

## Covering Up At Night

It is advisable to cover the cage during the night. Covering at night is particularly important because it provides darkness and assures the canary a good night's sleep. Ten to twelve hours of darkness per day are recommended for canaries. The cage cover will protect your pet and, once started, this practice should be continued. Cage covers are available at your pet store.

## Health Care

The bird should stay alert and lively. With good care, a canary will live 10 years or longer. If ill, your bird will puff up its feathers and stop singing. Birds puff their feathers to help retain body heat. Wet beaks or swollen eyes are also signs of illness. Get to know your bird, its actions, habits, songs, and peculiarities. Any radical change may signify an illness. Canaries can get asthma, colds, or bronchitis. Wheezing is a sign of these disorders. If detected, keep the bird warm and stop the daily baths.

Constipation can generally be controlled with a balanced diet and greens, such as spinach, lettuce, and dandelion leaves. Green-white liquid droppings are an indication of diarrhea and requires fast attention. Dehydration can occur rapidly and places the bird's life in jeopardy. Withhold fresh fruits and greens until the condition subsides. Also, remove the gravel at any signs of bird illness. Any of the above conditions that persist for over 24 hours require veterinary care. Call your pet store for the name of an avian veterinarian.

Cage cleanliness is a very important factor in maintaining a healthy canary. Clean your

pet's cage frequently and regularly scrape built-up fecal matter from the perches.

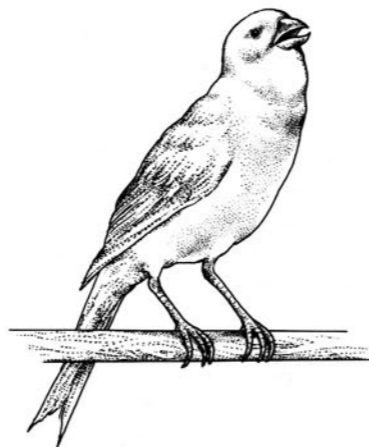
Molting is a normal loss of feathers which takes place in late summer and early fall. During molting, canaries will stop singing. Use a special molting food to help new feathers develop.

## SPECIAL WARNING!

"Non-stick" coatings on pots and pans will cause canaries and other birds to die if an empty pan is kept on a hot burner. Rather than burning, the coating is transformed into a gas which is highly toxic to all birds.

## Finally

This informational pamphlet is not a substitute for a good book or veterinary care. Visit your pet store for a selection of books on the responsible care and maintenance of your pet canary. Your pet store is the one source of essential information and supplies for raising your canary.



## MY CANARY

Canary's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet Checks	Date	Care Prescribed
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

### Food:

Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Frequency \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(IMPRINT PET STORE STAMP BELOW)

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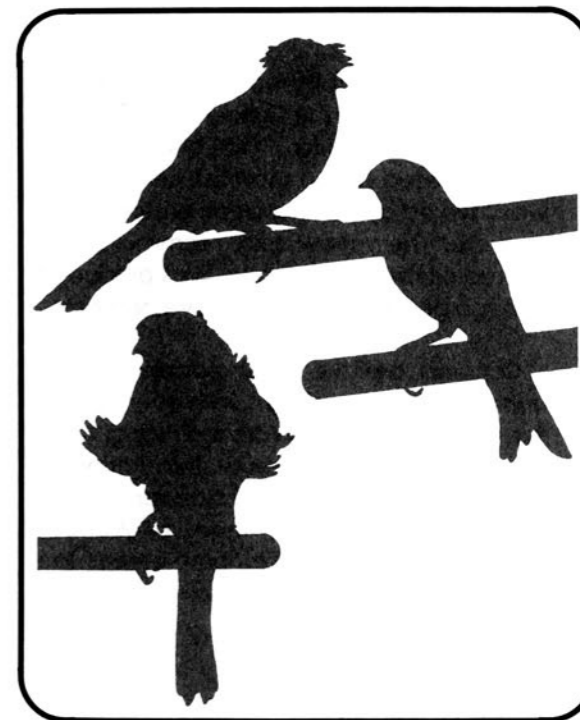
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# TAKING CARE OF YOUR CANARY



PET INFORMATION BUREAU

"WE CARE ABOUT PET CARE"™

"WE CARE ABOUT PET CARE" and we know you do, too!

That's why we're including this care and handling brochure with your new canary. This guide will answer many of your questions and will help you to take good care of your bird. Sometimes you will have to consult your local veterinarian on health problems. You, your veterinarian and your pet store will form the team which will be responsible for your bird's well-being during its lifetime.

## History

Canaries are small greenish-colored song-birds originating in the Canary Islands off the coast of North Africa. This bird was first domesticated during the 15th century and was favored by the European aristocracy of that era. The yellow color, commonly accepted as the normal color, was produced through generations of selective breeding.

Canaries are the most popular of the domesticated song birds, with over 10 million delighting owners with their song, trusting disposition, and beauty. In addition to the normal yellow variety, colors range from grayish-green, deep orange, bright red, white, to blue-and-white. Some breeds, like the Gloster canary, even have bang-like crests on their heads.

## Singing Ability

The male canary (or cock) is renowned for his brilliantly clear and melodic song style. Over time, this special quality has been enhanced through breeding and training. Female canaries (or hens) do not usually sing, although they sometimes twitter.

There is no easy way to sex canaries. However, canary specialists can determine which birds are males. Your pet store purchases canaries based on color and sex and can usually guarantee the birds to be the sex represented.

## Housing

You should have a cage picked out for your canary prior to taking it home. Your pet store carries a wide variety of cages, and your pet store counselor is ready to help you find the cage that is just right for your bird. The cage should be roomy and have vertical bars—spaced close enough to one another that your pet cannot put its head through the openings. If you are using a cage that previously housed a parakeet, and has horizontal bars, there is no problem unless the spacing is more than ¼-inch wide.

A roomy cage is easier to clean and is more comfortable for the bird than a cramped cage. It should be kept at adult eye level—never on the floor. Situate the cage in a room which enjoys an even temperature, free of drafts. Position the cage an adequate distance from windows so that the canary does not get too much heat from direct sunlight in the summer or too much cold in the winter.

The cage should be equipped with a water cup, a seed cup, and a treat cup. The treat cup can be used for plain bird gravel, available from the pet store. Charcoal is not recommended unless advised by a veterinarian. It is important that your canary have clean, fresh water at all times.

Perches should afford an easy grasp while also preventing front and back claws from meeting. Two perches are generally suffi-

ent for one bird—one perch at either end of the cage. Place them far enough from the end of the cage so that the bird's tail feathers will not brush against the cage at every turn. If sandpaper perch covers are used, only one perch should be covered.

Your new pet will be placed in a special bird box so that you can take it home safely. Once home, put the box in the cage. The bird will probably hop directly from its carry-box into the cage, but if it needs encouragement, gently pick the canary out of its box and introduce it to the cage. This procedure should be done in a confined space (such as the bathroom) with the door shut to prevent escape. When picking up a canary, simply grasp its body with your entire hand, wrapping your fingers around the body and wings. At first, the bird may seem bewildered and might flutter about wildly in the unfamiliar surroundings. If it doesn't settle down quickly, drape a cover over the top and sides of the cage to give it a feeling of security. After it has been quiet for a while, the cover may be removed. As it regains its confidence, it will start to explore its new home. Total adjustment to the new environment may take a week.

The canary is a sociable bird and may be kept in a mixed aviary along with other canaries, smaller finches, and cockatiels. Males in breeding condition sometimes fight and may pluck each other, though this is usually not a problem in mixed groups. However, if you are keeping your canary with other birds, check each bird daily to make certain they are not pecking one another.

Canaries are extremely sensitive to temperature changes and airborne toxins. The bird should never be exposed to drafts, gas fumes, or odors from strong household cleaners.

## Feeding

Normally, a single canary will consume an average of a quarter ounce of food daily. A good quality canary seed is available at your pet shop. Other seeds such as red rape, hemp, and linseed are good supplements and lend variety to the diet. Fresh greens can be fed to canaries and should be thoroughly washed and dried prior to placing in the treat cup. For treats, try peeled apples, dandelion, lettuce, oranges, and chickweed. Special treats and diets are also available at your pet store—for example, song foods and color foods. Always rinse and dry all seed, treat, and water cups before refilling.

A lava block is important in keeping the beak trimmed and a cuttlebone is an excellent source of calcium, essential for bone growth and refeeding.

## Grooming

Most canaries enjoy a daily bath. This helps keep the feathers in top condition. A small dish or special bird bath should be placed in the cage in the morning to ensure that the bird's feathers will dry prior to roosting for the night. Bird bath sprays, available at your pet store, clean and condition the feathers and add a sheen to the featheration.

Your canary's nails will occasionally need to be clipped. Some pet stores and veterinarians offer this service, but you can easily trim the nails yourself with special clippers. Caution: Do not cut the nails too close to the vein. Bleeding will result and must be stopped through the use of a styptic powder.