



UNITED BIRD SOCIETIES

OF

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**THE SOCIETIES CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE KEEPING AND MANAGEMENT
OF CAGED BIRDS**

IN

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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This Code of Practice has been written with assistance from West Australian Avian Veterinary Surgeons.

OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- 1. Provision of a forum for all West Australian Bird Organisations to express their views and to contribute to a united effort for the betterment of Aviculture.**
- 2. Provision of Delegates to represent Western Australian on a National Body.**
- 3. Formulation of views and course of action for conveyance to a National Body.**
- 4. Provision of Mediation and/ or consultation on Local, State or Federal Government issues.**
- 5. Instigation of appropriate submissions for amendments to existing or proposed legislation.**
- 6. The gaining of acceptance as a authority on Aviculture issues with Government Departments and Media.**
- 7. To take an active interest and contribute to conservation matters relevant to the interests of the United Bird Societies of Western Australia.**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This Code will be promoted as a standard in the community and through out aviculture generally.

SCOPE OF THE CODE.

This code applies to caged birds in aviculture, equally to both native and exotic species.

DUTY OF CARE TO CAGED BIRDS.

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

Such person who has charge or care of caged birds should comply with all relevant requirements which includes a licence to keep some native and exotic species, some exotic species also have special housing requirements. For details contact the Department of Parks and Wildlife.

HUSBANDRY OF CAGED 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, shored in a manner which prevents deterioration, spoilage or contamination. (containers with firmly fitting lids) Scraps to be removed daily.
- b. Food 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 contamination by bird faeces.
- c. 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.
- d. Mixed grit calcium and a vitamin supplement should also be supplied.
- e.

Water

Clean, cool drinking water should be available at all times. Water sources should be free of contamination. 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 out of direct sunlight. The use of PVC piping that allows accumulation and propagation of infectious organism should be discouraged.

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 .

- a) Protection from extremes of climate.
- b) Draft free shelter.
- c) Protection from predators, vermin and other type of harassment.
- d) Well secured wood perches of varying thickness.
- e) An adequate number of feed and water containers.
- f) Adequate floor drainage.
- g) Adequate sunlight or a suitable alternative.
- h) Adequate ventilation to allow clean fresh air.

BIO-SECURITY and DISEASE

- a) Birds should be observed for ill health. Symptoms of ill health may be observed in a variety of ways, signs of ill health includea) Changes in appearance of dropping.
- 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.

Isolation:

An isolation area should be provided to hold and observe sick. If required diagnosis by a qualified avian veterinarian for effective and adequate treatment.

Quarantine:

A quarantine area should be designed to hold newly acquired birds and those returning to the property from shows or sales for a period not less than 40 days.

This facility should be physically separated from other stock and the isolation area.

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.

MINIMUM CAGE SIZES

CATEGORY 1

300 wide x 250 deep x 400 high
Lovebird. Budgerigar. Canary.
Finch.

CATEGORY 2

600 wide x 400 deep x 400high
Cockatiel. Lorikeet. Red Rump. Rosella.

CATEGORY 3

600 wide x 600 deep x 600 High
Galah, Little Corella.
King Parrot. Princess Parrot.
Indian Ringneck.
and Long Bill Corella.

CATEGORY 4

700 wide x 700 deep x 900 high
Sulphur Crested Cockatoo.
Major Mitchell Cockatoo.
Alexandrine Parrot.
Eclectus Parrot

Pet birds should allowed regular free flight in a safe enclosure for exercise

For birds other then the species listed refer to the bench mark species for each category.

Other than category1, 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 1 bird should be kept in a outside aviary.

AVIARY STRUCTURES

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.

- a) **All structures should be securely fastened to a concrete base or posts set into a minimum 300mm x 300mm x 300mm concrete footings.**
- b) **Mesh should be used under breakable sheeting such as pvc, fibreglass or cement sheeting.**
- c) **All building material should be to the standards of the local government building regulations.**
- d) **Wire netting requirements for various groups of birds.**
- e) **Category 1. Small birds, maximum size 25mm x 12mm mesh. Suitable for Finches, Canary's, Soft bills, Love Birds and Budgerigars.**
- f) **Category 2. Small Parrots maximum 25mm x 25mm Mesh. Wire diameter 1.3mm. Cockatiel, Lori-keet, Red Rump, Rosella.**
- g) **Category 3. Medium sized Parrots, mesh maximum size 3.81cm x 3.81cm, wire diameter 2.5mm, Galah, King Parrot, Indian Ring Neck. Long Bill Corella. Princess Parrot. Little Corella.**
- h) **Category 4. Cockatoos and large Parrots. Mesh maximum size 3.81cm x 3.81cm, wire diameter 2.5mm.**

These details should meet the requirements as laid down by the The Department of Agricultural and Food for some exotic species. Some exotic species also need a licence to keep. (check web site)

Licence details can be obtained from the Department of Parks and Wildlife. Tel. 92199000.

CONTAINERS AND CARRY BOXES.

- a) **Incompatible birds should not be transported in the same carry box, large species ie: Cockatoos should be transported or contained in individual boxes.**
- b) **All containers should have adequate ventilation.**
- c) **Ventilation holes should not allow the head of the bird to protrude.**
- d) **All containers should be enclosed on at least five of the six sides one side only may be covered in mesh if required..**
- e) **Birds should only be confined in a container (carry box) for the duration of show, transit or over-night accommodation prior to release.**
- f) **Food and water should be provided if the birds are likely in the container for in excess of two hours.**
- g) **Electrolytes should be added to the drinking water to lessen the likelihood of stress in the birds.**
- h) **Birds should not be over crowded in the containers to minimise stress or injury.**
- i) **Birds should not be transported in low/high temperatures.**
- j) **Safe and considerate handling should be used during capture for transport or any other purpose.**
- k) **It is the responsibility of the Club or persons controlling the Auction, Bird sale or Bird Show to ensure that the containers (boxes) are not over crowded and are in a clean condition.**

Society Members

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The Avicultural Society of Western Australia.

The Finch Society of Western Australia.

The Geraldton Bird Club.

The Mandurah Avicultural Society

The South West Avicultural Society.

The Zebra Finch Society of Western Australia.