# Our Guide to Caged Birds

## FEEDING YOUR BIRD

A food which is specifically designed with seeds from the birds natural environment is the best for the bird .

Food should be given fresh daily.
Honey sticks, millet sprays and other treats can be given however fresh fruit should be given sparingly.

Clean fresh water should always be available.

Birds should always have access to grit as this helps them digest their food.

## PERSONALITY

A pet bird is a sociable family pet.

Birds can become very tame with time & patience.

Many varieties will learn to talk and all have individual personalities for their chosen likes & dislikes.

## LIFE EXPECTANCY

Budgies live approximately 7 years
Canaries live approximately 10 years
Finches live approximately 5 years
Cockatiel's live approximately 15 years

## CAGES

The bird should be able to stretch its wings and fly from one perch to another, climb & play in the cage.

Their should be several perches of different thickness to allow the bird to exercise it's feet.

The cage should be in fresh air but away from draughts or direct sunlight.

## HANDLING A BIRD

It is important to let your bird get use to it's new environment. Talk to it softly and gently.

After a few days you may put your hand into the cage, let your birds curiosity do the rest.
They will eventually come and perch on your finger.

Do not make any sudden movements as birds are easily frightened.

After two - three weeks you can let your bird out to stretch its wings, ensure all the windows and doors are closed, curtains are drawn and no other pets are in the room.

The best time to do this is early evening as it goes dark the bird will return to it's cage.

## HEALTH & FITNESS

Cage Birds love to bath, it stimulating them to preen their feathers, use a warm water and plume spray mixture.
The temperature of the water should be tested on the back of your hand.

Birds can catch colds and pneumonia especially in winter, signs are sneezing or wheezing and runny eyes.

A sudden change in diet or too much fresh fruit and vegetables can cause cage birds to have loose watery droppings.

Cage Birds may pluck their own feathers, this can be caused by poor nutrition, boredom or lack of activity.

Once started this can be hard to stop, time should be spent with your bird provide a variety of stimulating toys a large cage.

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**Market Street, Kidsgrove, ST7 4AB**

**01782 782073**
**e-mail jannoahsark@me.com**

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