

United Bird Societies of Western Australia

Code of Practice

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This code will be promoted as a standard in the community and throughout aviculture generally.

SCOPE OF THE CODE

This code applies to captive birds in avicultural, equally to both native and exotic species.

DUTY OF CARE TO CAPTIVE BIRDS

A person has the care of charge of a captive bird should not use a method of management which is likely to result in unnecessary harm or suffering to the bird.

Such a person who has the charge or care of captive birds should comply with the relevant requirements which include a licence to keep some native and exotic species, some exotic species also require special housing conditions.

For details contact the Department of Conservation and Land Management. Tel (08) 9334 0333.

HUSBANDRY OF CAPTIVE BIRDS

(a) FEEDING

Adequate food suitable for the needs of the particular species held should be available at all times. Food should be fresh and clean, stored in a manner which prevents deterioration, spoilage or contamination.

Feed containers should be constructed of a suitable material and designed in a manner to allow easy access to the food. They should be placed in a position where the contents are least likely to be contaminated by the birds' faeces.

(b) Where applicable to the species a supplementary supply of fresh fruit, vegetables, seeding grasses or other appropriate food should be supplied regularly to ensure a balanced diet.

(c) Mixed grit, calcium and a vitamin supplement should also be supplied.

WATER

Clean, cool drinking water should be available at all times. Water containers should be located in a position where they are least likely to be contaminated by faeces or other foreign matter. Containers should be kept clean and where possible placed out of direct sunlight.

ACCOMMODATION

All housing should be kept in a state of cleanliness that is conducive to the good health of the birds.

Good accommodation should provide:

- Protection from extremes of climate.
- Adequate ventilation to allow clean, fresh air.
- Draft free shelter.
- Protection from predators, vermin and any other type of harassment.
- Well secured wooded perches of varying thickness.
- An adequate number of feed and water suitable stations.
- Adequate floor drainage.
- Adequate sunlight or a suitable alternative.

BIO-SECURITY AND DISEASE

Birds should be observed for ill health or stress. Symptoms of ill health may be observed in a variety of ways.

Signs of ill health include:

- (a) Changes in appearance of droppings.
- (b) Changes in water consumption.
- (c) Changes in attitude or behaviour.
- (d) Changes in appearance or posture.
- (e) Changes in body weight or plumage.
- (f) Vomiting, injury or bleeding.
- (g) Discharge from nostrils, eyes, beak or vent.

Sick birds should be isolated for observation and treatment. If the owner cannot provide effective or adequate treatment, then prompt advice should be sought from a Veterinary Surgeon.

Newly acquired birds should be quarantined away from other stock for a period not less than forty days.

Birds should be given appropriate treatment for internal and external parasites.

If required, overgrown beaks and toenails should be trimmed in such manner as to avoid haemorrhage.

Where leg rings are used, care should be taken to use rings of a suitable size and nature so as not to cause injury to the bird.

MINIMUM CAGE SIZES

These minimum cage sizes apply to household pets or young birds being tamed as such. Exception applies when a bird is sick, injured or being hand raised, where confinement may improve healing and facilitate treatment.

All other birds should be kept in appropriate aviary conditions.

All measurements in centimetres

Category 1

30 wide x 25 deep x 40 high
Lovebird, Budgerigar,
Canary, Finch.

Category 2

60 wide x 40 deep x 40 high
Cockatiel, Lorikeet,
Red rump, Rosella.

Category 3

60 wide x 60 deep x 60 high
Galah, Little Corella,
King Parrot, Princess Parrot,
Indian Ringneck,
Long Billed Corella.

Category 4

70 wide x 70 deep x 90 high
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo,
Major Mitchell Cockatoo,
Alexandrine Parrot,
Eclectus Parrot.

For birds other than the species listed refer to the benchmark species for each category.

Other than category 1, when 2 birds are kept in a cage, the next size cage is necessary. For example, two Cockatiels should be kept in a category 3 cage.

It is strongly recommended that any more than one bird should be kept in an outside aviary.

AVIARY STRUCTURES

- (a) All aviaries or enclosures should have safety doors, that is an exterior door to a small enclosure before passing through a second door to the aviary proper.
- (b) All structures should be securely fastened to a concrete base or posts set into a minimum 300x300x300 concrete footings.
- (c) Mesh should be fixed under breakable sheeting such as PVC, fibreglass or cement sheeting.
- (d) All building material should meet the requirements of the Local Government building regulations.
- (e) The wire netting requirements for various groups of birds:
 - Category 1. Small birds, maximum size 25mm x 12mm mesh size.
 - Category 2. Small parrots, maximum mesh size 25mm x 25mm, wire diameter 1.3mm.
 - Category 3. Medium sized parrots, mesh size maximum 3.81mm x 3.81, wire diameter 1.30mm
 - Category 4. Cockatoos and large parrots, mesh size 3.81mm x 3.81mm, wire diameter 2.5mm.

These details should meet the requirements as laid by the West Australian Agricultural Department to keep some exotic species which also require a licence to keep.

Details can be obtained from C.A.L.M. phone 9334 0440.

CONTAINERS AND CARRY BOXES

- Incompatible birds should not be transported in the same carry box.
- All transport boxes should have adequate ventilation.
- Ventilation holes should not allow the head of the bird to protrude.
- All containers should be totally enclosed on five of the six sides, with mesh only used on one side.
- Birds should only be confined in a container for the duration of transit or overnight accommodation prior to release.
- Food and water should be provided if the birds are likely to be in the box for in excess of two hours.
- Birds should not be overcrowded in containers to minimise stress or injury.
- Birds should not be transported in low / high temperatures.
- It is the responsibility of the club or persons controlling an auction or bird sales to ensure that the boxes or containers holding birds are not overcrowded.