



All Creatures Animal Hospital

1894 Ohio Pike
Amelia, OH 45102
513-797-7387

8451 Beechmont Ave
Anderson, OH 45255
513-474-5700

5194 Beechmont Ave
Cincinnati, OH 45230
513-231-2345

Passeforme Birds As Pets

Finches and Canaries

Average Lifespan: 10-15 years

Diet

- Pelleted diets are often a good choice for birds as they are nutritionally balanced.
- Seeds can be a nutritious part of the diet, but are high in fat so should only supplement a pellet diet.
- A variety of fresh vegetables (carrots, broccoli, corn, spinach, beans, etc.) and fruit should be offered daily even if your bird does not eat them at first.
- A mineral block and cuddle bone should be made available at all times to supplement calcium into your bird's diet.

Grooming/Bathing

- Nails and beaks must be trimmed regularly.
- Offer a chance to bathe in a shallow bowl of water or misting feathers weekly.
- Wing clipping is not recommended as finches do not like to be handled by humans and prefer to remain in their cage.
- Molting, a shedding of feathers, will occur about every six months.

Housing Recommendations

- Tall wire caging should provide enough room for exercise (including flight) and many toys.
- The spacing of the cage bars should be 1/2 inches or less.
- Horizontal cage bars offer the best opportunity for climbing and exercise.
- These birds prefer to be housed in groups.
- Provide a nesting box for your bird to go in and out of.
- Cover the cage at night to allow the bird to sleep. Sleep is important to maintain a healthy bird!

Annual Exam Recommendations

- This time spent with our exotic veterinarian allows us to form a preventative plan for your pet. We can analyze your current husbandry and make suggestions.
- Fecal examinations check for internal parasites.
- Physical examinations by our veterinarian are needed.

Senior Screening

- Blood work may be recommended for your older bird if it appears ill.

Common Medical Conditions

- Internal parasites can occur causing diarrhea and loss of appetite.
- Respiratory infection can occur causing eye and nasal discharge.
- Malnutrition can easily result so diet should be discussed with the veterinarian.
- Stress-related disease can occur such as feather plucking.
- Kidney disease can also affect your bird causing weight loss and lethargy.

- Psittacosis infection, caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia psittaci*, may cause greenish diarrhea in your bird along with loss of appetite, ruffled feathers and/or respiratory problems. This is transmittable to humans and some birds may be carriers without showing illness
- Birds are susceptible to mites so it is important to watch for any signs of itching especially if accompanied by a scaly appearance around the feet and/or beak
- It is important to get your bird to the veterinarian as soon as any signs of illness present. Watch for any changes such as excrement color changes, a puffed up appearance, loss of appetite, and lethargy