimate well to average household temperatures. The cage should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts and direct sunlight. A rectangular flight cage, approximately 24" W x 14" D x 18" H, with metal bars spaced no greater than 3/8" apart, makes a good home for a canary; as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible. A variety of appropriate perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended. A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird off of the droppings. Line the droppings tray with cage paper or corn cob litter for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches. You will want a separate dish for moist treats and a clip to hold millet.

DIET-----

Specialized pellet diets are highly recommended and should consist of 60-70% of the diet. Fortified seeds are higher in fat than pellets. If your bird is used to a seed diet, convert to pellets gradually. Millet spray should be available at all times. Fresh, dark leafy greens plus slices of raw apples and oranges and grated carrots and sweet potato should be given daily and discarded when not eaten within 24 hours. Canaries appreciate quality and variety in their food. Give your canary clean, fresh, chlorine-free water, changed daily. Do not feed birds avocados, fruit seeds, chocolate, alcohol or caffeine as these can cause serious medical problems.

CLEANING-----

Clean and disinfect the cage and perches with Poop Off. Replace substrate or cage liner weekly or more often if needed. Replace food and water daily. The water dish should be rinsed and dried before refilling to discourage algae growth. Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged.

HEALTH-----

Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done. As an alternative, mist the bird with water or a grooming spray. Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to

prevent injury to the bird. One of our pet care specialists can explain the proper procedure. Canaries tend to be hardy birds, but it is best to avoid illness by maintaining a clean habitat. Signs of illness would include, beak swelling, fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers, sitting on cage floor, wheezing or coughing, runny or discolored stools, favoring one foot, eye or nasal discharge, red or swollen eyes and loss of appetite.

FERTILITY-----

Canaries breed easily in captivity and males tend not to sing if kept with a female. Keep males in separate cages and keep females a distance away from males to keep them singing.

CHECKLIST-----

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| <input type="checkbox"/> cage and cage cover | <input type="checkbox"/> spray millet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> variety of perches | <input type="checkbox"/> cage paper or substrate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> vitamin supplements | <input type="checkbox"/> variety of branches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pellets and fortified seed | <input type="checkbox"/> bird bath |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nail clippers and styptic gel | <input type="checkbox"/> food dish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grooming spray | <input type="checkbox"/> water dish |
| <input type="checkbox"/> treats and grit | |