



CANARY AND CAGE BIRD
FEDERATION
OF AUSTRALIA INC.

NSW BIRD SALES AND AUCTIONS
CODE OF PRACTICE
(STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES)



Canary and Cage Bird Federation of Australia Inc. (CCBFA)

Endorsed at the July 2021 CCBFA Assembly

Minor update at the July 2022 CCBFA Assembly

In force from 1st September, 2022

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OBJECTIVES:

The Canary and Caged Bird Federation of Australia Inc. (CCBFA) NSW Bird Sales and Auctions Code of Practice (hereby called The Code or more simply Code) has been developed to ensure the following principles are followed:

1. Primary concern for the welfare of birds
2. Concern for the good standing of the hobby of aviculture
3. Compliance with legislative requirements

PREFACE:

The welfare and conservation of birds kept in captivity is of the greatest importance to the CCBFA and, by association, to all its member affiliated clubs and organisations. This Code sets out the minimum standards that are acceptable in ensuring that birds are properly presented and cared for at all bird sale and auction events.

The use of the term events, for the purposes of and within this Code, refers to all bird sales and bird auctions that are open to members of the general public where birds are displayed and offered for sale.

This Code does not apply to bird shows where birds compete or where the primary purpose is display and promotion of aviculture. Such events are covered by other codes.

This Code does not apply to sales and auctions where the sole species on offer are poultry and/or domestic pigeons (*Columba livia domestica*).

At this time, this Code applies solely to NSW events run by clubs affiliated with CCBFA.

Adherence with this Code is not a legal requirement, rather the intent is robust self-regulation to demonstrate that government regulation is not required.

This Code ensures that bird(s) are housed and cared for in the best possible manner during, as well as whilst being transported to and from events. The intent is to protect all birds from actual and perceived harm or cruelty.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Governments in all states are in the process of developing animal welfare “Standards and Guidelines” documents for a broad range of animal industries, including aviculture. Some states are looking to simply endorse industry codes such as this Code.

The meaning of the term “Standards” and the term “Guidelines” in this Code is as follows.

S1.1 Standards are formatted like this. A standard is an enforceable statement requiring compliance. In this Code it is the event organisers and the Chief Steward who are responsible for ensuring attendee’s compliance with the Code.

G1.1.1 Guidelines are formatted like this. Guidelines are not enforceable, rather they elaborate on standards to provide guidance to Code users. Some guidelines are recommendations that may over time become enforceable standards.

Note: This Code has considered a number of state and territory acts / association guidelines, including the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (or similarly named) Act, as well as considering the RSPCA’s guidelines for caring and housing birds and the Pet Industry Association of Australia’s code of practice. The Code has included important statements from both regarding the care and housing of birds in healthy and safe conditions during bird sales, however, this document specifies requirements for the short-term housing and transport of birds associated with bird sales and auctions – a different purpose to a code intended to regulate long-term housing of birds.

SECTION 1: GENERAL

S1.1 A copy of this Code to be known, accessible and readily available to all event attendees.

G1.1.1 Copies of the Code to be located at all entry and exit points.

G1.1.2 Adherence to the Code should be clearly advised on all event advertising and marketing material.

S1.2 A Seller Registration Form acknowledging acceptance of the Code to be completed by all sellers as a condition of entry.

G1.2.1 "Section 3: Sellers" may form part of the seller registration form.

G1.2.2 Seller Registration Form to include sufficient detail to enable sale organisers to contact sellers.

Note: A sample Seller Registration Form is included as Appendix B.

S1.3 Sellers to be issued with a seller's badge that includes the seller's identification number for the event.

G1.3.1 Seller identification numbers enable buyers to identify sellers.

S1.4 The event organisers must appoint a Chief Steward for the event.

G1.4.1 The Chief Steward may be an Avian Veterinarian.

G1.4.2 The Chief Steward should be clearly identifiable by clothing, badge or otherwise.

G1.4.3 Other Stewards may be appointed to assist the Chief Steward and should be clearly identifiable by clothing, badge or otherwise.

S1.5 The Chief Steward must uphold the Code at all times, is the final arbitrator, and their decision is final. Decisions include the removal of birds and/or attendees from the event for breach of this Code.

G1.5.1 The Chief Steward to consult with the event organisers before removing attendees in breach of this Code.

G1.5.2 Options for correcting Code infractions should be considered by the Chief Steward in consultation with the event organisers and other stewards (if appointed) prior to the removal of birds or attendees.

S1.6 All birds offered for sale at the event to be thoroughly inspected to ensure Code compliance prior to the event start time and then during the event.

G1.6.1 Inspections are to ensure compliance with this Code, in particular all standards within "Section 3: Sellers" and "Section 4: Seller Cages".

S1.7 Inspection of birds for compliance with this Code does not constitute a guarantee by the event organisers or Chief Steward as to the health of any birds. All responsibility for all birds remains with the sellers.

G1.7.1 Event organisers will provide buyers with a phone number or email address of sellers where the specific seller of a bird can be readily identified by the buyer via the seller's badge number or otherwise.

S1.8 Event organisers are not responsible for escape, injury, death or physical condition of birds. All responsibility for birds remains with the seller.

G1.8.1 Event organisers will take all reasonable care to protect the wellbeing of birds at the event.

S1.9 All attendees are to behave respectfully towards each other at all times and must not be affected by alcohol or illegal drugs.

S1.10 All animals, other than birds, are banned from events with the exception of service/guide dogs.

S1.11 Birds must be benched between the dates and times provided in the event advertising/marketing material or as specified by the event organisers.

G1.11.1 Late entries will only be accepted with permission of the event organisers and Chief Steward.

S1.12 The event is covered by a Public Liability insurance policy through the CCBFA. Bird sellers must be a member of a club affiliated and insured with the CCBFA, to avoid exposing the event organisers / affiliated club to liability action in the event of a claim involving a non-member.

S1.13 Commercial Traders must have their own business/public liability insurance and must provide a current copy of their insurance certificate of currency to the event organisers prior to the event.

G1.13.1 The Seller Registration Form to include a question requiring sellers to declare they are a current and financial member of a named CCBFA insured and affiliated club.

G1.13.2 Sellers who are not a member of a CCBFA affiliated club should be invited to join the host club as a full member.

S1.14 Photographing of specific bird(s) is not permitted without the express permission of that bird(s) owner.

S1.15 Photographing of the general sale is not permitted without the express permission of the event organisers.

G1.15.1 Event organisers may alternatively make a general announcement permitting photography at the event, but retain the option to stop individuals where such individual's photography is deemed to be in conflict with the best interests of aviculture.

SECTION 2: VENUE

S2.1 The venue should prevent climate extremes that are inappropriate to the welfare of birds.

G2.1.1 If the venue is air-conditioned, then the event organisers should ensure room temperature of 20-24 degrees Celsius is achieved prior to the start time.

G2.1.2 If the venue is NOT air-conditioned, then the event should be cancelled if TWO days prior to the event the Bureau of Meteorology predicts temperatures on the day will exceed 35 degrees Celsius during the times specified for the event.

G2.1.3 If in the opinion of the event organisers, the weather conditions are predicted to be detrimental to the welfare of the birds, then the event will be cancelled.

S2.2 The venue must be in a fully enclosed space to avoid all bird escapes.¹

G2.2.1 Generally, attempts to catch birds escaped into the venue should not occur until the event has concluded.

G2.2.2 Nets and traps appropriate to the size of the venue should be available to capture escaped birds.

S2.3 Transfer cages shall be provided by the event organisers and used for all bird transfers.

G2.3.1 Event organisers should ensure sufficient transfer cages are provided throughout the venue to prevent undue waiting for sellers and buyers.

G2.3.2 Transfer cages may take the form of small rooms, aviaries, sealed tents and the like.

G2.3.3 Each transfer cage to include a table and catching net suited to the size of the transfer cage.

S2.4 The event organisers must announce immediately prior to the opening of the event and during the event (approximately every 30 minutes) that: "All incidents, accidents and injuries must be reported to the event organisers and/or first aid officers present" or words similar. A record must be kept of all reported injuries.

G2.4.1 An audio system suited to the size of the venue and capable of raising the attention of all attendees must be in place. For small venues voice only may be sufficient.

¹ Existing events in open venues can continue but must relocate to an enclosed venue as soon as possible.

SECTION 3: SELLERS

S3.1 Completion of the Seller Registration Form is an entry requirement and acknowledges the seller's acceptance of this Code and any additional rules/conditions specified by the event organisers.

S3.2 All sellers are ambassadors for the hobby of aviculture and, as such, should act in a professional manner at all times as is appropriate for a public event.

G3.2.1 Sellers should not publicly make any negative comments about fellow sellers or their bird(s) to prospective buyers.

G3.2.2 Any impulse buying of bird(s) shall be discouraged by the seller.

G3.2.3 Sellers must clearly and correctly label/describe the bird(s) they offer for sale.

G3.2.4 Sellers are expected to be truthful when disclosing a bird's age, gender, genetic background, breeding performance and relevant history to any prospective buyer.

G3.2.5 Sellers are encouraged to provide as much information on the bird(s) being sold, e.g. the bird's diet, last wormed, habits, etc.

Note: A sample "Tips for taking your bird home" document is included as Appendix A.

S3.3 Sellers must provide contact details and their seller's identification number to buyers upon request.

S3.4 Each seller is deemed responsible for the sale of their own bird(s).

G3.4.1 Sellers must ensure that only bird(s) in good health, fully feathered and fully self-sufficient can be offered for sale.

G3.4.2 No hybrids may be offered for sale.

S3.5 Pre-selling of benched bird(s) is not permitted. Sellers caught doing so will be asked to leave the event by the Chief Steward.

G3.5.1 Birds previously ordered before the event and transported to the event must not be on public display.

S3.6 Sellers must ensure their seller cages comply with all clauses in "Section 4: Seller Cages" in this Code.

S3.7 Prior to the event commencing, all birds must have fresh water and appropriate food for the species of bird at all times.

S3.8 Sellers must not transfer birds into non-compliant buyer transport cages (refer "Section 7: Buyer Transport Cages").

G3.8.1 Sellers are responsible for ensuring buyers of their birds have a suitably compliant buyer transport cage.

G3.8.2 Trade sellers are encouraged to have a good stock of compliant seller cages and buyer transport cages for the range of species likely to be on offer at the event.

S3.9 Sellers and buyers must abide by any bird licensing conditions required by the relevant state or territory in which the event is held.

S3.10 Bird(s) requiring a licence can only be sold to buyers who have, subject to the current licensing requirements, the necessary licence(s). Where required, licence details must be exchanged by seller and buyer.

SECTION 4: SELLER CAGES

- S4.1 For finch and quail species all wire cages are not permitted. For these species seller cages to be open at the front only. They should be enclosed on both sides, the rear and the top and must be solid and non-transparent.²
- S4.2 It is the sole responsibility of the seller to ensure the safe housing of their bird(s), including protecting them from fright or fear and extreme temperatures during transport and during the event.
- S4.3 One bird species to be held in each seller cage.
- S4.4 There is to be a maximum of 4 birds per seller cage.
- S4.5 Seller cages to be sized to allow the bird(s) to stand erect on the perch with the bird's head not touching the roof and its tail not touching the floor.
- S4.6 Seller cages to have at least one perch, except for cages housing non-perching ground birds.
- S4.7 Seller cages to have sufficient perch space such that less than 60 per cent of the perch space would be used if all birds were perched.
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- G4.7.1 Seller cages must be secure and in good condition with adequate ventilation, freshly cleaned and be of a suitable size for the bird they hold.
- G4.7.2 Seller cages should not be excessively sized. Excessively sized cages are discouraged and may be banned by the Chief Steward.
- G4.7.3 For 'flighty' species (such as doves, quail and pigeons), a padded roof should be incorporated in the display cage.
- G4.7.4 A trend towards the use of standard show cages (or the equivalent) specific to the species being displayed is encouraged.
- G4.7.5 Temporary wire fronted cardboard or similar temporary makeshift cages, airfreight boxes, etc. are unacceptable.
- G4.7.6 Sellers of smaller non-chewing species are encouraged to avoid or modify their 'all-wire' cages by securely attaching cardboard, corflute or a suitable material to the roof, floor, back and sides.
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Note: At all times event organisers aim to promote and ensure high bird welfare standards. Seller cage standards prevent bird overcrowding, simplify bird management and identification, and assists in bird stewardship during the event.

² Approved standard show cages, as specified by the CCBFA endorsed species specific standards, are acceptable for use in all cases. It is noted that show cage standards for large parrots and some canary breeds specify or include all wire cages and these are permitted.

SECTION 5: COMMERCIAL TRADERS

S5.1 Payment of the commercial trader entry fee confirms agreement with this Code and any additional terms and conditions specified by the event organisers.

S5.2 Commercial Traders must have their own business/public liability insurance and must provide a current copy of their insurance certificate of currency to the event organisers prior to the event.

G5.2.1 CCBFA public and products liability insurance does cover claims against commercial traders.

S5.3 Trade stands must not sell small, all wire transport / carry cages, which buyers might purchase on the day to transport birds in.

S5.4 Only compliant buyer transport cages as specified in Section 7 can be sold.

G5.4.1 All wire cages, including flight cages and pet budgie style, may be sold, provided the buyer is informed not to transport any birds in them at the event.

G5.4.2 Trade sellers are encouraged to have good stock of compliant seller cages and buyer transport cages for the range of species likely to be on offer at the event.

SECTION 6: BUYERS

- S6.1 Compliance with this Code in its entirety is a condition of entry to the event.
- S6.2 Responsibility for the welfare of bird(s) transfers to the buyer when he/she completes the sale transaction for the bird(s) with the seller.
- S6.3 Birds are offered for sale to buyers by sellers, not by the event organisers, not by the affiliated club and not by CCBFA. All transactions, guarantees and liability is between sellers and buyers.

G6.3.1 Event organisers aim to ensure high standards for all event attendees, including quality of birds, advice and animal welfare.

G6.3.2 Event organisers will provide buyers with a phone number or email address of sellers where the specific seller of a bird can be readily identified by the buyer via the seller's badge number or otherwise.

- S6.4 Sellers and buyers must abide by any bird licensing conditions required by the relevant state or territory in which the event is held.
- S6.5 Bird(s) requiring a licence can only be sold to buyers who have, subject to the current licensing requirements, the necessary licence(s). Where required, licence details must be exchanged by seller and buyer.

G6.5.1 Licensing of native birds can be complex. Buyers are advised to check licensing conditions prior to considering purchase. Event organisers will be able to direct buyers to relevant licensing information.

- S6.6 Buyers must use transport cages in compliance with Section 7 of this Code.

SECTION 7: BUYER TRANSPORT CAGES (AND CARRY BOXES)

- S7.1 Buyer transport cages must be designed so light can be restricted within the cage during transport, whilst ensuring sufficient ventilation.

G7.1.1 Birds are universally calmer in darkened conditions. Many show cages are designed to be packed during transport such that light is restricted. Commercially available carry boxes include design features to restrict light such as slides to cover open fronts, restricted fronts, etc.

- S7.2 Buyer transport cages do not require perches.
- S7.3 Cages complying with "Section 4: Seller Cages" are suitable as buyer transport cages.

G7.3.1 All-wire cages must be covered during transport.

- S7.4 Buyers must only place compatible species in the same transport cage.
- S7.5 Transport cages must not be visually overcrowded. The Chief Steward is the final arbitrator should there be any misunderstanding.
- S7.6 Transport cages to have fresh water (or moisture source) and suitable food for the species of bird purchased and the length of the journey.

G7.6.1 Cotton wool, or other absorbent material can be used to retain water in containers. Alternatively, Lebanese cucumber and other liquid filled fruits and vegetable are also a good source of moisture.

G7.6.2 Most bird species will eat when under stress, hence supplying feed suited to the species is critical for welfare, as well as nutrition.

TIPS FOR TAKING YOUR BIRDS HOME

1. Keep the bird(s) calm when transporting home after purchase. A covering over the front of the carry cage, such as linen, towel or blanket, will reduce the bird's stress.
2. When arriving home, place birds in a quiet, bright and warm place.
3. If needed, treat your birds with an electrolyte. This will help to re-energise them. Electrolytes should be available at the trade stands.
4. Treat your birds for worms, if they haven't been wormed recently (ask the seller at the time of purchase). Wormers should be available at the trade stands.
5. Ideally, quarantine your newly purchased bird(s) for 7-14 days. Use this time to check their physical appearance, monitor their droppings and food intake, and provide your bird(s) with any necessary treatment, like worm medication.
6. Release your birds into the aviary only if they are looking fit and healthy, and ideally, only after they have been quarantined.
7. Release your birds early in the morning, so they have plenty of time to get used to their new surroundings, including where to find food and water.
8. Keep a careful eye on your new arrivals to see if they have settled in comfortably. Do this for at least the first week.
9. Check that other birds are not being aggressive to the new birds.
10. Give your birds a green and varied diet, and don't overcrowd them with other birds.
11. Follow the seller's information on the bird's previous diet and if possible, try and replicate that diet. Gradually wean the bird across to your diet if necessary.

SELLER REGISTRATION FORM

<Event Name>
<Club Name>

I (PRINT FULL NAME)

of
(STREET ADDRESS, NO PO BOX)

Suburb/Town: Post code:

Email:

Phone/Mobile:

No of Birds benched:

Fee paid:

1. I have read and understand the
NSW BIRD SALES AND AUCTIONS CODE OF PRACTICE (STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES) – the
Code
and agree to abide by all Standards within the Code, including compliance with all
directions of the event organisers and Chief Steward.
2. I declare I am a current and financial member of the following CCBFA insured and affiliated
club.

CCBFA affiliated club name:

Signature:

Date:/...../ 20.....

REVISION HISTORY:

1. Original endorsement at July 2021 CCBFA General Assembly for implementation from September 2022.
2. Minor update at the July 2022 CCBFA Assembly to Standard 4.1 and delete 4.8 to to only exclude wire cages for finches and quails.

