**Part J – Birds**

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| **Condition** | **Guidance** | **Condition met** **YES / NO** | **Officers Notes**  |
| **3.0 Use, Number and Type of Animal** |  Staff must have demonstrable knowledge of the species or a closely related species  |  |  |
| **5.0 Suitable Environment** |  Care must be taken where aviaries or cages are constructed of newly galvanised mesh to prevent heavy metal poisoning, particularly in psittacine birds which will often chew the metal. The licence holder must be able to demonstrate the steps taken to minimise or prevent any poisoning. |  |  |
|  |  Cages or aviaries should be constructed from materials most suited for the species housed and that are easy to clean and disinfect. |  |  |
| **Environmental conditions, including enclosure sizes**  |  All immature arboreal birds, at the point of fledging and for several following weeks, require larger cage sizes in order to stimulate flight.  |  |  |
|  |  Where a bird uses a cage for sleeping, and the vast majority of the day is spent outside of the cage in a flight aviary where it is given the option to fly, then the cage must be a minimum of 1.5x the bird’s flying wingspan for each of the length, depth and height of the cage.  |  |  |
|  |  For birds housed singularly that spend the majority of their time in the cage, the cage width must be a minimum of 2x the bird’s flying wingspan, and the depth and height a minimum of 1.5x flying wingspan. A pair of birds must have enough space to fly past each other with the depth being increased to a minimum of 2x flying wingspan.  |  |  |
|  |  In multiple occupancy cages, for every additional bird over two birds the cage dimensions must be increased by a set percentage per additional bird (either length or width or split between the two dimensions) of the individual’s flying wingspan for that species as outlined in the avian enclosure size increases for multiple occupancy table. Larger sizes are preferred and recommended. See minimum enclosure sizes for birds for examples.  |  |  |
|  |  In the case where the flying wingspan is unknown a rough estimate of 2 to 3 times the length of the bird (bill-tip to tip of longest tail feather) can be used as a guide for flying wingspan.  |  |  |
|  |  Where non-flying birds are maintained, enclosure dimensions must reflect current best practice for the individual species. |  |  |
|  |  Birds that are ordinarily confined to smaller enclosures for the specific purpose of egg-laying or rearing of chicks (particularly chickens and pigeons) are exempted from the cage size dimensions referenced. However, the time kept in these enclosures should be minimised and should not, in any case, exceed 5 months in any one 12 month cycle. Businesses must also provide outcome based evidence to demonstrate that the welfare of the birds is being met with reference to guidance in the rest of this document and ensure that they are complying with the legal requirements laid down in other relevant legislation.  |  |  |
|  |  Where appropriate for the species outdoor aviaries must include sufficient sheltered and non-sheltered space. Shelter must be sufficient to allow all the birds to be undercover at the same time and preferably a third of a typical aviary should be covered with wind and rain-proof materials.  |   |  |
|  |  Where a separate flight aviary is available, the licence holder must be able to demonstrate the frequency with which the birds have access to this larger aviary to the inspector. This must be a demonstrable minimum of 6 hours in a 24 hour period on a daily basis.  |  |  |
|  |  The mesh hole size must be small enough that birds housed within cannot put their head or wing through it. The mesh gauge must be stout enough that the birds cannot break or bend it.  |  |  |
|  |  As appropriate to species, birds must be given access to water for bathing and preening to encourage feather health.  |  |  |
|  |  Birds must not be exposed to toxic or cooking fumes in the areas where they are maintained as these can be toxic to the birds (for example, Teflon poisoning). Aviaries or cages must not be located next to kitchens or bathrooms.  |  |  |
|  |  Aviaries should have a covered roof of netting with a mesh size small enough that birds housed within cannot put their head or wings through it or be of solid construction due to the presence of avian influenza in migratory waterfowl.  |  |  |
| **Bedding and substrate** |  There must be adequate perching space for all birds at the same time. Perches must be positioned to encourage activity, preferably flight, and so that birds do not defecate on each other or into food receptacles.  |  |  |
|  |  Perching must be varied and non-abrasive to prevent bumblefoot.  |  |  |
|  |  Suitable substrate should be provided for ground dwelling birds that scratch and forage. |  |  |
| **Temperature** |  Ambient temperature must be appropriate for the species. Extremes of temperature must be avoided. |  |  |
| **Light** |  Lighting levels must approximate those of daylight with regard to intensity and colour.  |  |  |
|  |  Species requiring UVB lighting must have appropriate UVB emitting lamps manufactured for use with birds. These must be replaced according to manufacturer’s recommendations, and effective provision must be monitored through the use of a UV meter. Evidence to this effect must be demonstrable to inspectors.  |   |  |
| **Cleaning**  |  Faeces and urates must be removed at least once a week, but more frequently as required. For species which are in poor health or should not be disturbed during breeding seasons, cleaning should be minimalized, provided that appropriately hygienic living conditions are maintained.  |  |  |
|  |  Containers for food and water should not be placed below perches, where they can be contaminated by birds’ droppings. |  |  |
|  |  Flooring must be drop-through or easily cleaned, with consideration of selection of substrate type and minimal disturbance for ground dwelling birds.  |  |  |
| **Required Higher Standards for Providing a Suitable Environment for Birds** |  The enclosure size must allow the bird to have variety and choice in its environment. Birds must be displayed for sale in aviaries that are 4 times the bird’s flying wingspan or larger in size for length, depth and height for an individual bird and 20% increase for each successive bird for multiple occupancy. A variety of substrates, including a variety of perches for arboreal birds must be provided. Perches of a variable thickness and materials must be provided. Output of UVB bulbs must be monitored with a UV meter and recorded. Species specific requirements must be documented and available for inspection. |  |  |
| **Optional Higher Standards for Providing a Suitable Environment for Birds** |  All cages must have direct access to a flight aviary. |  |  |
| **6.0 Suitable Diet** |  |  |  |
| **Diet** |  Birds that require it must have a constant ad lib supply of food.  |  |  |
|  |  Food supplements must be provided as appropriate to the species concerned.  |  |  |
|  |  Specialist feeding practices must be taken into consideration in aviary design such as access for breeding aviaries or flycatcher manure piles. At times these may be in perceived conflict with expectations for hygiene and where in doubt specialist advice must be sought. Licence holders must be able to demonstrate the rationale behind any specialist feeding practices being utilised.  |  |  |
| **Required Higher Standards for Birds’ Diet** |  Specialist nutritional advice must be sought where appropriate.  |  |  |
| **7.0 Monitoring of behaviour and training of animals**  |  |  |  |
| **Enrichment** |  Enclosures must be designed, furnished and of a size which allows inhabitants to exhibit a range of natural behaviours, including flying, climbing and hiding. |  |  |
|  |  Psittaciformes, and other species as appropriate, must be provided with suitable toys which encourage them to play and to ‘forage’ for foods.  |  |  |
|  |  Cages and aviaries must have at least one side (one of its horizontal dimensions) clad in an opaque material, so that the occupants are not vulnerable on all sides to viewing and disturbance.  |  |  |
|  |  Birds of prey subject to restraint by tethering for part of their lives must be flown at least four times a week unless tethered under veterinary advice for medical treatment. Licence holders must not permanently tether any bird. All birds must be given the opportunity to fly or move around freely during part of the year, for example in an aviary (free lofted) for rest periods from sale, demonstrations, breeding or moulting. The recommended period is a minimum of one month in a twelve-month period but daily or overnight is preferred.  |  |  |
| **Habituation** |  Handling must be kept to a minimum at all times except where the licence holder can demonstrate that it is for a reason that is in the best interest of the animal for example to check the birds’ health, flying birds of prey.  |  |  |
| **Required Higher Standards for Monitoring Birds’ Behaviour** |  Birds must not be housed or sold with their wings clipped. Wings are kept complete and flight is actively encouraged. All birds of prey, or other trained birds where appropriate, must have daily periods of flight; either in aviaries or flown outdoors by a competent person. |  |  |
| **Optional Higher Standards for Monitoring Birds’ Behaviour** |  Furniture must be changed on a regular basis to provide novelty and enclosures designed to provide choice for the animals within. |  |  |
| **8.0 Animal Handling and Interactions**  |   |  |  |
| **Interactions**  |  Social species must be kept in social groups suitable to the species. Where this is not possible, special attention must be paid to specific human interaction and they must be provided with extra enrichment. A plan must be in place for all singly housed birds  |  |  |
|  |  Decisions to pair- or group-house social bird species must be made by suitably trained and competent staff.  |  |  |
|  |  Compatible species-specific sex ratios and suitable group sizes must be observed bearing in mind potential for persistent aggression.  |  |  |
|  |  Only compatible species must be kept communally.  |  |  |
|  |  In particular, consideration for management of psittacine species, known to be sociable and live in flock situations, must be shown in the housing arrangements and stocking densities.  |  |  |
|  |  All immature birds must be housed with, OR housed in close proximity to, others of their own or similar species, using adjacent cages or aviaries where they are in visual contact.  |  |  |
|  |  Where behavioural problems are likely to arise in ‘adult’ non-colonial birds, consideration must be given to managing them separately with the same species adjacent in visual contact. Examples of species that breed in a group include budgerigars and cockatiels, non-colonial breeders include African greys, Amazons and cockatoos. Once non-colonially nesting species approach breeding age, keeping two or more in a cage can be dangerous, as paired birds of breeding age can be aggressive to each other/their own mate. |  |  |
| **Required Higher Standards for Handing and Interactions with Birds** |  Birds must not be removed from their parents (for ‘hand rearing’) until their eyes have been opened for more than one week to avoid risk of mal imprinting on humans as adult birds. Adult non-colonial birds must be managed in large flights, to allow birds space to escape from each other if required to prevent behavioural problems. Sufficient staff to manage the population must be provided as needed.  |  |  |
| **Optional Higher Standards for Handing and Interactions with Birds** |  The licence holder must have signage identifying potentially aggressive birds including clearly labelled aviaries and cages. |  |  |

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| **Higher standards (Required) Birds** | Standards Met Yes/No |
| The enclosure size must allow the bird to have variety and choice in its environment. |  |
| Birds must be displayed for sale in aviaries that are 4 times the bird’s flying wingspan or larger in size for length, depth and height for an individual bird and 20% increase for each successive bird for multiple occupancy. |  |
| A variety of substrates, including a variety of perches for arboreal birds must be provided. Perches of a variable thickness and materials must be provided. |  |
| Output of UVB bulbs must be monitored with a UV meter and recorded. Species specific requirements must be documented and available for inspection. |  |
| Specialist nutritional advice must be sought where appropriate. |  |
| Birds must not be housed or sold with their wings clipped. Wings are kept complete and flight is actively encouraged. |  |
| All birds of prey, or other trained birds where appropriate, must have daily periods of flight; either in aviaries or flown outdoors by a competent person. |  |
| Birds must not be removed from their parents (for ‘hand rearing’) until their eyes have been opened for more than one week to avoid risk of mal imprinting on humans as adult birds |  |
| Adult non-colonial birds must be managed in large flights, to allow birds space to escape from each other if required to prevent behavioural problems. Sufficient staff to manage the population must be provided as needed. |  |
| **Higher Standards (Optional)** 50% required | Standards met Yes/No  |
| All cages must have direct access to a flight aviary. |  |
| Furniture must be changed on a regular basis to provide novelty and enclosures designed to provide choice for the animals within. |  |
| The licence holder must have signage identifying potentially aggressive birds including clearly labelled aviaries and cages. |  |