

Canaries are friendly, active, and social birds that can live peacefully in pairs or entire flocks for years! They are colorful and musical birds that will bring years of joy and song to their owners. These guidelines are the basic necessities for your new pet. Please do your research and consult your veterinarian for further guidance.

CAGE SET UP

Canaries must have a well-ventilated wire cage, that is no smaller than 18" x 18" x 22". This size cage is sufficient for a pair of canaries, if set up properly. Canaries flit from front to back, not up and down. The perches must be placed accordingly, in a parallel manner. Be careful to choose a cage that has wire spacing no greater than ½" as canaries are small and will fit through the bars.

BEDDING

Horse pellet bedding, aspen, or corn cob bedding (under the grate) works well. As always, NEVER use cedar shavings with any small animal or bird. It negatively affects the respiratory tracts in small animals.

TEMPERATURE

Room temperature, around 65 – 75°F, is good for canaries. If your house is cooler, you may use a low wattage heat light at night, kept at least 10 inches from the top of the cage for extra warmth. Keep the cage in a safe area, away from drafts and doors.

FOOD AND WATER

Feed your canary seeded foods, NOT pelleted foods. The canaries have been raised on seeds, fruits, and grains; and changing their diet could cause intestinal illness. Happy Hearts Canary Seed or Kaytee Canary Seed are good choices. Keep fresh water and food in their cage at all times.

HANDLING

Canaries are very tame birds; however, they do stress very easily, and it is not recommended that they be handled often. Canaries are enjoyed for their beautiful colors and their singing, and will live happily if they are handled less frequently.

ACCESSORIES

Canaries are gentle birds, that do not need a huge cage. They actually do better in a smaller cage with few accessories. They enjoy mirrors and one or two shiny objects, but do not overcrowd. They need to have their perches parallel, as they jump from front to back, instead of up and down.

Developed in partnership with The Ontario County Humane Society