

Yellow Canary

Scientific Name: *Serinus Flaviventris*

Brief Description:

Canaries are well known for their colors which vary from a uniform yellow in the northwest to olive black in the southeast. These members of the Finch family have been domesticated since the fourteen-hundred's. Male canaries are extremely popular for their sweet singing. Canaries do well when kept as a single pet or in male/female, female/female pairs.



Average Size: Three-to-four inches in length.

Life Span: Ten + years with proper care.

Feeding:

A well-balanced Canary diet consists of several parts. Below we provide you all the details you need including diet ideas and a feeding regimen.

- Specialized pellets are highly recommended and should make up sixty-to-seventy percent of your pet's diet.
- Red-factor Canaries require specialized food to maintain color, provide fresh fruit, vegetables and moderate amounts of fortified seeds.
- Be sure to provide clean, fresh water, on a daily basis.
- Do not feed your pet fruit seeds, caffeine, avocado or alcohol as these can cause serious medication conditions.
- Treats should not exceed five to ten percent of total food intake.
- Finches appreciate quality and variety in their food so provide fresh fruits and vegetables, regularly.
- Discard any uneaten food as soon as possible.

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Housing:



The Yellow Canary will adjust well to normal household temperatures as long as ambient temperature does not exceed certain parameters. Continue reading for more details.

- Maximum temperature for your Canary pet should not exceed eighty °F.
- Extreme changes in ambient temperature should be avoided.
- Canary enclosure should be kept away from drafts and the habitat elevated from the floor.
- A housing enclosure for your several pet Canary should meet the following stipulations:
 - o Twenty four inches in width, but fourteen inches in diameter by eighteen inches in height.
 - o Metal bars should be spaced no more than three-eighths of an inch apart.
 - o Always provide the best possible habitat for your pet.
- A flight habitat for your pet Canary should meet the following stipulations.
 - o Eighteen inches in width by fourteen inches in diameter by eighteen inches in height.
 - o Metal bars should be spaced no more than three-eighths of an inch apart.
- A perch for your pet Canary should meet the following stipulations.
 - o Should be at least three inches long and one-quarter-inch to one-half-inch in diameter.
 - o A number of sizes will accommodate proper health.
- Use a metal grate, over the droppings tray to keep bird away from droppings.
 - o Line tray with appropriate substrate or paper to help make cleaning easier.
 - o Do not leave food or water containers under perches.
- Canaries like to socialise and be kept in pairs (male/female).
- Different types of birds should not be kept together.

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Temperature:

Just as with housing, most pet Canaries will adjust well to normal household temperatures.

- Adjusts well to most household temperatures.
- Avoid extreme temperature fluctuations.
- Keep cage away from drafts, in a well lit area and placed off the floor.
- Does not require any special humidity requirements.



Humidity: No special requirements.

Lighting: well lit rooms will suffice.

Water & Accessories:

In keeping with the beauty and enjoyment of your pet Canary, you will have to provide a number of items for your pet bird.

- Be sure to provide fresh water, everyday in a cleaned and disinfected water bowl.
- Your pet Canary will appreciate a well maintained bird bath.
- Toys are a requirement for your Canary to play with in addition to grit and treats.

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Reproductive:



If you should decide to breed Canaries, we highly suggest learning as much as possible about the process before you begin as we do not cover all essential items in this pet care sheet.

- Determining a Canary sex, by appearance, can be difficult.
 - o Most males sing, most females don't, but there are always exceptions here.
 - o Buy older birds from a breeder who is one-hundred percent sure.
- Canaries are only fertile when the length of the day is increasing to about twelve hours.
 - o Best time of the year for breeding is during the spring season.
 - o Provide cuttlebone or similar source of calcium during this time of year.
 - o Provide separate cages for each male/female pair.
- If the female fights with the male, she is not ready to breed.
- Female canaries will build a nest. Introduce a four inch nest cup and provide nesting material.
- Female canaries lay one egg per day, for four or five days, followed by sitting on them for two weeks.
- When eggs hatch, provide food rich in protein and greens such as broccoli and sprouts.
- Chicks will leave the nest about eighteen days after hatching.
- Parents will continue to feed for another week, but must be separated to prevent attacks.
- At four weeks old, the chicks must learn to eat on their own.
- Feed them softened seed by soaking it water for forty-eight hours, for six weeks.

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Maintenance:

- Replace substrate or cage liner weekly or as needed.
- Completely clean and disinfect all perches and habitat.
- Replace worn toys and introduce new toy items into the habitat on a regular basis.
- Be cautious of toys made from lead, zinc or lead-based paints or galvanized parts as they can lead to serious health issues.
- Use only natural cleaning agents around your pet.



Notes and Comments:

An important distinction between the sexes is that female canaries tend to chirp whereas their male counterparts tend to sing. Some male canaries will stop singing during their annual molt is perfectly normal. Canaries do not require much social interaction with humans and prefer not being handled. Canaries do have a requirement to fly, so be sure to provide them with a large enough cage. Under no circumstances should you house two male canaries as they may perceive each other as a threat.

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