

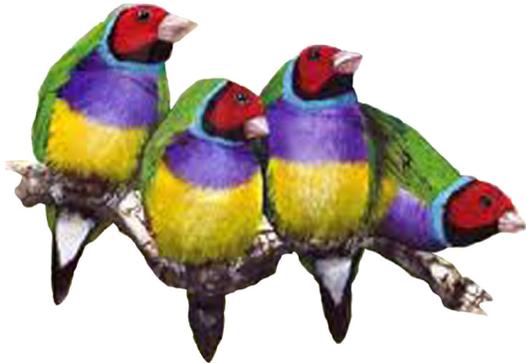
Gouldian Finch Care Sheet

Because we care !!!



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Your Pets Super Store



Congratulations on your new pet. Gouldian finches are the most brightly colored finches but are a bit more difficult to care for and breed than heartier birds, such as zebra and society finches. Therefore, gouldians are not recommended for the novice having little or no experience with captive finches. Gouldian finches, like many other finches, have a beautiful soft chirp, but do not like to be petted or held. They should be kept

in one or more pairs to satisfy their need for social contact. With proper care they will live five to eight years.

HOUSING

Gouldian finches, whether in a cage or an aviary, need the largest flying space affordable. A minimum flying space of 20" x 20" x 20" is recommended. Perches should be at least 3" long and 1/2" in diameter; a variety of perch sizes to exercise feet and help prevent arthritis is recommended. A metal grate over the droppings tray will keep the bird away from droppings; line the droppings tray with cage paper or corn cob litter for easier cleaning. To avoid contamination, do not place food or water containers under perches. Gouldians are easily disrupted by frequent changes in their housing environment or by movement of their cage. Gouldian finches should be kept at a temperature of approximately 70 degrees fahrenheit or more with a humidity level at or above 50 percent. Cold or drafty locations should be avoided. Gouldians need natural sunlight as well as shade. Window glass does not allow beneficial UVB light to pass through it and placing the cage in a sunny window would be harmful as your bird could become overheated. A UVB light should be used.

DIET

The Gouldian's primary food is seed made by Sunseed and Kaytee. Supplement their diet with greens, such as sprouting seeds, chickweed, watercress, and fresh spinach or lettuce (not iceberg). Calcium is important to the gouldian's health. Generally, a cuttlebone, is the easiest method for assuring that this mineral is available. Grit is another important element to the gouldian diet. Insoluble grit assists the bird in digestion of seed. Gouldians, not exposed to

DIET - continued

daily sunlight, should be given some form of vitamin D supplement. Clean fresh water should be available at all times in the cage.

CLEANING

Maintaining cleanliness is essential for your birds health and well being. Remove any uneaten fruits and vegetables daily. Wash and dry food and water dish daily, and fill with food and fresh non-chlorinated water. Once a week, remove the bird to a safe place and wash the cage, perches and toys with Poop Off. Dry the cage thoroughly before returning your bird. Cover the cage bottom with clean cage paper or corn cob litter. If you use a cage cover it should be washed weekly, since it will accumulate feather dust. Replace perches, dishes, and toys when worn or damaged.

HEALTH

Do not feed birds avocados, fruit seeds, chocolate, alcohol or caffeine as these can cause serious medical problems. Provide filtered, chlorine-free, lukewarm water regularly for bathing; remove the water when done; as an alternative, mist the bird with water or a grooming spray. Nails should be trimmed by a qualified person to prevent injury to the bird. Frequent stress can eventually weaken a bird's resistance to disease. Signs of illness would include: Beak swelling, fluffed, plucked, or soiled feathers, sitting on the cage floor, wheezing or coughing, runny or discolored stools, favoring one foot, eye or nasal discharge, red or swollen eyes and loss of appetite. If you notice any of these signs consult your veterinarian.

FERTILITY

Gouldian finches can be bred in captivity.

CHECK LIST

- _____cage and cage cover
- _____food and water dishes
- _____vitamin supplements
- _____cage paper or substrate
- _____bird bath
- _____variety of perches
- _____fortified seed
- _____millet spray and holder
- _____variety of branches
- _____nail clippers and styptic gel
- _____treats and grit
- _____grooming spray