

EAZA Recommendation on the use of birds in shows*

May 2006



Introduction

The EAZA Bird TAGs have produced this Recommendation to provide guidance to those EAZA zoos that wish to use birds in their show. The aim is to ensure that the welfare of the individual birds is guaranteed, and the functioning of EEPs and ESBs is not hampered.

Recommendation

Where birds are used in shows:

- 1) This should not conflict with the objectives and requirements of EEP/ESB programmes. The relevant coordinator/studbook keeper should be consulted before any decision is made on introducing an individual bird into a show.
- 2) This should not conflict with the optimal welfare of individual birds. Housing and care should be according to husbandry guidelines for the species (where available) and the EAZA Standards for the Accommodation and Care of Animals in Zoos.
- 3) This should be in support of conveying a conservation or educational message to the visitors, and must showcase natural behaviours and not demean the bird.

** shows, demonstrations, educational programmes etc.*

Further to this it is suggested that general guidelines be drawn up for all animals used in shows by EAZA members.

Guidelines for birds in shows, not necessarily endorsed by the EAZA Bird TAGs, have been issued by the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (see attachment).