





Doves

Doves are gentle birds who thrive on each others company. Their cooing and “laughter” are a joyful addition to the family. They have specific care needs that must be met over the twenty years they will live. Guardians must provide protection from excessive heat, rain, and predators.

In addition to feeding the seed mix created for them, they do well when given fresh foods such as cooked peas, cooked yams and fresh grasses. At times, they show an interest in oyster shells, inline with egg producing periods. However, salt and mineral blocks, the type used for large animals and available in feed stores, will give them the needed calcium as well as other minerals their diet may be missing.

Doves need clean water at all times . They enjoy taking baths and we recommend placing a bowl of water in their habitat at least once a week for bathing. It is important to place water dishes, as well as food dishes, in places where they will not become soiled. It is important not to use galvanized metal; it will cause zinc poisoning.

Doves need room to fly. Though they are ground birds, meaning they eat on the ground, they need to be able to exercise. They also need perches. As with all birds, sanitary conditions help prevent disease. Doves can get sick. If a change in feeding or behavior is noticed, doves should be seen by an avian veterinarian.

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