

Towards the Crowning Podium

The Moults is the Real Beginning

As the breeding season comes to an end and the curtain slowly falls on production, the canary enters one of the most critical periods in its annual cycle — the moult, or feather replacement stage. Far from being a simple physical transformation, moulting is a complex biological and physiological process that demands careful management if breeders are to maintain health, feather quality, and future exhibition potential.

For ambitious fanciers aiming for success on the show bench, the moult is where the foundations of victory are truly laid.

The Importance of the Moults

Moulting is the natural process through which old feathers are replaced with new ones. It is hormonally regulated and closely linked to changes in daylight hours and seasonal climate conditions. During this demanding phase, the bird expends considerable energy and consequently becomes more vulnerable to stress, fatigue, and reduced immunity.

Proper management during the moult is therefore essential to ensure the development of strong, silky, well-structured feathering.

Creating the Right Environment

Success during the moult begins with providing the correct housing conditions.

Good ventilation is essential to maintain fresh air circulation and reduce excess humidity, while strict cleanliness helps minimise the presence of parasites and harmful bacteria. Lighting, whether natural

or artificial, should also be carefully managed to maintain the bird's biological rhythm.

Equally important is providing sufficient space for movement. Housing birds in small compatible groups — or individually where possible — helps reduce stress levels and promotes overall wellbeing during this sensitive period.

Nutrition: The Foundation Stone

Feather growth requires a substantial nutritional investment from the bird, making diet one of the most important aspects of moult management.

High-quality proteins are essential for feather formation and can be supplied through soft foods and egg-based preparations. Amino acids such as methionine and cysteine play a particularly important role in feather strength, texture, and finish.

An adequate supply of vitamins and minerals is equally critical, especially Vitamins A, D, and E, alongside calcium and zinc. Consistency is vital — feeding routines should remain regular and uninterrupted throughout the moult.

Water: Often Underestimated

Fresh, clean drinking water should be available daily and renewed regularly. Water plays a crucial role in metabolism and helps the bird eliminate toxins efficiently.

Many experienced breeders also make careful use of supportive water supplements during the moult to assist recovery and feather development.

The Psychological Aspect

The bird's mental state has a direct impact on feather quality.

Stress, excessive disturbance, sudden environmental changes, and unnecessary handling should all be avoided. Calm surroundings and careful observation allow breeders to identify any behavioural or physical abnormalities at an early stage.

A relaxed bird will invariably moult more successfully than one subjected to constant stress.

Prevention is Better Than Cure

A preventative approach is always preferable to treatment after problems arise.

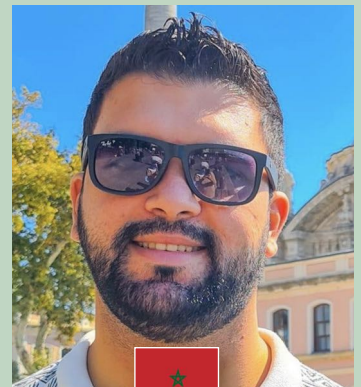
Daily observation remains one of the breeder's most valuable tools. Any bird displaying unusual symptoms should be isolated immediately, and specialist advice sought when necessary.

Maintaining strong health throughout the moult greatly improves the chances of achieving exhibition-quality feathering later in the season.

The Real Start of Future Success

Managing the moult is far more than a seasonal routine — it is an investment in the bird's future. The feather quality developed today will form the basis of tomorrow's success on the show bench.

The more scientific, accurate, and attentive the breeder's approach, the more rewarding the



Hatim Souadka

Moroccan National Judge CNJM
GFCCI Councillor for Morocco

results will be — not only in feather quality, but also in the bird's overall balance, condition, and performance.

To every dedicated breeder striving for excellence and professionalism, we wish you every success for the season ahead.



**Send Us your
articles and We
will publish them
online @
www.gfcci.com
&
On the GFCCI
Facebook page**