

Laws and Regulations Affecting Aviculture and the Pet Bird Industry

Regulations, laws, treaties, customs, and rules of ethics and etiquette allow us to coexist in relative harmony. Myriad regulations—international, federal, state, and local—affect aviculturists and pet bird dealers or suppliers, thereby influencing the supply of birds for aviculture and pets. These regulations will therefore have an effect on the practice of avian medicine. An in depth knowledge of regulations and the legislative basis behind them is not essential to the practitioner, but familiarity with them as a point of reference is important so the practitioner and client can avoid unintentional non-compliance.

International trade in avian species is regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Various aspects of the importation of birds into the US come under the auspices of five government departments, the Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Interior (USDI) Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Department of Treasury (Customs), the Department of Justice (enforcement of the regulations of other departments), and the Department of Health and Human Services (US Public Health Service). Additional regulatory forces affect the trade and possession of some species of exotic birds in the US. Possession of native birds is also regulated.

Each item mentioned here contains volumes of information that cannot possibly be detailed in this text. Practitioners need to be aware of the complexity of dealing with myriad regulatory pressures.

HISTORY OF THE US BIRD TRADE

Estimates by the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) place US bird populations at 40 to 50 million, with pet birds in 15% of American homes. The majority of these birds are small, highly domesticated species (budgerigars, canaries, cockatiels) that are bred in the US.

Records dating back to 1901 indicate a steady stream of imports rarely dropping below the 300,000 birds-per-year mark, except for a period of years from 1943 to 1967 during which no records were available. Psittacine imports were banned during this time; however, other species were allegedly being imported.¹ According to records from the US Bureau of Biology Survey and reported by Richard Banks, 14,409,140 birds were imported into the US between 1901 and 1942, an average of 350,000 per year, of which 71% or 10,186,248 were canaries. No data are available on mortality rates during this period.¹

Import of wild or delicate species was facilitated by the advent of air transport following World War II. Prior to this, passage by ship was difficult for delicate species but was still used for many birds well into the 1960s.

In the years between the creation of the USDA quarantine system for imported birds in 1974 and passage of the Wild Bird Conservation Act in 1992, 300 to 900 thousand wild-caught birds were imported into the US each year, approximately 75% of which were exotic, wild-caught birds. Many dis-

eases and health problems were delineated during that time, some of which continue to have an impact on aviculture in the 1990s. Since passage and implementation of the Wild Bird Conservation Act, aviculture must supply the pet industry's demand for exotic as well as common domesticated birds. Future regulatory changes may allow limited importation of wild-caught birds under programs of sustainable utilization.^{1,5}

The Effects of Disease on the Importation of Birds

The history of the pet bird industry is often interwoven with that of major diseases such as psittacosis and Newcastle disease. Psittacosis was named by a French physician, Morange, who described it as a disease of humans and parrots and associated it with parrots imported from Argentina. Later it became known as parrot fever. A decade of worldwide investigation in the 1930s revealed information on the etiology and epidemiology of psittacosis in humans and birds. In 1929, pandemic psittacosis occurred in the US with a concurrent worldwide outbreak, which was traced back to infected parrots from Brazil and Argentina sent by ship to Europe and North America. A ban on the importation of psittacines was implemented in 1942 in response to reports of a high incidence of psittacosis; however, other species were still being imported. Ornithosis was described in 1938 in poultry, and many human cases were subsequently traced to domestic poultry sources, especially from turkey processing plants.^{1,2}

Researchers at the Hooper Foundation (Paul Arnstein, Karl Meyer, and B. Eddie) in the 1960s developed protocols in conjunction with the US Public Health Service for the treatment of psittacosis in birds. In 1968, treatment centers were established overseas where birds were held and treated for 45 days prior to importation.²

The second disease to affect the pet bird industry was viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease (VVND). Newcastle disease was first recognized by Doyle, in 1926, in Newcastle, England. It was almost simultaneously reported in Java and Korea. The disease disappeared shortly afterward in England but remained endemic in Southeast Asia. It is theorized that Newcastle disease began to spread from Asia around the world. As the various forms of the

disease were recognized, the virulent Asiatic form, Doyle's form, became known as VVND. Psittacine birds traveling aboard sailing ships were thought responsible for the spread of the disease to Europe and South America between 1926 and 1942. An epornitic of a very virulent strain of VVND reached every continent between 1968 and 1972.

VVND was reportedly introduced by imported mynahs and psittacines into an exotic bird aviary in California, and spread to neighboring chicken farms, resulting in a widespread VVND outbreak. The 1972 outbreak in California resulted in the first test of disease control by eradication on a national basis. The fear of reentry of VVND resulted in the establishment of the USDA quarantine system for all imported birds in 1974. At that time the Public Health Service program of foreign treatment centers was abandoned. VVND has been reported from virtually every country exporting birds; however, it is most prevalent in birds from Southeast Asia and Central America, with softbilled birds having an especially high incidence.^{3,4}

REGULATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN BIRDS

International treaties, most notably CITES, regulate the movement of birds in international trade. There are other factors, however, that determine the availability of species for the pet trade. The majority of countries in which psittacine birds are found prohibit their exportation. Many export only pest species. Some operate under quota systems wherein pest species predominate. Most levy taxes on all birds exported.⁷

The Lacey Act, a US law enacted in 1908 "to support the state laws for the protection of game and birds" has evolved over the years into a complex set of laws that prohibit the trade in any wildlife, or wildlife product that is taken or possessed in contradiction to another law. This includes any species protected by foreign laws, international treaty, US laws, state or local ordinances, or Indian tribal law. Species that are removed from their native country where they are protected and imported from a second country could be seized by USFWS, and the importer can be prosecuted under the Lacey Act. The Lacey Act has been amended on several occasions. The Tariff Act of 1930 added the enforce-

ment of foreign wildlife laws. A second major Lacey Act amendment in 1949 prohibited the importation of wild animals or birds under conditions known to be inhumane or unhealthful.

The first truly comprehensive amendment of the Lacey Act came in 1981. The 1981 amendments expanded and refined all aspects of the law including a strengthening of enforcement procedures.⁸⁻¹¹ Simply stated, under the Lacey Act, it is unlawful to import, export, transport, sell, receive, acquire, or purchase, in interstate or foreign commerce, any fish or wildlife or plant taken or possessed in violation of any state law, foreign law, treaty, or regulation of the US or in violation of any Indian tribal law. These laws are enforced primarily by the USFWS, a branch of the Department of Interior. The transport of animals into the US is also governed under the Lacey Act (50 CFR, part 13).¹¹

The Injurious Wildlife provisions of the Lacey Act prohibit importation, transportation, or acquisition, without a permit, of certain animals (or their eggs) that have been determined to be injurious wildlife.¹¹

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

CITES is an international treaty that in 1994 comprised 115 signing countries, including the US, which began implementing the treaty in 1975. CITES relates only to international trade in plants and animals and has no jurisdiction in internal affairs of the parties to the treaty.^{7, 8}

International trade was recognized years ago as a major threat to many wildlife species. In 1963 the International Union for the Conservation of Nature called for an international treaty regulating trade and developed the first draft. Eighty countries concluded the draft in March 1983 in Washington, DC. In 1975 the treaty was ratified by 10 of the original signatories in Berne, Switzerland (the depository nation for the convention).⁷

The structures created by the CITES treaty include the Conference of the Parties (COP), the Secretariat, and the Management Authorities and Scientific Authorities of each party. The COP meets every 2 years and has the power to adopt rules or procedures, approve the budget of the Secretariat, adopt changes to the appendices, and adopt recommen-

dations to improve the effectiveness of the Convention. Within the COP exists a complex system of procedures and committees including the Standing Committee, which assists the Secretariat in carrying out its functions and establishing the agenda and procedures for the meeting of the COP.⁷

The Secretariat was established by the treaty as a function of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). UNEP is a UN body established by the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment in 1972. It has a governing council of over 40 nations and serves essentially as a stimulator and instigator of environmental research, planning, and management. For several years UNEP contracted out the Secretariat function to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Secretary General and his staff are UN employees. The Secretariat is relatively independent and answers primarily to the Standing Committee and the Parties (COP). Each party country has a scientific and management authority.⁷

Plant and animal species are listed by CITES in Appendices I, II, and III. Those species that are considered to be endangered are listed in Appendix I, and no international commercial trade is permitted except under exceptional circumstances. Those species that are judged to be currently capable of tolerating commercial exploitation, but that may be threatened by trade, are listed in Appendix II. All psittacine birds with the exception of the budgerigar, cockatiel, and Indian ringneck parakeet are listed in Appendix II, except for those listed in Appendix I. (The African ringneck is listed in Appendix III.) Appendix III includes species that any party identifies as being subject to regulation within its jurisdiction for the purpose of preventing or restricting exploitation. Trade in any listed species, or products of a listed species, between signing countries requires a permit.^{7, 8, 11}

Procedures for amending the treaty or appendices are complex. Any party to the treaty may propose an amendment, which must be submitted to the Secretariat at least 150 days prior to the meeting. The Secretariat then circulates the proposals with recommendations. Amendments are adopted by two-thirds majority of those parties present and voting and enter into force 90 days later. The Berne Criteria—adopted at the first meeting in 1976—established standards for the addition of species to Appendix I, II, or III.⁷

Specimens of animal species in Appendix I bred in captivity for commercial purposes can be treated as if they were Appendix II species (COP, Costa Rica, 1979). However, for such trade to take place, the breeding facility must be certified by the COP for each species involved (COP, Ottawa, Canada, 1987).⁷

As CITES membership has increased, so have the number and complexity of issues the convention has attempted to resolve. Parties must make informed decisions as to the level of trade that populations of wildlife species can support with insight into the biology and ecology of these species. Often producer countries lack the scientific expertise to make these decisions and they are made on purely political grounds.⁷

International Air Transport Association (IATA)

IATA is an international organization of airlines established to standardize air transport policies. The IATA Live Animal Board is responsible for formulation and update of guidelines. The board meets every 2 years to revise the IATA Live Animal Regulations, an approximately 150-page document that details packing and shipping requirements for many types of animals. These guidelines are developed in conjunction with CITES, the pet industry, veterinarians, and other interested parties and are sensitive to the needs of animals as well as airlines.

The regulations cover virtually every order of animals from elephants to insects, with detailed illustrations and descriptions of shipping containers. Other general information includes sections on animal behavior, lists of prohibited species, labeling requirements, disinfection of aircraft, feeding and watering requirements, sedation and euthanasia, segregation, and persons accompanying shipments. The regulation book also has an extensive section on CITES, including a list of countries party to CITES and the management authority for each country.

IATA has some 119 active member airlines worldwide with 24 additional associate members and 83 additional participating carriers. Sixteen countries have accepted these regulations either by legislation or by issuance of a permit authorizing air carriers to carry live animals in accordance with these regulations. In 1991, the US adopted portions of the

Live Animal Regulations as the US Humane and Healthful Transport Regulations as enforced under the Lacey Act.^{8, 11}

NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Endangered Species Act

The provisions of the Lacey Act are augmented by the US Endangered Species Act (ESA), enacted in 1973 to halt the serious decline in numbers of many species of wild animals and plants. The ESA provides two levels of protection for listed species. Species considered to be in danger of extinction are listed as "endangered" and are provided the most stringent protection. Species likely to become endangered are listed as "threatened" and are protected by less restrictive regulations. Administration of the ESA is shared by the USFWS and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).^{8, 11}

Possession of and commercial activities involving legally acquired endangered or threatened wildlife that take place entirely within one's state of residence are not prohibited by the act. For interstate sales, however, both the buyer and the seller must obtain permits from USFWS. Advertisements for sale of endangered species in publications that have interstate circulation must include a warning that an endangered/threatened species permit is required to purchase the listed animal.

The Captive Bred Wildlife (CBW) Regulation became effective in 1979, making it easier to conduct activities that enhance the propagation or survival of eligible captive-bred wildlife listed under the ESA. To transport, deliver, receive, sell, or offer captive-bred wildlife for sale in interstate commerce, both the buyer and the seller must be registered for the families or species of wildlife involved. Each transaction must document that the animal was born in captivity in the US and must reveal the buyers' and sellers' CBW permit numbers. At the time of writing, the CBW regulations were under revision by USFWS.^{8, 11}

Twenty-six species of psittacines are included in the list of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants and covered by the Act (50 CFR, part 17.17) (For a copy of the current list, write to USFWS, 4401 Fairfax Dr., Arlington VA 22203.)

Importation of Birds

The importation of birds falls under the auspices of three government departments. All birds imported into the US are subject to quarantine regulations under the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service—Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS) regulations (50 CFR, part 9).^{8, 11}

USDA Regulation of Imports

Eight privately owned and USDA-supervised quarantine stations were established in 1974, and the number subsequently grew to a high of 96 in 1979. The number of privately owned stations has decreased since that time, and in recent years many have been converted to use for the importation of ratite hatching eggs and quarantine chicks. The USDA also owns and operates commercial and pet bird quarantine stations.^{8, 11}

Privately owned quarantine stations are operated under the supervision of USDA-APHIS. All birds entering the US are required to undergo a 30-day quarantine, during which they are tested for poultry lethal disease. The only disease of serious consideration is VVND; however, USDA is on the alert for any new threat to the US poultry industry. The quarantine station must be approved prior to issuance of the permit to import birds.

Current regulations dictate that all psittacines are fed a medicated ration containing 1% chlorotetracycline during the 30-day quarantine. Tissues are collected from all birds that die during the first 16 days (up to 150 a day) and are submitted to the national Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa for virus isolation. A representative sample of birds are also swabbed for virus isolation. Virus isolation is accomplished in embryonated chicken eggs. Isolates are tested by hemagglutination and hemagglutination-inhibition tests for the presence of Newcastle disease virus. Isolates are pathotyped in chickens. If VVND is isolated, all birds in the station must be euthanized or reexported.¹¹

Procedures for the importation of ratite and hatching eggs vary significantly from those for other exotic birds. Only eggs can be imported through privately owned stations. These eggs must be unin-cubated and must undergo 45 days of incubation in

the quarantine station. The 30-day quarantine period begins when the last chick hatches. Live birds can only be imported through government stations in New York, Miami, or Honolulu, and ostriches entering these stations cannot exceed 3 feet in height. These regulations were promulgated in 1992 in response to requests to allow imports. All imports of ratites were stopped in 1990 when ticks capable of carrying heart water fever were found on imported ostriches.¹¹

The demand for APHIS services for the supervision of quarantine stations is declining rapidly as a result of passage of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. At the time of writing, USDA quarantine regulations are under revision.

US Fish and Wildlife Service Inspection and Regulation of Imports

Avian imports also come under the scrutiny of the Department of Interior under the auspices of the USFWS enforcement of the Wild Bird Conservation Act, the Lacey Act, the ESA, and the CITES treaty. CITES export permits must be presented along with the Declaration of Importation form (filed by importers or their brokers shortly after arrival) and the USDA Permit to Import Birds. The numbers and species of birds are then fed into the USFWS "LEMIS" data system for correlation. If they do not agree or if there is suspicion of noncompliance with any regulation, the country of origin is contacted through the US State Department. If there is reason to suspect misidentification, USFWS agents enter a station to inspect. In addition, import documents must pass inspection by US Customs and the Department of the Treasury.

The Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992

The Wild Bird Conservation Act was signed into law on October 23, 1992. The stated purpose of the Wild Bird Conservation Act (WBCA) is to promote the conservation of exotic birds by encouraging wild bird conservation and management programs in the country of origin; by ensuring that all trade in such species is biologically sustainable and to the benefit of the species; and by limiting imports of exotic birds when necessary to ensure that exotic

wild bird populations are not harmed by removal for the trade. Under the WBCA importations of all CITES-listed birds are prohibited except under specific exemptions. The WBCA applies to the importation of all bird species not indigenous to the 50 United States while exempting game bird families and orders (Phasianidae, Anatidae, Struthionidae, Rheidae, and Gruidae).¹³

The WBCA placed an immediate moratorium on 10 heavily traded psittacine species. The act provided for a 1-year phaseout of imports of all CITES-listed avian species, after which all imports of wild-caught CITES-listed species would be prohibited unless the species was on a list of species approved for import.¹³

For wild-caught birds to be listed on the approved list, USFWS must determine that (1) CITES is being effectively implemented for the species in every country of origin; (2) measures recommended by CITES committees are implemented; (3) there is a scientifically based management plan that provides for the conservation of the species and its habitat; and (4) the methods of capture, transport, and maintenance minimize the risks to the bird's health and welfare. A list of species of wild-caught birds that are managed under a strict program of controls in the country of origin, and for which it has been determined that trade can be sustainable, will also be developed. Birds included on the list can be imported only from the approved country.¹³

For captive-bred birds, the USFWS is required to determine that either (1) only captive-bred birds are in trade for that species, or (2) the birds were bred in an USFWS-approved facility. The USFWS will maintain a list of captive-bred, CITES-listed species that can be imported without a permit. These species must be commonly bred in captivity, and cannot be in legal or illegal trade. Captive-bred birds that are not included on the "clean list" can only be imported from breeding facilities that are approved by USFWS.¹³

The USFWS may issue import permits for any exotic bird for scientific research, as personally owned pet birds, for zoologic display, or for cooperative breeding programs designed to promote the conservation of the species in the wild by enhancing the propagation and survival of the affected species.¹³

The Exotic Bird Conservation Fund was established under the WBCA to be used for conservation

of birds in their country of origin. Money for the fund will come from fines, forfeitures, donations, and appropriations. The fund is designed to support wild bird research and management programs.

The WBCA established significant penalties for violators, including civil penalties up to \$12,000 for some infractions and up to \$25,000 for others, as well as misdemeanor and felony criminal penalties.¹³

At the time of writing regulations to enforce the WBCA were being promulgated.¹³

Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act as administered today by the US Department of Agriculture evolved over the years from the original Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966. The Regulatory Enforcement and Animal Care (REAC) division of USDA is assigned responsibility for the performance of functions under the act. Covered under the act is any live dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm-blooded animal that is domesticated or wild, and being used for research, testing, experimentation, exhibition, or as a pet. Excluded in the promulgation of regulations enforcing the act are birds, rats, mice, horses, and other farm animals such as poultry and livestock. Animals are covered in research facilities, in commerce, pet stores, exhibits of all types, and breeding facilities.

In 1992 a coalition of animal welfare and humane groups brought a successful suit against USDA to require that enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act include birds. On appeal by USDA-APHIS-VS, the judgment was overturned in 1994.

Bald Eagle Protection Act

The Bald Eagle Protection Act prohibits taking, possession, sale, importation, exportation, and transportation of bald and golden eagles. It is administered by the USFWS. Possession of eagles requires a permit. Moulted feathers must be retained and returned to the USFWS.

Feather Import Quota

Part of the Tariff Acts of 1930 and 1962, the Feather Import Quota limits the commercial importation of

feathers from seven species of birds under a quota system, which is administered by the Department of the Interior. These regulations are being revised and incorporated into regulations promulgated to enforce the WBCA of 1992.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The act regulates banding and marking and taking, possession, transportation, and sale of migratory birds and their nests, eggs, parts, or products. The list of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is extensive, and includes most of the species found in North America. It is administered by the Department of the Interior. Any protected birds held in captivity must be reported annually to the USFWS. Member facilities accredited by the American Zoological Association (formerly the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums, AAZPA) are exempt from the annual reporting requirement.

Miscellaneous Factors Affecting the Bird Trade

State Bird Ban Laws

These laws include bans on the sale of imported or wild-caught birds. After the surprise enactment of a ban against the sale of wild-caught birds in New York State in 1985 (which became effective in 1986), similar legislation was introduced around the country. Critics of the New York bill predicted the emergence of smuggled birds and concurrent introduction of disease into the state if the bill was passed. In 1987, New York was one of six states in which VVND was diagnosed in association with smuggled yellow-naped Amazons. A similar bill was adopted in New Jersey in 1991. Similar legislation was introduced in eight states between 1985 and 1989 (Pennsylvania, Michigan, California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Illinois, and Maryland) but failed to be enacted.

Local—City and County—Ordinances

Local zoning ordinances pose the most immediate threat to the possession of birds. City and county

ordinances may also prohibit ownership of a variety of animal and bird species. These ordinances, as well as state laws restricting ownership of certain species, are detailed in the Controlled Wildlife Series.¹¹

Improvement Plans

In 1983, a small group of workers, inspired by the highly successful, voluntary National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), attempted to develop a similar program for pet birds. Despite intensive efforts, the plan was greeted with suspicion by aviculturists as government intrusion into their aviaries. Widely accepted now, NPIP was likewise poorly accepted initially.

The Maryland Cage Bird Improvement Plan (MBIP) was approved by the Maryland State Legislature in 1986. It was a voluntary, self-governing program developed by breeders, pet shops, and veterinarians in association with the University of Maryland Cooperative Extension Service, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Maryland Department of Health and Hygiene, the poultry industry, and the State Legislature. The MBIP became inactive in 1992.

The Model Aviculture Program

The Model Aviculture Program (MAP) is a voluntary program for the certification of aviculturists through inspection by avian veterinarians. MAP is designed to improve the care and breeding of exotic birds. The program is not run by state or federal agencies; it is governed by a board of directors consisting of aviculturists and avian veterinarians. This program is designed to provide a high or low profile to bird breeders. Confidentiality is an integral part of each aspect of the program. Inspection involves facilities, management practices, and record-keeping.

Nongovernment Organizations Affecting Aviculture and the Pet Industry

Many large and powerful humane and conservation groups influence elected officials in all levels of

the government and serve as watchdogs over the industry.

IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources—the name was recently changed to the World Conservation Union), founded in 1948, is a network of governments, nongovernment organizations, scientists, and other conservation experts, who have joined together to promote the protection and sustainable use of living resources. IUCN monitors the status of ecosystems and species around the world, plans conservation action, promotes such action by governments, and provides assistance and advice necessary for achievement of such action.

IUCN Species Survival Commission and Trade Specialist Groups work through the Center for Environmental Education in Cambridge, England. They review proposals to CITES for adequate trade and scientific data and make recommendations to the COP. IUCN also publishes the *Red Data Book* (lists of endangered species) and the *Significant Trade in Wildlife Reports* (see the suggested reading list).

Bird Life International, formerly the ICBP (International Council for Bird Protection), also based in Cambridge, predates the IUCN but now primarily handles bird-related issues for the IUCN.

UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) was established in 1972. Its mandate is to keep the world environmental situation under review to ensure that emerging environmental problems of international significance receive appropriate consideration by governments, and to safeguard the environment for the benefit of future generations. The ultimate aim of UNEP's activities is to promote development that is environmentally sound and sustainable.⁷

WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature, previously World Wildlife Fund) is an international conservation foundation based in Switzerland. The scope of WWF is the conservation of the natural environment and the ecologic processes essential to life on earth. WWF aims to create awareness of threats to the environment and to generate and attract on a worldwide basis the strongest possible moral and financial support for safeguarding the living world. WWF, with its international and national trustees, also provides a bridge for the conservation movement to the business community. WWF through its subgroup TRAFFIC (Trade Records Analysis of Flora

and Fauna in Commerce) monitors trade and has played a major role in the development of CITES.

The World Conservation Strategy (1980) is a plan prepared by IUCN, with the advice, cooperation, and financial assistance of UNEP and WWF. It provides an intellectual framework and practical guidance for conservation actions needed to conserve living resources for sustainable development. It details major threats to the environment, the obstacles to achieving conservation, the strategy to solve conservation problems, and an international plan to coordinate use of the global commons and the requirements for sustainable development. The 1990 revision of the World Conservation Strategy was entitled *Caring For Earth*.

PIJAC (Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council), through its counsel, Marshall Meyers, is the only unified voice of the pet industry. A nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC, PIJAC monitors legislation adverse to the pet industry, provides information to industry members, represents the pet industry to government agencies and conservation groups, and serves as a lobby for pet industry interests. PIJAC has been a nongovernmental observer to CITES since 1979 and has played an active role in the CITES transport working group and the CITES significant trade study. PIJAC strongly encourages cooperation between the pet industry and the veterinary community.

Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade

In the summer of 1988, amid growing international concern about depleted wild bird populations and high mortality rates associated with the international trade in wild-caught birds, the WWF convened the Cooperative Working Group on Bird Trade. This diverse committee represented a broad spectrum of organizations with interests in the bird trade—organizations with strong differing views and objectives. For 1½ years, the Working Group analyzed imports of exotic avian species into the US and reviewed federal procedures and controls that are related to such imports. The Group concluded that the procedures and performance of the responsible federal agencies failed to adequately meet the requirements and intent of the Endangered Species Act, the Lacey Act, the Animal Welfare Act, and CITES, nor do they meet the real needs of aviculture and the pet industry.

The Group recognized that habitat loss and local use as well as international trade threatened the survival of both individual avian populations and entire species. It concluded that the US, as one of the principal consumers of wild-caught birds for the pet trade, should reduce its reliance on wild avian populations and, within an agreed-upon time frame, replace wild-caught birds with captive-bred birds for the pet trade. The members of the Working Group were not opposed to limited imports of wild-caught birds for captive breeding of exotic avian species within the US or abroad, because imports will be critical to the survival of the species in the wild and to the long-term health of the pet bird industry.

On the basis of its findings, the Working Group drafted comprehensive recommendations that address all aspects of the wild-bird trade. These recommendations were ultimately used to draft legislation, which culminated in passage of the WBCA of 1992, although humane and animal rights group pressures resulted in the stricter provisions adopted in the WBCA.¹²

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Proceedings of the Conference of the Parties (CITES)

1st meeting—Berne, Switzerland, 1977

2nd meeting—San Jose, Costa Rica, 1979

3rd meeting—New Dehli, India, 1981

4th meeting—Gaborone, Botswana, 1983

5th meeting—Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1985

6th meeting—Ottawa, Canada, 1987

7th meeting—Lausanne, Switzerland, 1989

8th meeting—Kyoto, Japan, 1992

9th meeting—Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 1994

For Further Information

American Federation of Aviculture, P.O. Box 56218, Phoenix, AZ, 85079-6218 Tel 602-484-0931

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—US Department of Agriculture, Federal Building, Hyattsville, MD 20782 Tel 301-436-8097 Fax 301-436-8818

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)—Secretariat—15 Chemin des Anemones, Case Postale 456, 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland, Tel (41) 22 979 9139 Fax (41) 22 797 3417

International Air Transport Association, IATA Building, 2000 Peel Street, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2R4

Model Aviculture Program, P.O. Box 1657, Martinez, CA 94553

Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC), 1220 19th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20036 Tel 1-800-553-PETS Fax 202-293-4377

TRAFFIC USA—World Wildlife Fund, 1250 24th St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037 Tel 202-293-4800 Fax 202-775-8287

US Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 Fairfax Dr., Room 420, Arlington, VA 22203 Tel 800-358-2104 Fax 202-358-2281

World Conservation Monitoring Center, TRAFFIC International and IUCN Species Survival Commission, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, United Kingdom, Tel (44) 1233 277 966 Fax (44) 1233 277 845

World Conservation Union—International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1196 Gland, Switzerland.