

Code of Practice for Bird Sales

February 2017

1 - GENERAL

1. This code applies to all Avicultural species presented at bird sales held under the auspices of the Victorian Avicultural Council Inc.
2. A copy of this Code of Practice is to be displayed in a prominent position at the entrances of the venue. Copies are to be made available upon request.
3. Sale of birds is to be limited to a maximum of five hours.
4. Only birds and related items are to be made available at these sales, no other vertebrate species are permitted.
5. For the safety of birds other animals including dogs are not permitted to enter the venue, whether on leash, unleashed, contained or carried. *Assistance dogs are permissible.*
6. All sellers are to be made aware of this Code of Practice to ensure compliance, with prior notice that the code will be strictly enforced by the stewards.
7. Out of courtesy photographing of birds is NOT permitted without the permission of the birds owner.
8. Entry to the venue is conditional upon compliance with this Code of Practice by all persons; including buyers, sellers and traders.
9. Bird sales are to be deferred or cancelled if the ambient dry-bulb temperature is predicted to reach 32°C or above on the day of the sale. *The predicted temperature to be used will be the regional temperature of the closest locality to the venue as advertised on the ABC evening television news on the day before the sale. All bird sales advertising should warn members of the public of this condition.*

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2 - VENUE

1. The venue is to be fully roofed and able to be securely closed off to enable the containment of any bird that may escape so that the bird can be recaptured.
 - a. Bird sale organisers are to provide a minimum of two suitable catching nets appropriate for the height of the venue to enable the owners or any sanctioned helper(s) to recover any escaped bird.
 - b. Birds cannot be caught during the sale unless special permission is sought from the bird sale co-ordinator. A secure means of transferring birds from sale to transport cages must be available to prevent escape.
 - c. All transfers are to be within the secure venue, an enclosed transfer aviary, room or other secure facility that does not allow escape of the bird/s.
 - d. Poultry and domestic pigeons may be sold in open venues but must comply with 1c.
2. Organisers of the bird sale are to provide clearly identified stewards that are familiar with this Code of Practice and are to be in continuous attendance at the venue.
3. Stewards have the right to refuse entry to the venue to any person or bird or cage deemed to be in breach of this Code.
4. Lighting levels within the venue are to be conducive to clearly view the birds within their display cage.
5. Bird sale organisers must obtain Public Liability Insurance of at least \$20 million dollars and all incidents, accidents and injuries must be reported to and recorded by the sale organisers and/or ambulance officers if present.

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3 - BIRDS

1. Only birds in good health, sound physical condition, fully feathered and self-sufficient [fully weaned] may be offered for sale. The organisers reserve the right to have a steward or recognised Avian Veterinarian inspect any or all of the birds offered for sale by a seller and, at their sole discretion, shall upon the advice of the steward/Veterinarian determine if the birds shall be allowed to be presented for sale.
2. Transportation of birds should be in accordance with section 5.1 of the Victorian Code of Practice for the Housing of Caged Birds. *It is recommended that birds being transported to and from the venue are to be carried in an enclosed but well ventilated vehicle and only to be confined to a transport cage for a maximum period of 24 hours.*
3. Only one species of bird is permitted per cage. *See 'Cages 4.8' and **Attachment A** for details.*
4. Birds that have been sold by pre-arrangement must not be put on display or exchanged prior to the advertised start time of the bird sale.
5. Poultry [except quail] and domestic pigeons are not permitted, *unless the sale is conducted by an organisation whose principal interest is in these species.*

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4 - CAGES

1. All-wire cages are not permitted to be used by either sellers or buyers to contain birds. If necessary, these cages can be modified for use by enclosing the top, bottom and three sides with a draft proof solid material. Cloth is not acceptable. *An exception to this rule is where the designated governing body for a species has mandated the use of all-wire cages for display purposes.*
2. Only freshly cleaned and well-presented cages are acceptable. They must be free from dirt, dust, old droppings and old stale food and should be a light colour inside (e.g. white, light blue, light green).
3. Cages are to have perches available suitable for the species within (quail and ground dwelling birds excluded) and suitable material on the cage floor to prevent soiling of the birds feathers.
4. The base of all sales cages is to be a minimum of 70cm above the floor level of the venue.
5. Sellers must present their cages with an adequate supply of fresh clean water, seed and/or other appropriate food for the species contained within suitable vessels for the entire period of the sale. *This must be done within 30 minutes of benching their birds. Organisers and stewards **MUST** ensure compliance.*
6. Every buyer of a bird should provide a carry container suitable for the species that is intended to be purchased. *See section 5.1 of the Victorian Code of Practice for the Housing of Caged Birds.*
7. Designated cage sizes and bird numbers per cage are defined in **Attachment A** at the end of this document. *Over-crowded cages will NOT be accepted for display nor will the use of airfreight or carry boxes.*
8. Commercial traders are permitted to sell new all-wire cages as part of their goods however birds are not permitted to be placed in these cages at the sale. All-wire cages purchased must be removed from the sale venue immediately after purchase and must not be taken into the area where the birds are being sold.

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5 - REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

1. Any person in possession of native birds requiring a licence is to produce, upon request, their wildlife licence and record book to authorised officers of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning or members of Victoria Police.
2. Upon transfer of native birds subject to licence, both buyer and seller are to sight and exchange licence details.
3. When purchasing non-licensed birds it is the buyer's responsibility to obtain the name and contact details of the seller as required.
4. Sellers must be aware of and abide by relevant Consumer Laws.
5. The sale of hybrid native species [as defined in the Wildlife Act 1975] is not permitted.

6 - DISCLAIMER

1. The Victorian Avicultural Council Inc.; its affiliates, its officers and/or its committee shall not be responsible for the health or welfare of any birds sold, transferred and/or purchased by any person, where the health of that bird proves to be defective or not up to the standard anticipated by the purchaser.
2. The Victorian Avicultural Council Inc.; its affiliates, its officers and/or its committee shall not be held responsible for any disease or virus that are transmitted by way of any goods sold, transferred and/or purchased at a bird sale organised by the Victorian Avicultural Council Inc. or its affiliates.
3. The Victorian Avicultural Council Inc.; its affiliates, its officers and/or its committee shall not be held responsible for any disease or virus transmitted from a bird to a human being by a bird which has been sold, transferred and/or purchased at a bird sale organised by the Victorian Avicultural Council Inc. or its affiliates.

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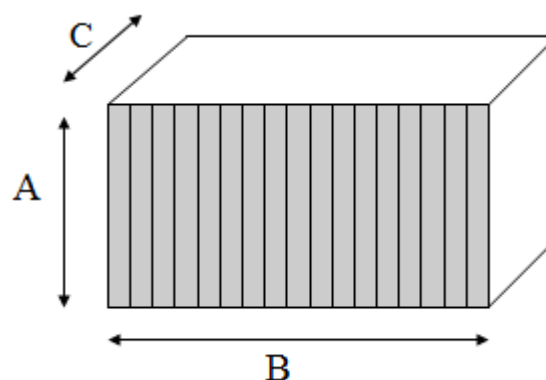
Attachment A

Recommended minimum cage sizes and bird numbers per cage.

Notes:

Overcrowded cages will NOT be accepted. When on the perch birds must have head and tail clear of the top and floor, the total width of all birds must not exceed 60% of the total perch length.

If more birds than the listed number are to be placed in a cage it is recommended that the width or depth is increased by 50% depending upon the direction of the perch for each multiple of the recommended number of birds.



Airfreight and carry boxes are NOT acceptable.

| Size of bird [approx. length] | Number of Birds | Minimum Height [mm] - A - | Minimum Width [mm] - B - | Minimum Depth [mm] - C - |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Up to 100mm e.g. Finch, Small Canary | 2 | 200 | 200 | 100 |
| 100 – 200mm e.g. Large Canary, Budgerigar, Neophema, Varied Lorikeet, Lovebird, Small Dove, King Quail | 2 | 250 | 300 | 150 |
| 200 – 300mm e.g. Rosella, Cockatiel, Conure, Rainbow Lorikeet, Large Dove | 2 | 350 | 350 | 200 |
| 300 – 400mm e.g. African Grey, Small Amazon, Galah, Bleeding Heart Pigeon, Indian Ringneck | 1 – 2 Depending upon species | 450 | 400 | 250 |
| 400 – 500mm e.g. Major Mitchell Cockatoo, King & Princess Parrots, Large Amazon | 1 – 2 Depending upon species | 550 | 400 | 350 |
| 500mm + e.g. Large Cockatoo, Macaw | 1 | 800 | 600 | 500 |