

# Clark's Pet Emporium

## Canary Care Sheet



*Species - Canary*  
*Color - Albino, White*

Clark's Pet Emporium has taken pride in sharing quality pets with our community for over 40 years. Now you can give your pet the very best care, from our home to yours, with Clark's Care Sheets.

The Canary care sheet will provide you with basic knowledge to begin your new life with a bird, ranging from diet to habitat and bird husbandry. For further details regarding specific species care, please contact Clark's with your questions and concerns.

### Is a canary the right pet for you?

Please take a moment to ask yourself the following questions:

- Do you enjoy spending a fair amount of time at home where your bird will live?
- Are you the type of person that will avidly clean a pet's habitat every day / week?
- Are you willing to make fundamental changes to your lifestyle to ensure your pet's safety if necessary?
- Can you tolerate loud, vocal pets?
- Do you have large, well-lit space to house a bird cage?
- Do you prefer to spend quality time dedicated to entertaining a social, lovable animal?
- Does your lifestyle and / or future lifestyle support the fact that this pet will be a part of your family for the next 10-20

If you answered "absolutely!" to ALL of these questions, read through the rest of this care sheet and visit your favorite Clark's location to inquire about adopting a Canary.

### Shopping Check-List:

- Canary book / reading material
- Appropriate sized enclosure with bowls
- Enclosure substrate / paper
- Variety of different perch sizes and materials
- Cage cover
- Bath container and / or sprayer
- Diet supplies - Seed, pellets, and nutrition supplements
- Proclivity supplies - Cuttlebone, millet, chew toys
- Millet and cuttlebone clip
- Avian-safe cleaning supplies



*Canary - Red Factor*

## Dietary Needs:

- Seed diet - Canary seed is available in several brands and mixes
- Pellet Diet - Canary Pellets (natural or flavored)
- Fresh fruit and vegetables - Collard greens, Parsley, Kale, Carrot, Mango, Pear, and Papaya are a healthy habit once per week or more
- Treats - Dehydrated fruit cubes, Sunflower seeds, Pumpkin seeds, Treat Cakes
- Fresh, cool water
- Millet Spray seed clumps
- Cuttlebone is essential for chewing and calcium



Canaries are social animals!

## Housing:

- Canaries require a horizontal flight cage at least 24" wide and 16" deep for a pair of birds
- Enclosure must be an actual bird cage - powder coated with no more than 1/4" bar spacing
- Direct sunlight is physically and mentally healthy for all birds - house your bird in a well lit area and allow daily access to sun and shade
- Housing should be placed in a draft-free room - Drafts can negate the fluffy down feathers that birds use to stay warm during cool times
- Avoid housing a bird in high-traffic areas that will prevent the bird from acclimating, but take care not to isolate him either!
- Place toys, perches, and bowls in the cage providing a wide assortment of stimulation, but do not over clutter the living space
- Always keep a large water source for the bird to bathe

## Cleaning and Maintenance:

- Routinely remove soiled food and water every day, replacing with fresh food in clean bowls
- Perches, toys, and cage will need to be cleaned about once per week, as canaries have fast metabolisms and produce much waste
- Use hot water to scrub housing, or use an avian-safe cleaning product like Aviclean only!
- Some canaries can stress out! If so, you may need to clean with a dust pan instead of a loud vacuum

## Safety Tips:

Avoid animal toys with twined string. These strings can fray and pose a hazard to your bird's legs and feet! Stick to plastic, wood, and metal made with pet-safe paints and dyes.

Teflon (non-stick) coated pots and pans are the number one killer of domestic birds! They release lethal fumes when heated. Make sure you only use stainless steel and cast iron implements!

House fans rotate with enough inertia to cripple or kill any birds on impact. Even a clipped bird can gain enough thrust to fly into a fan accidentally. Turn fans off!

Avocado, apple seeds, and fruit pits contain arsenic! They are lethal to all birds! Chocolate, caffeine, and alcohol are also toxic. Do not allow access to these substances!

## Feeding Practice:

- Ensure canary seed mix and water is always available fresh every day
- Either mix canary pellets into seed bowl, or provide a separate bowl
- Provide fresh vegetable / fruit mix at least once per week
- Allow 3 hours for fresh consumption, then remove the vegetables and fruit - bacteria start to grow on this food after about 3 hours

## Let's Have Some Fun:

- Unlike many animals, socializing and play are essential for birds' health!
- Birds are very social animals - take time to talk to your canary regularly during cleaning, feeding, and socializing. Many birds, including canaries, may even start vocalizing and singing in your presence!
- Go slow - it may even take a few months for your canary to accept your presence, or even acknowledge you in a friendly manner without stressing out
- Birds love new experiences - Create toys for them. A crumpled piece of paper with a seed in the middle is an avian favorite!
- Canaries are small, agile birds. Most canaries tend to enjoy a swinging perch to rock on throughout the day
- A mirror perch may provide social entertainment for canaries and may help a single male feel more secure



## Clark's Pet Supply

11200 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87112

Phone: (505)-292-6288  
Fax: (505)-292-0962



## Clark's Pet Emporium

4914 Lomas Blvd NE,  
Albuquerque, NM, 87110

Phone: (505)-268-5977  
Fax: (505)-266-2306