**Canary – Care Sheet**

**Canary/Finch:** *Serinus canaria*

Bred in captivity for several centuries, canaries were once owned by royal families throughout Europe as a status symbol. Thankfully, everyone is now able to enjoy these delightful birds, which are known for their singing and bright colors. While there is likely a canary in the color you want and the type of voice you want, it is important to take some simple steps, no matter which type you choose.

**Basic Info**

Age: 5-10 years, although it is not uncommon for a canary to live several years longer

Size: 4-8 inches

Weight: 0.4-1 oz.

**Behavior**

While canaries sing beautifully, they are not birds that like to be handled much. These little guys are quite nervous. They are also quite territorial, which is why we recommend that you only keep one canary to a cage. More than one in a cage could lead to constant fighting. If you adopt a canary, you should expect to get your enjoyment from watching it and listening to it sing.

**Diet**

Canaries mostly eat a seed-based diet in the wild, but they are able to eat a much larger variety than we can provide in captivity. We recommend offering a seed mix with a variety of different types of seeds, but also a pelleted diet. Pellets are a more balanced option and keeps a bird from picking out the foods they like. You should supplement that feed with fresh vegetables like leafy greens and small pieces of fruit. Canaries also enjoy carbohydrates, such as rice and sweet potatoes, but too much can cause obesity. This can lead to a host of health problems. Always provide fresh, clean water. We can answer any questions you have about providing a diet that will keep your canary happy and healthy. In some cases, it may be necessary to supplement its food with vitamins. We can help you understand your options.

**Environment & Caging**

Like most birds, it is important to provide your canary with the largest cage possible. This will give it the opportunity to spread its wings, fly around, and get plenty of exercise. A healthier canary will sing better! If you want to have more than one canary, you should keep each in its own cage to prevent territory disputes.

Canaries need to feel comfortable to sing, and it will take them

a bit to get acclimated. Place your bird’s cage in a well-lit area free

from drafts, and also where there is a spot in its cage that remains shaded. If you place the cage in a well-trafficked part of your home, you should cover the cage at night with a sheet. Make sure the cage has plenty of spaces for it to perch, and place a bird bath in the cage a few times a week.

**Veterinary Care**

We recommend a physical examination every 6-12 months. We can perform a fecal examination, order blood work if necessary, and make sure your bird is receiving the proper nutrition. Canaries can stop singing for a variety of reasons, such as a change in scenery or diet. However, it could also be the sign of a serious illness. If you suspect something is wrong, please do not hesitate to contact us!