

## SHOPPING LIST:

- ✗ large cage (min. 80 x 50 x 50 cm)
- perches (varying diameters, springy)
- food bowls
- water bowl
- bowl for bird grit
- bathing house
- bird sand (by MultiFit with limestone and important minerals)
- canary food (premium food)
- Pickstone
- stomach grit
- vitamin supplements
- treats
- fox-tail millet
- nibble sticks
- disinfectant/detergent for cleaning the cage
- book about canaries

## DO I LIKE COMPANY?

Canaries are very social creatures and should be kept together in twos as an absolute minimum. A cock can also live with several hens, yet a pair of cocks will not get on together at all. It is a myth that canaries only sing if they are kept on their own. The opposite actually applies. The males court the females with their beautiful song. The song is controlled by the male hormones and for this reason alone, the females do not sing irrespective of whether they are kept on their own or in groups.

## UNSUITABLE ACCESSORIES

Canaries don't need toys in their cage. On the contrary they are actually disturbed by them. Plastic birds or mirrors are unsuitable substitutes for a partner, can never replace real company and can lead to behavioural problems.

Cage bars wrapped in sandpaper or with insecticide filling are harmful to the birds and should not be used. Extremely smooth bars or plastic bars with sharp edges should also be avoided.

A round cage is not recommended (unless it is a large aviary), since these types of cages are not well structured and do not give the birds any opportunity to retreat. Keeping one male canary in

a small cage (utility cage) for singing training is not appropriate to the species and should not be attempted

## MOULTING

As a rule, canaries renew their plumage two to three times a year. This process is called "moulting". When they first appear, the new feathers are encased in a sheath. The body is put under enormous pressure during this time and the birds can often struggle to fly. Therefore, help your bird by providing lots of peace and quiet, special high protein food (egg feed) and special vitamins (moulting aid), so that a beautiful new plumage can be formed.

## KEEP ME FIT AND HEALTHY

You can tell that a canary is healthy by its clear eyes, dry nostrils and clean, smooth and shiny plumage. The bird should breathe gently and quietly. The claws should be checked regularly to make sure they don't get too long. Regular free flying and the avoidance of excessive feeding keep your bird fit and healthy.

If you notice that your canary is looking unwell you should take it to a vet as quickly as possible.



For more tips and further information on canary visit our website at: [www.maxizoo.ie](http://www.maxizoo.ie)

## My canary

Everything you need to know about canary as pets.

Everything for your pet



[www.maxizoo.ie](http://www.maxizoo.ie)

## AM I THE RIGHT PET FOR YOU?

Canaries are ideal for teenagers over the age of 15. They are very trusting and lively creatures. If a lot of time is devoted to them they become finger to hand tame. There are various breeds, some of which are valued for their extremely beautiful song and others for their distinctive colouring or body markings. The life expectancy of a canary ranges between 10 - 15 years.

## WHERE DO I ORIGINATE FROM?

Canaries originate from the Canary Isles, Madeira and the Azores. They live there in swarms and as pairs during breeding time. However, man has been breeding these birds for the last 500 years and there are now over 300 varieties.



## WHERE'S THE BEST PLACE FOR ME TO LIVE?

Canaries are very active and therefore need a lot of space. For 2-4 birds, the cage should have a floor area of at least 80 cm x 50 cm and measure approx. 50 cm in height. The bigger the cage, the nicer it is for the birds who naturally enjoy being in a large, indoor aviary. The birds also need to be able to fly around the room freely every day.

The most suitable perches are made of natural wood, since the uneven exterior diameter of wood prevents pressure calluses. Where possible, the sticks should only be fixed in place at one end, so that they give slightly when the bird lands just as they would in a natural environment.

Food and water bowls must be secured in such a way that the birds can't soil them.

The birds need to be able to bathe several times a week. A large

"bath house" is therefore one of the essential pieces of equipment needed for the cage. Some birds prefer to spray themselves with lukewarm water.

The cage should stand at eye level in a peaceful location. It must be protected from draughts, cigarette smoke, cooking fumes and other interferences (e.g. television). Don't put the birds too near to the window either, as they have a very low tolerance to changes in temperature. The cage should be made dark at night to ensure that they get 10 hours sleep.

A nesting basket should only be provided if breeding is intended.

It goes without saying that the cage should be kept clean at all times, since droppings and stale food don't just smell unpleasant to human beings, but can also damage the canary's health.

## HOW I SHOULD BE HANDLED?

Canaries are very inquisitive yet very jumpy, too. Therefore, you should get them used to taking treats from your hand both calmly and cautiously. The birds should stay in their cage for the first 1-2 weeks in their new home, until they are well settled in. They are then ready to begin flying around the room freely.

Draw the curtains



## HEALTH CHECKLIST

My canary is healthy if:

- the eyes are not weepy or inflamed.
- the plumage is clean and well preened.
- it has clean, dry nostrils.
- the anus area is clean and free of encrustations.
- the claws should not be too long.
- you cannot feel any lumps or swellings.
- it is lively and has a healthy appetite.

across the windows the first time, for the birds have to learn where the window panes are. A lot of time also needs to be put aside for this. If there are treats in the cage the birds will return to it of their own accord after a while. The more time you spend with your new friends, the quicker they will get used to you, too. Canaries are very inquisitive creatures who would love to be able to investigate as much as possible, so you should keep a close eye on doors and windows. Poisonous plants, containers filled with liquid and anything else that can potentially injure or poison the little birds must also be removed from the "free flight room".

## WHAT DO I LIKE TO EAT?

Canaries are fastidious grain eaters who need a varied diet replicating that of their natural environment. The daily basis for this is therefore 1-2 teaspoons of special canary bird mix. This should be supplemented by some fresh food, such as fruit free from insecticides, vegetables, fodder plants (e.g. chickweed, dandelion or lettuce), fresh twigs and some animal protein (e.g. egg feed). Fox-tail millet and nibble sticks are tasty and keep the birds busy.

The food bowl should be as flat as possible and the husks have to be removed from the food daily so that the bird can find the whole grains. Canaries need stomach grit (tiny stones for grinding the grain down in the stomach) and minerals in a separate bowl. Pickstone or cuttlebones always go down very well.

Fresh drinking water must always be available. Vitamins should be added to the drinking water once to twice a week.

Leftovers from the table, milk, energy-rich nibble sticks, rotten food and greenery growing near heavily congested streets have absolutely no place on the menu.

