



CANARIES

Canaries are available in many different varieties and colours. Canaries range in colour from yellow, green, brown, variegated right through to red and various light shades. Only the male or cock sings. There is no easy way to sex canaries, so ask Pet City about the type of canary to buy. If you want the cock bird, remember a new environment can affect its singing. Some birds will adjust quickly; others may take a month or more to settle again. If the bird is moulting, singing may not start for six weeks or longer.

If kept on their own, cock birds sing better. They should always be kept in a large cage in a room with a constant temperature and free of draughts. Do not position in front of a window.

DIET

A good quality canary mixture can be obtained from Pet City. Grit is essential for digestion and cuttlefish bone should be provided for calcium. Fresh green can be fed, but should be thoroughly washed before given to the bird. Excessive consumption can cause diarrhoea.

We suggest upon purchasing your bird you should treat the drinking water with Sulpha-D for the first three days. This relieves stress and protects the bird against diarrhoea and enteritis. We recommend that you use Sulpha-D once a week.

BATHS

Canaries enjoy a daily bath, which helps keep their feathers in good condition. A small dish in the cage or a mist spray should be used. A canary can live for many years, but some health problems can occur. The most common among these are outlined below.

MOULTING

This is a natural occurrence. The bird will rarely sing at this time as it is under stress. Feed your canary a supplementary food, such as a moulting tonic that will help to grow new feathers. A chill or being subjected to excessive draughts usually causes a soft moult out of season. Keep the bird in a warm room, and treat with a moulting tonic.

This leaflet is just a basic guide. To find out more about your pet, ask Pet City about suitable books.

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TOE NAILS

Overgrown claws must be clipped or they can catch on the wires of the cage. Be careful not to cut the blood vein that runs into the nail.

Sand sheets and perch covers will help keep toenails at the correct length.

MITES

This is a nocturnal parasite that feeds on the bird's blood. Symptoms are itching and loss of weight. Using a spray obtained from Pet City can kill mites.

COLDS

Temperature extremes can cause colds. The canary will seem listless, with dull eyes, loss of appetite and stops singing. Keep it warm and do not bathe. Placing a towel around three sides of the cage and positioning a small 25watt bulb in front should generate enough heat to keep the temperature in the region of 27C. Treat with remedies from Pet City or consult your vet.

WORMS

Worms are one of the biggest killers of birds. A bird can lose condition without the owner even noticing because of its feathers. Regular worming is essential to avoid this problem.

Things you might need:

- **A-Grade Canary Mix**
- **Calcium Bell**
- **Iodine Bell**
- **Sulpha-D**
- **Bird Bath**
- **Sand Sheets & Perch Covers**
- **Moulting Tonic**
- **Bird Mite and Lice Spray**
- **Seed Catcher**
- **Vitamin Supplement**
- **Bird Wormer**
- **Food Treats (Honey Sticks, Millet Sprays)**

