

About Finches

Finches are small, easy to care for birds that are readily available in a variety of different species. The average, captive life expectancy ranges from about 4 to 7 or more years. They are fairly-quiet, active birds that do not tolerate handling very well. Handle only as necessary such as when trimming nails or cage cleaning. Finches do best in groups of two or more.

Preparing your finches home

Most finches require a room temperature of about 65 °F to 75 °F (temperatures should NEVER exceed 80°F) and are sensitive to temperature changes. As such, cages should be placed in a well-lit area that is free from drafts, heat & air conditioning sources, and direct sunlight from windows. Finches need room inside their cages to fly, so a flight cage, no smaller than 24"W x 14"D x 18"H, with bars spacing 3/8" apart, is the minimum requirement for 2-3 finches. Your bird's home should feel safe and secure so it is best to keep your bird's cage away from other pets. 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 finches diet. Finches should be offered fresh fruits and vegetables daily and will enjoy a millet spray as a treat. 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!!!