

## Canary

Average Size: approximately 5" in length

Life Span: 5 to 25 years with proper care

### Diet and Feeding:

**Staple diet**: Feed your canary 1-2 teaspoons of a pellet or seed-based, fortified canary diet each day. Note: canaries only eat off the top layer of the food dish, so if feeding seeds, be sure to check the food daily and remove empty seed hulls.

**Fruits & vegetables**:\* About 5-10% of a canary's diet should be bite-sized fruits and veggies like apples, oranges, melon, sweet potatoes, broccoli, spinach, dandelion, mustard greens and shredded carrots. Offer daily or every 2-3 days.

***DO NOT give your Canary the following items: avocados, fruit seeds, chocolate, alcohol or caffeine, as these can cause serious medical problems.***

**Supplements**: Be sure to provide a cuttlebone in your canary's cage at all times.

**Water**: Canaries should always have access to clean, fresh, chlorine-free water in a bottle or bowl. Replace daily.

***It is important to clean your bird's containers every day and replace the contents, even if the bowl or bottle looks full.***

\*Remember that fresh food (fruits and veggies) requires its own dish and should be removed from the habitat within four hours to avoid spoilage. Also, canaries are messy eaters, and will drop an abundance of food while eating, so be sure to remove dropped food scraps as well.

### Housing/Habitat:

**Housing**: Canaries like to fly, so when selecting a cage remember that length is better than height. Your canary's cage must be large enough for her to comfortably stretch her wings and fly between perches. The bigger the cage, the better. Minimum cage size is 12"W x 12"L x 15"H. Multiple canaries require a correspondingly larger cage.

**Perches**: Place two perches at different heights, so your canary will be unable to soil her food bowls. Provide perches of differing widths, diameters and textures to help keep her feet healthy. Do not place food and water dishes under perches.

**Cage placement**: Place your bird's cage at or below eye level, away from drafts, open windows and the kitchen. Be aware that canaries are sensitive to smoke and strong odors. Cover the cage at night to prevent drafts.

### Habitat Care Tips:

- PetZoo recommends a variety of appropriate perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis.
- A metal grate placed over the droppings will keep the bird away from droppings. Line

the droppings tray with paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches.

- Clean and disinfect the habitat and perches regularly, and replace substrate or habitat liner weekly or more often if needed. **Replace food and water daily.**
- Replace perches, dishes and toys when worn or damaged, and rotate new toys into the bird's habitat regularly. Make sure there are no habitat parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead-based paint or galvanized parts, as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested.
- Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes, which are hazardous to your bird's health. Remember, birds are sensitive to smoke and strong odors, so should not be kept near the kitchen.

### Normal Behavior and Social Interaction:

**Handling:** Canaries love to have visual contact with people, however, typically do not like to be handled. Talking and whistling to your bird will provide the interaction and socialization she needs.

**Socialization:** Canaries can be kept singly or in pairs. Typically, females can be kept together without difficulty.

***Because a canary's metabolism is very active, starvation can occur in as little as 24 hours. Food should be available at all times.***

### Grooming/Hygiene:

**Baths:** Provide a birdbath 2-3 times per week. Either provide a lukewarm shallow water bath or gently mist her with lukewarm water from a clean spray bottle.

### Health/Cleanliness:

Please remember that all pets may bite or scratch, and may transmit disease to humans. Keep your pet's home clean and wash your hands before and after handling your pet or cleaning his home. Infants, young children, pregnant women, people with compromised immune systems, and the infirm or elderly are at greater risk of infections and should use caution when in contact with the pet or its habitat. Consult your doctor for more information.

**The information on this care sheet is NOT a substitute for regular veterinary care.**