

Society Finch

Scientific Name: *Lonchura Striata Domestica*

Brief Description:

Also known as the Bengalese Finch, Society Finches have been extremely popular with hobbyists since their development in China in the seventeen-hundreds. They are an excellent choice for a beginner bird owner.



Average Size: Approximately three-to-four inches in length.

Life Span: Eight plus years with proper care.

Feeding:

Society Finch must have fresh food at all times as they have very high metabolisms and can starve relatively quickly. Keep the following points in mind for feeding your pet and for a long and happy life.

- Always have fresh pellets and seeds on hand for your pet.
- Provide fresh, chlorine-free water at all times.
- Society Finch enjoys fresh fruits, vegetables and grains, daily.
- Remove uneaten food before it spoils.
- Vegetables should make up about fifteen percent of your Finch's diet, ever-other-day.
- Ideal treats include scrambled or boiled egg, wheat pasta and peas, making up five percent of diet. Offer one of these items, once a month.

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Housing:

Most birds, including the Society Finch, are very social creatures. Finches of the same species can be housed in pairs or flocks. However, their enclosure must be large enough for these birds to stretch their wings, climb and play. Consider the following in preparation of habitat setup.



- A rectangular flight cage, approximately twenty-four inches wide, by fourteen inches in diameter and eighteen inches in height.
- Cage bars should be spread no more than three-eighths-of-an-inch apart.
- It's always best to provide the largest possible habitat for your finches.
- Perches should be three inches long and half-inch in diameter.
- A variety of perch sizes are ideal for exercise.
- A metal grate over droppings tray to keep your pet away from droppings.
- Line droppings tray with cage paper or substrate for easier cleaning.
- Do not place food or water containers under perches.

Maintenance:

Daily, weekly and month maintenance will be required to ensure that your pet has a suitable accommodations and that he or she remains in top health.

- Clean and disinfect cage and perches regularly.
- Replace food and water on a daily basis, replace substrate or cage liner, weekly.
- Replace dishes and toys when damaged or worn.
- Provide chlorine-free, filtered, lukewarm water regularly for bathing and remove water when done.
 - Mist your bird with grooming spray and trim nails to avoid injury.

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Temperatures:

Society Finch will acclimate to average household temperatures. However, be cautious of extreme temperature changes. Cage should be placed off the floor and in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts.



Humidity: No special requirements.

Lighting: well lit rooms.

Reproductive:

The Society Finch is a relatively easy to breed Finch. They will breed in half open nest boxes, wicker nests hollowed out coconut husks and tall grass. To learn more regarding Society Finch breeding, see below.

- A nest box should measure at least three inches tall, five inches wide and five inches deep.
- Attach the nest box to the outside of the cage.
- Use a nest box with a removable top for easy inspection. (also helps with cleaning)
- You can make your own nest box, or buy a commercial unit.
- Use Sisal or Jute as a nesting material
- Use five percent sevin dust in the bottom of the new nest to keep insects out.
- Female Spice Finch will typically lay five eggs.
- Incubation period lasts about thirteen days.
- Parents will feed their chicks for three weeks, by the fourth, they will venture outside.
- Do not remove chicks until they are ready to feed by themselves.

Petware House

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Notes and Comments:

The Society Finch makes an excellent pet. They do very well in large flocks and are pleasant chirping birds. They don't like to be handled and will require room in the enclosure to fly. Society Finch sleeps only at night, in sleeping nests and climb on reeds or tall grass during the day, they need plenty of room in their cage to fly.

