

About Doves

Doves, depending on species, vary in size from 7-12 inches and can live 10-20 years with proper care. Doves are easy to care for birds that are readily available in a variety of different species. It is best to keep doves in small groups of 2-3 (or more).

Preparing your doves home

Generally, doves do best at an average room temperature- about 65 °F to 75 °F (temperatures should NEVER exceed 80°F). Cages should be placed in a well-lit area that is free from drafts, heat & air conditioning sources, and direct sunlight from windows. Doves should be provided with space to fly so a large enough flight cage with a bar spacing of no more than 3/8" apart is recommended. Your bird's home should feel safe and secure so it is best to keep your bird's cage away from other pets and the cage should be covered at night. The cage should include:

- Multiple perches of various diameters should be placed at different heights inside the cage.
- The addition of toys is very important to add mental stimulation.
- Food and water dishes.
- A cuttlebone will provide necessary calcium as well as keep your finch's beak in good condition.
- A shallow dish with water for bathing should be offered at least 3 times per week. As an alternative, you can use a spray bottle filled with luke-warm water to bathe your birds.

Diet

Commercial pellets and/or fortified seeds should make up 60-70% of your doves diet. Doves should be offered finely chopped fruits and vegetables daily. Water dishes should be cleaned and re-filled with fresh water daily. Filtered or bottled water is preferred. NEVER give any pets distilled water! NEVER feed any pet birds fruit seeds, avocado, chocolate, caffeine, or alcohol as they can cause serious illness and even death.

Other Information:

- ALL pet birds are sensitive to fumes that are emitted when non-stick cookware is overheated. Please keep all pet birds as far away from cooking areas as possible as these fumes cause RAPID death.
- Birds on a predominantly all seed diet should be given a multivitamin specific to birds. Vitamins should be added to drinking water daily according to package instructions.
- If your bird is on an all seed diet and you wish to convert him/her to a pelleted diet, you should do so gradually by mixing the seed together with the pellets and gradually increasing the ratio of pellets to seed until you have completely converted to pellets. It is very important to monitor your bird's weight during this process!!!