

CARING FOR YOUR FINCH



Essential information for your new pet

CHECKLIST

- High Quality Feed for Finches
- Aviary or cage with plenty of room
- Cage cover for night time
- Grit to cover housing floor
- Perch
- Water and food dishes
- Bird bath
- Bird toys to keep your finch stimulated
- Cuttlefish or mineral treats for your finch's beak health and shape
- Worming treatment
- Mite and lice spray
- Pet safe disinfectant for cleaning housing
- Treats



NEED MORE PET CARE ADVICE?

Contact your local Pets Domain store and talk to our friendly staff.

STORE DETAILS

STORE:

PHONE:

ADDRESS:

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BASIC INFO

Finches are beautiful and intelligent animals which makes for a wonderful companion and live for approximately 4-7 years. Finches are easy to look after and don't require constant attention. They are a very social bird and love companionship.

Most common breed of Finch is there Zebra Finch. They're not a 'hands on' type of bird compared to budgies or cockatiels, however have sweet quiet chirps and are pleasurable to admire.

FEEDING YOUR FINCH

It is vital that your finch gets the required nutrition for growth, health, and adult development. Choose a good quality bird seed or pellets to provide all the nutrients and vitamins required for healthy development, and assists in the prevention of disease. Feeding the right food throughout your finch's life will assist in fighting various health problems.

Provide cuttlefish or mineral stones at all times for your finch as it's a great source of calcium and helps with your finch's beak health and shape.

Avoid feeding your finch avocados, fruit seeds, rhubarb, chocolate, onions, raw or dried beans, eggplants, cherries, beetroot, cabbage, and oxalis.

Always keep fresh water available for your finch and change daily.

AVIARIES & PERCHES

Finches are usually housed in aviaries or cages, however, aviaries are the preferred housing option as they provide a lot more room for you finch to exercise. When choosing a cage, try and choose the biggest cage you can allow space for, and enough room for your finch to stretch it's wings and fly. Finches tend to fly back and forth compared to up and down, so a longer housing option will be more suited. Your finch shouldn't be able to fit it's head through the bars, and the cage should be strong enough so your bird won't be able to slip through the bars.

Place the housing option off the ground in a well ventilated area, and away from any drafts and direct sunlight.

Cover the flooring of your finch's aviary with grit and clean the aviary at least once a week, including emptying and replacing the grit.

Most cages and aviaries come with a perch, but usually the perches are smooth so it's good to add a perch that is fairly rough to help nails from over growing and lesions forming on the skin. Perch covers and mineral perches are available from our stores.

TOYS & EXERCISE

As finches love to fly, too many toys in the housing can clutter the space. Choose no more than one or two toys for your finch to interact with. Finches love swings and are good for exercise.

HEALTH

Finches that live in aviaries should be wormed every three months, and inside finches need to be wormed at least twice a year.

To prevent mites and lice, treat your finch every 6 weeks with a mite and lice spray. Spray your finch according to the instructions on the bottle, and on the cage and toys. Be sure to remove any food and water prior to treatment.

A healthy finch will have smooth, well groomed feathers, eat and drink regularly, be active, beak and feet look normal, bright, dry eyes, and dry nares.

Vet visits may be required when your finch is looking ill. Keep a close eye on your finch for any of the following symptoms: not eating, puffed up feathers, sleeping excessively, throwing up, abnormal droppings, sitting low or at the bottom of the aviary/cage, and discharge from nostrils, eyes or beak.

Common illnesses and diseases associated with finches include:

- Malignant Tumors, Lymphomas, and Fatty Tumors. These may be cause from seed only diets, and can be benign or cancerous.
- Goiter is from a lack of iodine, and causes the thyroid gland to enlarge.
- Megabacteria is a large organism which causes a bird to lose it's strength, energy and appetite very quickly.