

Yellow Canary

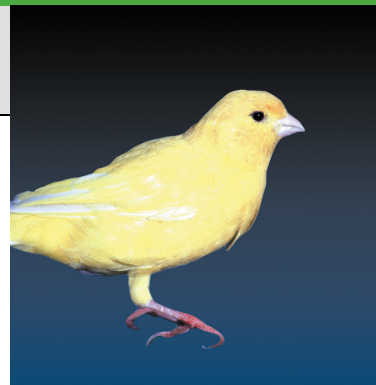
Serinus canarius domesticus



CARE SHEET

Developed with and approved by a Qualified Veterinarian

Canaries are well known for their beauty and varied colors. Male canaries are popular for their sweet singing. Canaries do well when kept singly or in female/female pairs.



Is a canary the right companion animal for you?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Check "Yes" or "No" after reading the following statements:

- I have an appropriate location and space for this bird.
- I will provide a safe environment for this bird.
- I understand that this bird does not require handling or time outside a cage.
- The natural sounds of this bird will be acceptable to family members and neighbors.
- A mature person will provide responsible and primary care for this companion animal.

If you answered, "Yes" to these statements, a canary may be the right choice for you! Continue reading about how to care for a canary and consult with a PETCO associate to learn more. PETCO is committed to responsible companion animal care.

Average Size 3 to 4 inches long

Life Span 10+ years with proper care

Diet Specialized pelleted diets are highly recommended and should consist of 60–70% of the diet; use fortified seeds in moderation as they are higher in fat and less nutritious than pellets
 Assortment of soft foods such as shredded carrots, dark green leafy vegetables, and apple slices; clean, fresh, filtered, chlorine-free water changed daily
 Do not feed birds fruit seeds, avocados, chocolate, alcohol, or caffeine; these can cause serious medical problems

Feeding If your bird is used to a seed diet, convert to pellets gradually; fresh pellets or seeds and fresh, clean, chlorine-free water should always be available
 Fresh fruits and vegetables should be given daily and discarded when not eaten within 24 hours; canaries appreciate quality and variety in their food

Housing Birds acclimate well to average household temperatures; be cautious of extreme temperature change; cage should be placed off the floor in an area that is well-lit and away from drafts
 A 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 your canary as with all animals, it is best to provide the largest habitat possible; a flight cage is strongly recommended
 Perches should be at least 3" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch diameters and materials is recommended to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis
 A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with cage paper or appropriate substrate for easier cleaning; to avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches

Bird owners should avoid non-stick cookware and appliances as they can release fumes hazardous to your birds health

Recommended Supplies	<input type="checkbox"/> Cage and cage cover	<input type="checkbox"/> Bird bath	<input type="checkbox"/> Vitamin supplements
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cage paper or substrate	<input type="checkbox"/> Millet spray	<input type="checkbox"/> Variety of perches
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pellets and fortified seed	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuttlebone	<input type="checkbox"/> Nail clippers and styptic gel
	<input type="checkbox"/> Food and water dishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Treats and grit	<input type="checkbox"/> Book about canaries

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Normal Behavior and Interaction

Male canaries are known for their singing; females tend to chirp rather than sing; males may stop singing during their annual molt, this is normal.

Need room to fly in their cages; a flight cage is good for this purpose

Male canaries should not be housed together; males kept in cages with mirrors may not sing.

Habitat Maintenance

Clean and disinfect the cage and perches regularly; replace substrate or cage liner weekly or more often if needed; replace food and water daily

Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged; rotate new toys into the habitat regularly

Ensure that there are no cage parts or toys with lead, zinc or lead and lead-based paints or galvanized parts as these can cause serious medical issues if ingested by your bird

Grooming and Hygiene

Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing, remove 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

Signs of a Healthy Bird

- Active, alert, and sociable
- Dry nostrils and bright, dry eyes
- Clean, dry vent
- Eats and drinks throughout the day
- Beak, legs, and feet normal in appearance
- Smooth, well-groomed feathers

Common Health Issues

Health Issue	Symptoms or Causes	Suggested Action
Diarrhea	Fecal portion of dropping is loose, weight loss, ruffled feathers. Variety of causes from diet change to internal parasites.	Seek treatment from veterinarian.
Lice or Feather Mites	Restlessness, scratching, feather picking.	Seek veterinary attention
Mites (Scaly Face and Leg Disease)	White deposits on eyes, beak, legs, and feet.	Seek veterinary attention.
Pox	Mouth lesions, face scabs.	Seek veterinary attention.

Red Flags

- Beak swelling or accumulations
- Wheezing or coughing
- Eye or nasal discharge
- Fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers
- Runny or discolored stools
- Red or swollen eyes
- Sitting on floor of habitat
- Favoring one foot
- Loss of appetite

If you notice any of these signs, please contact your avian veterinarian.

Sources

Avian Medicine: Principles and Application by Ritchie, Harrison, and Harrison
The ASPCA Complete Guide to Pet Care by David L. Carroll
The Simple Guide to Bird Care and Training by Julie Rach

Note: The information on this Care Sheet is not a substitute for veterinary care. If you need additional information, please refer to the above sources or contact your veterinarian as appropriate.