Canary

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Canary

Small when compared to other birds kept in captivity, canaries are very hardy for their size and have been favorites with bird fanciers for years. Canaries are members of the finch family of songbirds.

Social and colorful birds, canaries differ markedly by variety in song and coloration and are thus considered to be either song type or color type. There are at least 98 varieties of color type alone. Singing is a behavior generally limited to cocks.

Interesting Facts:

Species:	**Canary**
Habitat:	Azores, Madeira, and Canary Islands
Behavior:	Friendly and gregarious. Generally does not desire handling, but will bond with owner.
Family:	Fringillidae
Genus:	*Serinus canaria*
Size:	3-9 inches, depending on variety; enormous variation in coloration; beak is pale pink to pinkish-gray.
Diet:	High quality canary seed mix, pelleted food. An assortment of fruits and vegetables. Vitamin supplement, mineral supplement, e.g., mineral block, oyster shells, or mineral mix. Sprouted seeds may be offered. Clean water should be available at all times.
Special Needs:	Loves to bathe. Take care in sexing and housing males and females together since canaries are prolific breeders. Attentive parents, both the males and females participate in raising their chicks.

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Owner Challenges:	Can do well in groups, however, males are generally not compatible with each other. When mixing varieties, keep only females together.
Life Span:	10-15 years
Average Cost:	$65-$400 but will vary depending upon variety and sex.

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