

# Finch

Finches are charming and delightful pets perfect for almost any space or schedule. They prefer their own company, which makes them an ideal pet for someone with not a lot of time or someone who prefers to admire their pets as opposed to pets that snuggle or need daily walking. Some of them are enchanting songbirds, and caring for finches is easier than you think.

- **Common Name:** Finch
- **Scientific Name:** *Fringillidae*
- **Distribution:** All over the world.
- **Size:** 0.28 – 0.41 oz
- **Life Span:** 5 to 12+ years

## Habitat

Length is the key to a great finch habitat. Finches need room to fly horizontally more than they need vertical height. This is important because it is their only form of exercise. A pair of finches should have a minimum of 30 inches lengthwise.

Cages should be located in quiet areas with low foot traffic to minimize stress on the birds. Cage linings are usually newspaper or kraft paper. Expect to clean the cage weekly and fully disinfect the cage once per month.

Finches are not big fans of toys, but they do enjoy perches and swings. Since the birds fly horizontally, make sure these items do not interfere or block the flight path. Keep them away from food and water sources so falling droppings do not contaminate their dietary items

## Lighting

Finches need sunlight to stay healthy. If you place their cage by a window with direct sunlight, make sure a shady spot is still

available. In the absence of direct sunlight, the bird cage (or smaller temporary cage) can be placed outside or you can install a bird cage light.

There is some debate over whether UV lighting is necessary for finches. Many owners never use it and experience no problems. If your finches never see sunlight, it's generally recommended to install something like this that will provide both UVA and UVB light. finches need these types of ultraviolet light for various reasons and it will help to keep them healthy and for them to metabolise various essential vitamins and minerals.

### **Substrates**

Newspaper is commonly used to line the cage floor, as it is cheap and easy to maintain, but it should be replaced every day as finches have high hygiene standards. Other possibilities include pine shavings and even crushed corn cob. Aromatic materials like aspen shavings should be avoided as they can cause respiratory problems in finches. Bedding should be changed twice a week, and the whole cage should be thoroughly cleaned periodically.

### **Nutrition**

Finches need a balanced diet, which can be found in finch pellets that cover full nutritional needs. They can also be fed seed with fresh food offerings, which usually consists of boiled eggs with shells, vegetables and fruits. Cuttlebone is occasionally added and can help with maintaining their beaks.

Fresh food can be offered at the beginning or the end of the day to mimic the natural foraging periods of finches. If the birds do not eat the fresh food after a few hours, remove it from the cage and

discard it. Change the food daily to minimize bacteria and contamination.

Food and water containers should be stainless steel or non-toxic plastic to minimize bacteria and contamination. It's also a good idea to have a spare set; when cleaning the existing containers, you can replace them with the extra ones. Food and water dishes can be located on opposite ends of the cage to increase exercise.

This is only a basic care sheet,

Please continue to educate yourself on your new family member.