

# **Welfare and Ethical Considerations Concerning the Treatment, Care, Exhibition and Husbandry of Birds**

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## **Introduction**

This is an Australian Perspective prepared by Ross Perry for consideration and evaluation by members of the Association of Avian Veterinarians (Australasian Committee). Many more questions are raised than answers are offered: we do not pretend or imagine that we have all the answers at our fingertips, but it does seem likely that we can resolve or work through many of the problems we currently face, provided we exhibit goodwill, patience, understanding and positive desire to do so. There are many subject areas for which headings have been given but questions and policies have yet to be offered.

It is envisaged that after review, refinement and correction of any errors and omissions that this paper could be made available as a brochure to the wider community for the purpose of promoting understanding, questioning and re-evaluation, for hopefully offering ideas for a better way of caring for and dealing with birds and other animals, the environment we share, and with each other. Organisations which may find this paper, after review, of interest include:

- RSPCA
- Animal Welfare League
- IRES
- AWARE
- Fund For Animals
- Government organisations
- Australian Bird Dealers and Keepers
- Avicultural organisations
- The Pet Trade and pet shops

## **Welfare and Ethics**

What do we mean by welfare? Animal welfare has much to do about our perceptions of quality of life and our understanding and awareness of the needs of birds, be they nutritional, physical, sexual, emotional or whatever. Animal welfare issues relate to preventing or minimising suppression or denial of the needs of birds, and in positive terms, maximising their quality of life.

What do we mean by ethics? Ethics has much to do about our behaviour and actions towards each other and in this context, towards birds and their management, and interwoven with this is the influence of our personal values, religious beliefs and moral standards.

Who's the judge? One is treading on dangerous ground when one sets oneself up as the judge of others. There is a famous saying, full of truth: judge not lest ye be judged. Perhaps, if we are to judge, it should

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be judge of our own behaviour etc. We certainly should share our points of view, our awareness and our apparent understanding with others, and if we happen to be of like mind, we can have the comfort of numbers. However, often in history we see that the majority of people in various communities thought they were aware and right, and stoned or outcast many individuals with whom they disagreed. Many of those who were outcast, can, with hindsight, be seen to have been far more awareness and understanding than those who righteously misjudged them.

## **Cultural perspectives and differences**

Within Australian society we are aware of many differences in cultural perspectives of various communities. A well-known but poorly understood example is the difference in attitude of most rural farmers towards their dogs and that of many city people.

The differences in perspective become much greater when there are marked differences in religious beliefs and spiritual awareness, and with level of education and familiarity with the natural world..

From what viewpoint, what perspective?

- Personal standards
- Community standards
- Cultural perspective
- Changing perspectives
- The Human Nature of Birds
- Johnathon Livingstone Seagull and Seth

It makes a huge difference to one's point of view if one believes in chance, or doesn't believe in chance. Similarly it makes a huge difference depending on whether or not one takes it as his or her God-given right to do whatever one wishes with animals irrespective of their needs as compared with believing the needs of animals and the survival of species are important.

## **Changing community attitudes**

Give and take. Finding an acceptable balance. As veterinary surgeons we are ideally positioned to help change community attitudes towards animals and birds. We hope we have a better understanding and appreciation of birds and their needs etc. than many others in the community, and we frequently have the opportunity to educate and to ask questions which may assist others to see our points of view.

In an ideal world? No birds in cages except injured, incapacitated or orphaned. In your "ideal world" would we keep birds in cages? In your "ideal world" under what circumstances if any would there be mutual benefit in confining birds to cages or enclosures?

### **Trends:**

- More people questioning the confining of birds to cages
- Less trapping and plundering of wild birds and eggs?
- More captive breeding
- More endangered and threatened species associated with previous plundering and ongoing habitat destruction
- More hand raising
- More keeping birds as companion animals out of cage
- More keeping birds in pairs
- More aware and better educated bird clients
- More Megabacteria and Megabacteria Associated Disease
- More introduced exotic diseases

- More litigation
- More drug resistance
- More immunosuppressed people and birds
- More pollution and environmental degradation
- More avian veterinary expertise and specialisation
- More diagnostic tests
- More computer and electronic networking and information transfer.
- More restrictions on keeping certain birds in captivity
- More DNA typing and DNA technology
- More vaccines
- More microchipping
- Less bird hunting for “sport”
- More outrage over the use of poisons to “control” perceived pest species.
- More recognition of the aphrodisiac charisma of Australian Indian Mynah eggs, especially as rhino horn becomes unavailable?

## **Birds in Cages**

- When incapacitated such that it can't survive in the wild?
- No suitable vacant habitat available in the wild?
- Requires restraint for transport for a veterinary or scientific procedure?
- Relatively small, portable and/or easily moved cf. aviary: relatively large, not easily moved.
- Purposes will influence shape, dimensions and construction
- Short term transport of birds in car or plane
- Short term exhibition of birds
- Short term confinement of sick, injured or orphaned birds
- Long term confinement of essentially healthy birds
- Intermittent confinement of birds allowed flight in house
- Shape
  - Cuboidal May be suitable
  - Rectangular Most suitable
  - Cylindrical Generally not suitable for long term confinement
  - Hexagonal Generally not suitable for long term confinement
  - Spherical “Bubble Cages” Unsuitable and unethical
  - Conical Unsuitable and unethical
  - Pyramidal (commonplace in Asia for individual song birds) Unsuitable and unethical
  - Complex shapes eg. “house” shape. Usually less desirable than cuboidal or rectangular

### **Dimensions**

- Appears to be determined by what will fit in the average car?
- Criteria for commonly kept captive perching birds
- Should relate to the species of birds and their identified needs
- Should provide a minimum of 2 suitable perches appropriately separated
- Should provide opportunity for flight
- As birds are not helicopters, length is more important than height
- Minimum of 3 wing spans wide flight zone
- Minimum of 3 wing beats long between perches
- Minimum height above top perches 1.5 wing spans

### **Construction materials**

Construction materials should be non-toxic to birds confined.

The continued production and sale of inadequately “finished” metal cages providing sources of galvanised wire, lead, zinc and copper poisoning should be made illegal and is considered unethical and most inappropriate

Avian Veterinary Surgeons in Australia recognise heavy metal poisoning from unsuitable cages to be a major cause of suffering of captive birds in Australia.

Any paints used in cage production and decoration should be free from heavy metals and other poisons to birds.

It should be compulsory for a “Health Hazard Warning” to be attached to all galvanised cages and galvanised wire offered for sale for the confinement of birds and other animals.

The “Health Hazard Warning” should include the statement above about Avian Veterinary Surgeons, and should detail what can be done to minimize the hazard. Common signs of poisoning should also be noted, along with the need to seek prompt avian veterinary treatment for affected birds.

Construction materials should be non-hazardous to birds confined

Free from sharp edges which may cut

Free from sharp points or hooks which may penetrate, lacerate or tear

Free from excessively abrasive surfaces

Free from holes, grooves and strictures which may entrap a body part, eg. toe, leg, wing, or neck

Construction materials should exclude predators and vermin

Construction should facilitate cleaning and sanitation

Construction should minimize the provision of hiding places for mites and other pests.

### **Stability**

The cage needs to be sufficiently sturdy to withstand dropping from waist height!

Cage doors and access areas for food and water containers etc should be securable and bird proof.

Shelter

If the cage is ever placed outside a building the cage should be fitted with or incorporate shelter from predators, extremes of heat, cold, wind and rain.

An area minimum 3 wingspans wide and 3 wingspans deep across the middle of which is positioned a suitable perch should be enclosed on 3 sides and roofed with a weather proof opaque material.

The enclosed end of the cage should be positioned to give maximum protection to the confined birds against inclement weather.

### **Number of birds**

In general perching birds of flock species confined as pets should be kept as compatible pairs of the opposite sex.

However it is recognised that many pairs of birds of the same sex appear to adapt to their circumstances of captivity.

Two perches of 3 wing spans in length should be provided as a minimum per pair of birds (with or without progeny while dependent on parents for feeding). Perches need to be appropriately

distanced one from another. (See guidelines below)

Overcrowding of a cage is when above requirements not met.

Species of birds

Compatible species

An appendix grouping compatible species is to be developed.

Incompatible species

An appendix designating incompatible species is to be developed

The forced confinement of incompatible species in the same cage is considered inappropriate and unethical.

The existence of exceptions to the rule must be recognised.

For example, a peachface lovebird paired with a budgerigar. These species are usually but not always incompatible.

### **Maintenance**

The cage needs to be maintained in a clean and hygienic state free from hazards and toxic materials.

Clean potable drinking water should be provided at all times

Food should be provided in sufficient quantity and availability to fill the crop at least twice a day ie morning and evening.

Cages should be cleaned a minimum of once a week.

Daily replacement of the floor covering should be encouraged to minimize disease risks to the confined birds and their "owners".

### **Perches**

Cylindrical wooden, plastic and metal dowelling perches are considered unsuitable for long term use by birds as they fail to provide relief for pressure areas of the feet.

Metal perches predispose local hypothermia and gangrene in cold weather and burns in hot weather and their use is considered unethical.

Abrasive sandpaper and gritpaper perches and similar sleeves to be fitted on perches are considered harmful to the feet of most birds and their use is considered inappropriate and unethical.

Perches should be positioned and maintained free from faecal contamination.

Perches should be irregular in cross section and of varying diameter

At least one perch should be twice the diameter of the distance between the tips of extended front and rear toes.

Perches should be positioned sufficiently far from the ends of the cage to permit the confined birds to turn around without abrading tail or flight feathers on the cage.

Perches should be positioned so as to encourage and facilitate exercise .

Perches should be positioned so as to minimize faecal contamination of food, drinking and bathing water and of other perches.

### **Cage furniture and toys**

Cage furniture and toys should be constructed of non-toxic materials

Cage furniture and toys should be non-hazardous

Mirrors if mercury backed should be totally enclosed so as to prevent access to the mercury.

Stainless steel mirrors are considered preferable to mercury backed mirrors.

Toys, bells, food and water containers and their attachments should be free from sources of ingestible heavy metals notable lead, zinc, copper, chromium and their salts and alloys

A warning should be attached to all swings offered for sale indicating that they should be removed

from the cage while the bird and cage is in transit.

### **Cage flooring**

The use of sandpaper and shellgrit paper sheets for flooring is considered inappropriate and ill-advised.

The use of newspaper and other heavily printed paper is considered inappropriate and ill-advised. Plain butchers paper, plain brown paper, and waste computer paper (reverse side up) are considered suitable flooring coverings to facilitate cleaning and observation of faeces etc.

Wire grills of suitable construction are acceptable flooring for cages for most perching birds but are considered inappropriate and unethical for cages confining predominantly floor or ground dwelling birds such as quail and partridges.

**Nesting facilities and materials**

Mature pairs of breeding age should be given the opportunity to breed at least one clutch a season.

In the case of psittacines at least one suitable breeding box should be positioned within or attached to the cage.

Suitable non-toxic non-hazardous nesting materials should be provided.

The selling of and use of fine synthetic monofilament materials as nesting materials is considered unethical because these frequently become entwined around toes and feet leading to strictures, pain and gangrene.

Coconut fibre and fresh coarse grasses are considered appropriate nesting materials for many birds

### **Aviaries**

The clauses applied to Cages as far as possible should also apply to aviaries.

It is advisable that the aviary be roofed over or otherwise so constructed to minimize its contamination by the faeces of free flying and perching birds.

Outdoor aviaries must be fitted with a weather protection area

Outdoor aviaries must be fitted with an "airlock" to minimize the risk of confined birds escaping.

It is advisable that outdoor aviaries be fitted with an internal "trap" cage in which food is regularly placed.

The "trap" cage door must be secured in the open position unless the cage needs to be used as a trap.

Aviaries should be constructed to minimize access by and provide maximum protection against vermin including mice and rats, and by other predators including cats, dogs, foxes, snakes and predatory birds (raptors, ravens, currawongs, butcher birds, kookaburras).

Aviaries on frequent display to visitors, and especially those in zoos and fauna parks, should provide security or "non-threat" zones for the bird so that they cannot be repeatedly frightened by people.

Parallel and adjoining aviaries should be constructed to prevent drainage from one into another.

Parallel and adjoining aviaries should not house incompatible species without a full sight barrier.

Parallel and adjoining aviaries should not house predator/prey species without a full sight barrier.

Parallel and adjoining aviaries should be constructed to prevent direct contact between birds in adjacent aviaries, and in particular eliminate the possibility of toes being bitten by birds in adjacent cages.

In practice this means the use as a divider of either a double layer of wire separated by 3-5 cm and/or the use of ultra-fine mesh and/or the use of an impermeable material such as metal or plastic or fibreglass sheeting.

### **Keeping of Single Birds of Flock Species**

Is it ethical or acceptable with respect to a bird free from physical incapacities to

isolate a bird from its own species for extended periods, often for life?

deprive a bird the opportunity to groom and be groomed?

deprive a bird the opportunity to mate and rear young?

As a "pet"?

As a display bird in a zoo or fauna park?

Is it ethical or acceptable with respect to a bird with physical incapacities to isolate a bird from its own species for extended periods, often for life?

deprive a bird the opportunity to groom and be groomed?

deprive a bird the opportunity to mate and rear young?

As a "pet"?

As a display bird in a zoo or fauna park?

Handraising of birds (for the pet trade vs threatened/endangered species).

What are the ethical and welfare considerations?

Is it ethical to treat/manage birds as breeding machines ignoring that they have feelings etc. (The Human Nature of Birds)?

Is it ethical to remove all chicks from a clutch at a given age for the purposes of hand rearing and taming these, and hopefully inducing the production of a second or third clutch within the same breeding season? Does the end justify the means? If it weren't a bird, would it be ethical?

How does this situation contrast with that where one or both of the parents of the chicks have begun to feather pick or mutilate them?

Should the parent birds be given the opportunity to raise at least one chick to fledging stage? ... to "weaning" stage?

When a nestling is sick or ailing what should we do?

"rescue" and treat it?

Let it die?

What about those species in the wild where it appears normal for only one nestling per clutch to survive?

Life in our hands?

Should we take birds for hand-raising in sub-optimal conditions?

What is the optimal age for taking nestlings for hand-raising?

What is the optimal age for the sale/transfer of a hand-raised bird to its intended long-term "owner"?

Should a hand raised bird demonstrate it can feed itself enough in a day to provide its nutritional needs?

Should a hand-raised bird still dependent on hand-feeding be sold without adequate written and demonstrated instruction on preparation and administration of appropriate food and maintenance of food preparation and feeding implements?

Should any bird be sold to a novice "owner" without appropriate advice on feeding care and husbandry?

How do we as vets who think we often know better have input on such advice?

### **Imprinting of pet birds (also see above)**

Many consider it desirable to imprint (on humans) birds for sale as pet and companion birds.

Most consider it undesirable to imprint orphaned and injured wild birds where there is expectation or hope that they will be rehabilitated to the wild.

Sale of nestlings vs sale of fledglings

At issue: Welfare of the bird

Behavioural changes signalling disease less readily recognised in nestlings than fledglings?

Imprinting of nestlings easier to accomplish/more difficult to avoid than with fledglings

### **Nutritional aspects**

Nutrition of nestlings more critical than that of fledglings

Hygiene and disease prevention aspects.

Nestlings generally more susceptible to disease than fledglings?

Responsibility to warn or counsel prospective owner about the bird's needs in short and long term including those needs for companionship throughout the day, sexual and breeding needs when bird reaches sexual maturity, and common problems experienced when these needs are frustrated.

Nutrition and Bird Food

To formulate appendices applicable to commonly kept species.

Suitability

Quantity

Quality

Variety

Food and water containers

### **Shape**

The shape of food and water containers should minimize spillage onto cage or aviary floor.

The shape of food and water containers should facilitate physical cleaning and disinfection.

The shape of food and water containers should minimize the probability of their contamination by bird faeces and mould growth.

### **Materials**

Materials used for food and water containers should be easily cleaned and disinfected and resistant to sunlight and normal weather changes.

It should be considered unethical to sell food or water containers that are likely to leech poisons into food or water or which are likely to otherwise constitute a source of poisoning.

Galvanized metal containers usually sealed with solder and sold with and for "standard" cockatoo cages are an example of such containers.

Containers made of brass or copper are other examples.

### **Position**

Food and water containers should be positioned such that their positioning circumvents the possibility of one bird preventing access of other birds within the cage to them.

Food and water containers should be positioned such that the probability of fouling by bird faeces is minimized.

Food and water containers should be positioned so that at least one of each is easily accessible should a bird become weak or disabled.

Food and water containers should be positioned for easy access and maintenance.

Food and water containers should be positioned to minimize access by wild birds and vermin.

### **Number**

There should be sufficient sources of food and water to circumvent the possibility of one bird preventing access of other birds to food and water.

## **Size**

The size of food and water containers should be adequate to provide for the daily needs of the birds, assuming they will be serviced at least once every day.

Where management is such that feeding and/or watering is automated or semi-automated the size should be such that under prevailing circumstances provided food and water is always provided in a fresh and wholesome condition.

Food "Bells" etc.

The hanging or construction of these around sharp wire hooks is considered unethical and totally inappropriate as birds can easily be injured by these when exposed.

## **Restraint of Birds**

### **Leg chains**

Leg chains are used to tether larger birds, usually cockatoos and Macaws, to T shaped perches outside a cage. They are occasionally used to tether the birds to other objects. When a bird tries to fly off the perch or tries to move away from it it is prevented from doing so. Sometimes leg chains become twisted around the perch so that the bird is on a very short tether. Othertimes the bird can become caught up in the chain. Injuries such as abrasion to leg and fractures can result from their use.

The use of leg chains to restrain birds is considered to be unethical and cruel..

### **Wing clipping**

Wing clipping currently is commonly practised by many birdkeepers, bird sellers and veterinary surgeons.

There are many variations of technique for wingclipping whereby one or both wings are clipped to disable the bird from flying at all, or from flying strongly.

Except where the technique leads to physical injury as noted below, the technique is generally perceived as a non-painful, temporary method of deflighting birds. When the bird moults out the cut feathers and regrows new ones, it regains the ability to fly unless the new ones are also cut.

Whereas wing clipping may be a non-painful procedure, it is frequently a very stressful procedure, especially when performed on mature birds that are not used to being handled. Such birds require firm physical restraint or sedation to prevent injury to bird and/or the person performing the procedure. Birds which have previously known the joys of flight and then have their wing(s) clipped usually appear distressed after the procedure and some become predisposed to self-mutilation of feathers and to other behavioural disorders.

Wing clipping is usually performed to prevent a bird from escaping when it is allowed out of a cage.

Wing clipping is commonly performed by bird sellers selling young birds as "companion birds" for hand-taming.

Wing clipping is occasionally performed to help manage aviary birds which have become particularly aggressive towards other birds in the aviary or their keepers.

There are arguments for and against clipping one or both wings which centre around whether or not the bird has some control over where it lands if it falls from or tries to fly from an elevated position. It is argued that clipping one wing only causes the bird to spiral down and usually disables the bird from flying more than clipping both wings.

Many people perceive that it is preferable to allow a bird out of a cage with its wings clipped, than confine it to a cage. When the cage is tiny and does not allow the

opportunity for flight or exercise this perception is probably valid. However, the bigger picture is that with few exceptions (ratites, penguins etc), flying is an integral part of a bird's life.

Wing clipping can be a painful and sometimes life threatening procedure if actively growing blood quills are mistakenly cut during the procedure.

Wing clipping techniques that cause the terminal three primary flight feathers to be cut often predispose injury and bruising to the tip of the wing each time the bird tries to fly or land. At such times the fleshy tip of the wing is often belted against nearby objects. The pain and injury is aggravated when the cut stumps of terminal flight feathers are moulted and new blood quills start to grow. These are often repeatedly bruised and damaged, often bleed, some become infected and some grow with various deformities which induce the bird to further damage them.

Therefore, if wing clipping is to be performed at all, the terminal 3 primary flights should be left uncut on both wings.

Whereas wing clipping is currently perceived by most veterinary surgeons as an ethical and necessary procedure, the time is rapidly approaching, at least in Australia, when the procedure will be considered unethical and unnecessary.

Wing taping and or wing bracing or splinting will be perceived to be more humane procedures which are real alternatives to wing clipping. In the longer term, these in turn will fall out of "favour" as people become more aware and respectful of birds' requirements for flight.

### **Pinioning**

The term pinioning refers to procedures by which birds which normally are able to fly are permanently rendered unable to fly.

Many different techniques have been developed to deflight birds.

Most involve surgical procedures in which part of one wing is amputated. Other surgical techniques involve severance of tendons or ligaments, wiring of joints and destruction of feather follicles producing primary flight feathers.

All these procedures are in themselves painful and yet many are performed on young birds without anaesthesia.

Non-surgical techniques involve chemical arthrodesis, that is, the injection of a substance into a joint with the purpose of causing that joint to fuse while the wing is maintained strapped in a folded position. One can easily imagine that this to be a painful procedure. The demand for pinioning of birds comes from three main sources:

The person who wants to have their pet cockatoo "free" to walk about the house and yard, or sitting on his shoulder without risk of escaping.

Zoos and fauna parks where the animals are on display but where the impression wants to be created that they are free while they are confined to open space (ie not caged in) areas.

Farmers and the like who want to keep geese or peafowl, for example, around the home. Occasionally water fowl and other "gamefowl" are pinioned by hunters and used to lure down other birds so that they can then be shot.

The same "principle" is used by some to trap birds for the wild bird trade.

Pinioning is a mutilation procedure which is cruel and unethical.

### **Wing taping**

Wing taping is usually performed as a veterinary procedure to achieve immobilisation of part of a wing to facilitate healing of some wound or injury.

Wing taping is increasingly being recognised as a temporary and reversible means of

restricting the flight of otherwise purportedly healthy birds.

Wing taping for this purpose is commonly applied to nestling and fledgling birds on display for sale in open fish tanks and similar enclosures at pet shops. It is also commonly being used on recently purchased pet birds during hand taming training procedures. Occasionally it finds application to live birds being used for teaching purposes.

Wing taping is considered to have major advantages over wing clipping. It is less disfiguring and the tape can quickly be removed and re-applied according to circumstance, such that the bird can still be given the opportunity to fly, exercise and keep fit.

Wing taping ideally should use tape which does not leave adhesive stuck to feather barbules etc when the tape is removed.

Wing taping should be seen as undesirable yet condonable restraint procedure, the use of which should be kept to a minimum in terms of time and frequency.

### **Hoods**

Hoods are opaque objects which are fitted over a bird's head for the purpose of obscuring its vision and calming it.

Some birds calm down very quickly when fitted with a hood. Most diurnal raptors and ostriches are examples.

Hoods need to be lined with soft non-abrasive material to prevent them damaging eyes and skin.

Their temporary use for short non-painful procedures without anaesthesia or chemical sedation is considered an ethical aid to restraint.

### **Breeding of birds**

The ethics of this subject area is like a "can of worms".

Consider the present reality that most British Exhibition Budgerigars currently have a life expectancy of approximately 2 years, and that Australian budgerigar breeders have been importing these birds for their "desirable traits" into this country and using them widely in those breeding aviaries at the "top" of the bird market. Of course, the birds only need to breed for 1-2 years before they are discarded (either killed or off-loaded to pet shops and the unsuspecting public). Surely, the whole procedure is unethical?

#### **Amateur breeding**

Common species eg budgerigars, lovebirds, canaries, finches, quail

Purpose breeding

Aviculture

For other aviculturists

Maintaining "type"

Aviculturists should be encouraged to breed to wild bird type as distinct from some designed exhibition type where the bird has exaggerated features.

Developing mutations

Colour mutations

The breeding of colour mutations is condoned provided such mutations are not linked genetically with depowering or incapacitating dysfunctions of the body.

Feather structure and placement mutations.

The use of birds for breeding with feather structure and/or placement associated with pain, discomfort, or incapacity is considered unethical. Examples of such are:

Mops and Feather Duster budgerigars  
Feathers misdirected across and onto eyes.  
Feathers entangling legs and feet  
Feathers dagging cloaca.  
Other physical structure mutations.

The purposeful breeding of mutations with exaggerated physical features which in any way impare the bird's ability to eat, drink, preen, walk or grip, or which adversely affect quality of life is considered unethical.

For example: Budgerigars are being bred with broad beaks with fleshy protruberances in their mouth, broad ceres with occluded nostrils. Canaries are being bred which develop grossly long twistd nails and multiple feather cysts. Others are being bred with a suspected genetic predisposition to developing cataracts.

### **Behavioral mutations**

The purposeful breeding of birds for maintaining incapacitating and maladaptive behavioural traits is considered unethical. For example:

Rollers and tumblers (pigeons)  
Exhibition and show birds

This subject area and the general management procedures associated with it in terms of breeding, disposal of "non-ideal", preparation for exhibition, exhibition cages, judging procedures etc is associated with many things that most veterinary surgeons would consider unethical and/or poor management.

Show bird standards are often grossly exaggerated, and are often like a charicature of the natural form of the species, if not in their initial form, then in their interpretation.

Many hens are repeatedly bred until they develop physical disorders such as abdominal hernias, egg binding and prolapse.

Unwanted progeny are often killed brutally (eg. throwing or squashing under foot) or by release to wild bird predators with scant regard for potential spread of infectious disease. Birds selected for exhibition are often plucked, dyed andotherwise altered from their natural state.

Sick birds are often exhibited with healthy birds.

Judges frequently use the same utensil without any attempt at disinfection, to prod and move one bird within its show cage, then the next, the next and so on, thus aiding and abetting the spread of agents of disease.

Quarantine procedures and all their benefits for preventing disease are usually totally ignored when it comes to bird shows.

In other words, the health and welfare of the birds both on show and those in the aviaries to which they are returned is relegated to be a minor consideration when compared with the kudos of exhibiting and being "recognised" by winning.

It appears that Veterinary Surgeons may have a necessary, albeit undesirable role to play, in changing bird exhibition practice.!

### **Song birds**

If birds are to be bred for their "quality of song", then this should not be at the detriment of their 'quality oflife" such that they need to be kept isolated from a mate in order that they "sing".

For release and rehabilitation

Breeding birds for release and rehabilitation is very different from breeding birds for domestic consumption. Whereas very few people as yet devote effort to developing expertise in this area at present, it will by necessity become common and fashionable

practice in our future.

Veterinary surgeons should encourage and facilitate such breeding, together with all the other good management practices which are required to minimise the spread of aviculture associated infectious diseases to wild bird populations.

### **Pet and companion birds**

Should we encourage the selection and breeding of docile, “friendly”, long lived, poor flying birds with minimal powder down as pets?

Rare, threatened and endangered species

Should it be an implied or legal obligation of anyone who possesses or cares for a bird of a rare, threatened or endangered species, to actively seek to facilitate its breeding and maximise its longevity with quality of life?

Should such people also be required to keep detailed records of management and of body functions such as moulting, illnesses, breeding behaviour?

Should such people be required to make the bird available for collection of feather or blood samples for DNA typing and studies?

Should such people be required to participate in species management breeding schemes designed to minimize inbreeding etc?

### **Capture and restraint of Captive birds**

Gloves

If leather or material gloves are used for restraining birds which are infected with agents of infectious diseases Eg. Avian Circavirus and cannot be appropriately disinfected on a frequent basis, should their continued use be considered unethical?

What about the use of “x-ray” gloves?

Towels and clothes

Towels and clothes are probably the most suitable aids for restraint of birds

They can readily be laundered, disinfected and/or autoclaved

They are cheap and easily replaced

They are effective when used skillfully

Nets

Hand held nets similar to butterfly nets are frequently used by aviculturists and in pet shops and occasionally in veterinary practice to catch birds.

Nets are rarely disinfected in any of these locations.

Contaminated nets are likely to spread agents of disease.

Nets should be disinfected after each use.

Hand held nets for catching birds should have a padded rim to reduce the risk of injury to birds

### **Trap cages**

It is considered good practice to equip larger aviaries and cages with trap cages for the purpose of minimising disturbance to the birds and to minimise the risk of injury when the need arises to catch a bird for treatment, examination or transfer.

It is advisable that trap cages incorporate a regular (daily) feeding station or watering point that is readily accessible when the trap is not in use.

The trap door needs to be effectively secured open when not in use so that it cannot be spring inadvertently in the absence of people thus potentially preventing access of other birds to food etc.

### **Trapping of Free Flying Birds**

Purpose and intent: consider the ethical and welfare issues.

Under what if any circumstances is the trapping of free flying birds ethical or in their best interests?

What welfare considerations should we give trapped free flying birds?

Consider each of the above in terms of the next subset

Rare or endangered species with insufficient suitable habitat?

Rare or endangered species with adequate suitable habitat? (Previously trapped for bird collectors etc or killed as a pest?)

Rare or endangered species with adequate suitable habitat at present. but habitat threatened by likelihood of war, political policy change etc.?

Feral introduced species in demand overseas?

Feral introduced species considered a pest by an influential group of people?

Locally abundant species?

Indigenous species considered a pest by an influential group of people

Captive breeding

Sale for pet trade

Sale for export trade

Leg banding, tagging and other population and migration studies.

Consider the use of each of the following in terms of the above considerations

Mist nets: These are almost invisible fine nets strung across known bird flight paths

Cannon nets: These are nets fired over a flock of birds grounded at a feeding station.

Baiting

The administration of a tranquillizer, immobilising agent or other agent designed to make the birds easier to catch.

Nest raiding

Taking eggs and/or nestlings from nests without destroying the nest or nesting site

Taking eggs and/or nestlings from nests and concurrently destroying the nest or nesting site: for example the chopping down of trees with nesting hollows.

I advocate that the latter be a criminal offence when it concerns indigenous species, or nesting sites that would normally be used by indigenous species, unless prior written consent has been obtained from eg. local Council

Decoys and lures

Surrogate inanimate bird images (models) can be used to lure down some water birds

Some bird calls and some other sounds can be used to attract birds to a locality

Chained maimed Major Mitchell cockatoos have been used to call help to call in others of their kind for the purposes of trapping.

Adhesive and Sticky perches, ?quick lime

Birds landing on such materials become stuck to the perch or platform. Often their beaks, wings, and tail become contaminated and/or stuck to the adhesive agent which is often toxic and highly irritant.

I advocate that the use of this method of trapping and the use of such materials be considered totally unethical and that we petition to have it made a criminal offence.

### **Duck Shooting and Bird Hunting**

Most duck hunting uses single or double barrel shot guns to shoot at, maim or kill ducks and other birds.

Do we condone it under any circumstances

Maiming and causing pain, fear and distress

Habitat pollution and degradation

#### Lead shot

Many shallow lakes and water ways and nearby above ground feeding grounds have become heavily contaminated with lead shot which is subsequently ingested by birds, and other animals who in turn eat sick and incapacitated insidiously poisoned birds, thus themselves being poisoned.

#### Steel shot

If shooting of birds is to be permitted under any circumstances, the use of steel shot is considered environmentally more sound than lead shot.

Cans, bottles and litter including spent shot gun cartridges.

Inspection of the popular hunting grounds of many duck hunters during the open season reveals significant environmental degradation in the form of litter such as the above.

#### Other technology

##### Rifles

##### Bows and arrows

A form of hunting that is probably as cruel or painful to the bird successfully hunted as one that is shot, but which probably involves considerably more skill on the part of the hunter and much less risk of a non-target species being shot.

Environmental impact much less than with lead shot.

Number of birds likely to be killed or maimed, other factors being equal, less than with shot guns or rifles.

#### Photography

Involves as much if not more skill than use of a shotgun

Has minimal environmental impact.

Can add significantly to our knowledge of both plentiful and endangered species.

Perhaps this should be the only form of hunting of indigenous birds that the AAV supports and advocates?

What do you think?

#### Intoxicated shooters

Intoxicated shooters have been obvious, prevalent, armed, and largely ignored (not arrested) by local rangers etc at Duck Shoots in recent years. Eg. Barren Swamp

#### Hunting season

Comments on timing and duration invited!

#### Hunting permits

Should any hunting permits be issued? Why?

Should permits be issued without training in recognition and distinguishing of target and non-target species.

Should permits be issued to people who fail to pass a realistic test of their skills to quickly recognise and distinguish target and non-target species, one mistake and no permit this year?

#### Shooting "out of hours"

At previous duck shoots at the beginning of the duck hunting season significant numbers of people have commenced shooting illegally at dawn and dusk before/after that time when there is sufficient light to accurately and reliably identify the target species.

Shooting of threatened, endangered and other species.

Many birds of threatened and/or endangered species and other non-target species have been shot at, killed and maimed by so called duck hunters (presumably each of which has a hunting permit?!) during open season.

#### Hunting "ranches"

The concept is a private property on which or onto which birds are released for the purpose of being shot by members of a club or similar or members of the public who pay some fee for the "right" to shoot on the ranch or farm.

Does the AAV support the concept of hunting ranches being developed and used in Australia?

## Racing Pigeons

Legal and illegal importations

Many pigeons have been imported legally

Many pigeons and pigeon eggs have been imported illegally

It is suspected that illegal importations continue unabated despite the fanfare over the opportunity to legally import birds in recent times.

Do members of the AAV condone the illegal importation of live pigeons or their eggs? If not, why not?

Do members of the AAV consider the importation of more pigeons in any form beneficial to Australia? Why?

Do members of the AAV consider the importation of more pigeons in any form benefits pigeons or other birds already in Australia?

Do members of the AAV support or condone the legal importation of pigeons? Why?

Commercial benefits for veterinarians?

Commercial benefits for clients and certain breeders/flyers?

Other reasons?

The potential to spread exotic disease

The characteristics of the hobby, sport and business of racing pigeons, with large scale frequent movement and mixing of free flying birds, and their exposure to indigenous predatory birds, are such that the potential for spread of "indigenous" virulent infectious disease and the spread of introduced exotic infectious diseases is high.

It is only a matter of time before we experience a "disastorous" outbreak of disease associated with racing pigeons in Australia, in the author's opinion, under current practices.

The supply of drugs to increase performance.

The pigeon racing industry, like other racing industries, is infiltrated with those who attempt to misuse a wide variety of drugs to influence performance of birds.

Is it ethical to use drugs to alter the performance of racing birds? If so, when? If not, why not?

Is it ever ethical to use drugs to depress the performance of racing pigeons?

Is it in the individual bird's best interests (welfare) to alter its racing performance with drugs? If so, when? If not, why not?

Is it in the flock's best interests (welfare) to alter its racing performance with drugs? If so, when? If not, why not?

Is it in the flock's best interests (welfare) to alter its racing performance with drugs such as anabolics, tonics and vitamins (drugs not specifically targeted to correct aspects of mismanagement or outbreaks of infectious disease) when management is suboptimal as indicated by the presence of nematode infestations and/or external parasites and/or exposure to galvanised or copper water troughs and food containers and/or exposure to mouldy food and/or exposure to overcrowded dusty or otherwise filthy lofts etc as examples?

Is it in the flock's best interests to use drugs to enhance performance with drugs when management is otherwise considered optimal?

Veterinary surgeons are increasingly "given the opportunity" and "incentives" to "cooperate" with requests for the supply of performance altering drugs.

Is it ethical for a veterinarian to supply drugs for such a purpose?

Is it ethical for a veterinarian to disguise the purpose for which drugs are supplied?

The use and abuse of S4 and other drugs to control disease

Although the use of faeces alone in a Clearview Chlamydia test is known to be associated with unacceptable levels of false positives, the results of Clearview faecal tests without physical examinations etc have been used to give legality to the supply of

\$4 (sic) antibiotics. Does the AAV see this as ethical basis for the supply of such drugs? Should whole flocks or whole lofts be treated with a drug aimed to kill an infection or infestation clinically limited to a small proportion of the flock or loft?

If so under what circumstances?

When the infection is an exotic disease?

When the infection is a newly identified disease in racing pigeons?

Always, if the infection is potentially contagious?

When the infection is endemic in the flock or in racing pigeons in general?

Only when the birds are racing or otherwise being mixed with birds from other flocks?

The infection is a common zoonosis?

Other circumstances: please specify!

If not, why not?

The infection or infestation is of clinical significance usually only in immunosuppressed, otherwise debilitated or severely stressed birds and therefore is generally a signal of another problem and/or mismanagement?

The probability of drug resistance developing is increased with increased frequency of use, misuse, and with increasing numbers of birds and their microflora exposed to the drug?

It is better to isolate and treat clinically affected birds in quarantine?

It is cheaper to isolate and treat only the clinically affected birds in quarantine, bearing in mind the flock or loft is likely to be re-exposed to sources of re-infection in the nearby environment (Eg. ? neighbour's blocked guttering?!), or when the birds are next raced?

Other circumstances: please specify!

Neighbours and community concerns re disease

The "rights" and "wrongs" of the view that pigeons are "aerial rats" ie flying vermin.

Are there any "rights"?

Are there any "wrongs"?

Please comment?

Are there real or significant differences between the risks to which the public are exposed when mingling with city park pigeons and living near a racing pigeon loft?

Please comment and expand!

Chlamydiosis

Salmonella

Avian tuberculosis

Cryptococcus

Not spread by pigeons but multiplies in contaminated droppings

Rodents

Feral pigeons in public places

A veterinary surgeon (who of course is a member of the AAV) is asked by a pigeon flyer who recently "invested in" some legally imported racing pigeons, to support his/her right to continue his/her hobby of keeping and training racing pigeons in suburbia because a neighbour's family (who just happens to also be a client of the veterinary surgeon) has been organising a petition for the local council to prohibit the keeping of racing pigeons because of health risks to the public, and in particular because they are providing board and support for a friend with AIDS.

What do you see as an ethical response on your part?

Assuming you are the veterinary surgeon?

Assuming you are asked to give a second opinion to the local council?

Review your position in view of the (Heaven forbid) announcement about the linking of a progressively incapacitating nervous system disorder with a previously unrecognised arboviral infection of pigeons somewhere in Europe.

Now review your position if the context is altered to allow "exotic parrots" (ie non-indigenous species) is substituted for "racing pigeons".

Now review your position if the context is altered to replace “exotic parrots” with “indigenous parrots” with no legal or illegal imports.

### **Trichomoniasis and raptors**

Populations of many species of raptors are reducing in number and year by year more species are approaching threatened and/or endangered status.

(Ronidazole resistant) trichomoniasis appears to be encountered with increasing frequency in racing pigeons.

Free flying raptors of some species are reportedly significant predators of racing pigeons and are susceptible to trichomoniasis.

Some pigeon flyers have expressed the desire to “cull” some raptors as pests, either officially or unofficially.

What are the ethical issues of racing pigeons along flight paths traversing the territories of predatory raptors?

Should racing pigeons be required to be tested free from *Trichomonas* sp. infection prior to each race?

Zoos and fauna parks and birds

Many areas of currently condoned zoo and fauna park practice in relation to the acquiring, keeping, exhibition, breeding and disposal of birds need to be reviewed, and some on closer examination, are patently unethical.

Behind the commonly presented welfare public interest facade of most zoos is the basic requirement to generate money for the sponsors and or owners of the zoo. More often than we would like to think “business” decisions are made which over-ride ethical and welfare considerations. Veterinary surgeons find that “selective silence” is an unwritten condition of continued employment.

The importation of birds.

Zoos appear to be one of the major forces lobbying for the legalised importation of birds and international trade of birds, at least between various zoos. Yet it behoves us to seriously question why this is so, what are the costs, what are the benefits, who receives the benefits and why? It also behoves us to repeatedly ask if there is a better way of operating zoos so that the importation of live birds is no longer seen to be necessary

The capture of wild birds.

Zoos, at least in the past, and probably in the present, have created a demand for the capture of wild birds to replace inadequately managed dead and aging stock, to create displays which pull in paying customers.

Trading of birds between zoos and fauna parks.

There is significant trading of birds between public and private zoos and fauna parks. Although various standards have been established to address some of the problems, they are often not enforced or policed.

Trading of birds between zoos and aviculturists

Some of our major zoos act as “quarantine stations” of a sort and yet there is often relatively free movement of people between “quarantine” and “non-quarantine” areas. Whereas the monitoring, recognition and treatment of infectious diseases in zoos has become much more sophisticated in recent times, there remain major risks of transmission of certain agents of disease both within zoos and between zoos and fauna parks and private aviaries..

Captive breeding of birds

Staff

The Public's Expectation re Injured and sick wild birds

The public expectation is that zoos and fauna parks should take in and care for all sick and injured wildlife. However, legally wildlife is generally the property of the Crown and yet the Crown does bugger all to help zoos and fauna parks address this problem. Rather

“it” relies on the goodwill of zoos and fauna parks, and private vets, to donate their services, and pay for the care of more and more sick and injured wildlife as our communities continue to degrade our environment.

### **The realities.**

One of the realities is that many zoos are inundated with injured and sick wildlife, particularly species encountered in suburban environments. It takes a wise person to be able to recognise those which would die from natural attrition, those which should have been left out in “the wild” as part of the food chain, those which pose a significant infectious disease risk, those which should be rehabilitated and those which should be destroyed immediately. I suspect in reality most are euthanased unless they happen to be of a species that is “valued”.

Most zoos have a policy which prevents the display of visibly disabled or injured birds or animals and yet if the injury can be disguised as in pinioning it is alright! (Or is it??).

The author suggests that zoos should be encouraged to review this policy for a variety of reasons.

There is more justification for maintaining and providing protective custody for a maimed bird that exhibits adaptation to its incapacity with quality of life, than confining a fully able bird that often would be better being rehabilitated to freedom. Such incapacitated wild birds could be used to restock zoos and fauna parks and thus create less demand for trapped wild birds. This would also extend the life of many maimed birds which are currently killed by euthanasia under zoo policy and policies of organisations such as WIRES. The public need to be informed in advance that certain enclosures provide a protected environment for incapacitated animals that would otherwise be killed, etc.

The pinioned bird policy.

Refer to section on pinioning.

Most zoos and fauna parks currently have pinioned birds on exhibit.

The maimed bird policy.

Importation of Birds

Many ethical and welfare issues

Live fledged and adult birds

Live bird eggs

Dead bird products.

The risk of birds escaping and becoming pest species

The risk of introduction of infectious agents of exotic disease pathogenic for avicultural, racing pigeon, food production flocks, ostriches and/or wild birds.

The risk of introduction of drug-resistant strains of established pathogens.

The risk of introduction of exotic strains of established pathogens capable of recombining to produce highly virulent and pathogenic strains for various species of birds. Eg. *Chlamydia psittaci*.

The risk of introducing many of the actual and potential pathogens is thought to be less via imported eggs than via imported hatched birds

Much more to be added!

Exportation of Birds

Many ethical and welfare issues

Live fledged and adult birds

Live bird eggs

Dead bird products.

Harvesting of so-called pest species

Farming of indigenous species for export via live bird trade.

Farming of indigenous species for export via stuffed bird trade.

(is there any long term difference?!)  
Aborigines and consideration of their perceived needs.  
Much more to be added!

### **Bird Smuggling**

Small but increasing populations of many exotic species which are known not to have been legally imported are now known to be in Australia indicating their smuggling into Australia in recent years.

People possessing rare exotic birds, and as yet rare mutations of common exotic birds in Australia are able to sell them and/or their progeny for considerable sums of money because in part of "the law" of "supply and demand", but more importantly because of current community attitudes and beliefs associated with the possession of rare and exotic species.

(detail some core beliefs etc which need to be re-evaluated before we can reduce demand for such birds)

With some credence given to the assertion that smuggling of significant numbers of live bird eggs and probably of live birds into Australia has continued largely unabated despite the opportunity in recent years to legally import some birds via official quarantine stations into Australia, and given that our quarantine stations were established primarily to reduce smuggling (something they appear to have failed to do).....

### **Quarantine Procedures for Birds**

Sentinal birds  
Stress environment vs stress free environment  
Duration of quarantine  
Purpose of quarantine  
Much more to be added!

### **Sale of Birds**

Points of sale for birds  
Pet shops  
Bird dealers  
Bird Breeders  
Bird Trappers  
Pet shops  
Current practices and characteristics which adversely affect the welfare of birds and/or the purchasers of the birds and/or their already established birds at home.  
Overcrowding of individual cages  
Overcrowding of petshop with birds in cages  
Poor ventilation  
Minimal provision of "safe, secure" zones for birds on display  
Minimal control and prevention of prospective buyer induced stress.  
Frequent display and offering for sale of Avian Circavirus and/or Papovavirus infected budgerigars and other psittacines.  
Frequent display and offering for sale of Chlamydia infected birds.  
Frequent display and sale of otherwise ill birds.  
Frequent sale of unsuitable and often hazardous cages and cage furniture.  
Frequent exhibition of cockatoos secured by leg chains.  
Frequent display of unprotected items of food for sale in proximity to infected birds.

Rodents often maintained in proximity to caged and aviary birds for sale.  
Frequent mixing of birds sourced from different consignments  
Frequent destruction of sick individuals of "less valuable" species rather than veterinary examination and treatment etc.  
Frequent "in house" "out back" (= food preparation and storage area) housing and treatment of sick birds.  
Frequent misuse of drugs in shop and inappropriate and illegal supply of therapeutic drugs.  
Frequent sale of unsuitable, inappropriate or dangerously presented foodstuffs and toys.  
Frequent laundering of birds by some is strongly suspected.  
Severe wing clipping of birds  
Offering for sale of old finches close to the limit of their lifetime as younger birds.  
Offering for sale of birds unable to crack seed or to sustain themselves when appropriate food is offered.  
At what point in time will the continuation of such practices be considered unethical?  
At what point in time will self-regulation and/or external pressures cause minimisation of such practices?  
"Problems" with various inspectors and NPWS (????)  
Bird dealers  
Current practices and characteristics

### **Bird Breeders**

Current practices and characteristics

### **Bird Trappers**

Current practices and characteristics

### **Trends for the future**

Veterinary Examination of Birds  
Minimal standards  
Acceptable standards of veterinary care  
The prospect of litigation  
Supply of S4 Drugs  
Tetracyclines and Doxycycline  
What constitutes adequate knowledge of bird and client  
For how long  
Repeat supply  
Pet shops  
Over crowded pet shops  
Health hazards to staff  
Health hazards to public  
Health hazards to birds  
Is it ethical to continue supply of s4 drugs in the face of continuing mismanagement?  
Is it ethical to mask the signs of infectious disease by constant in water medication and to sell such birds with a high probability of being infected with Chlamydia.?  
Zoonoses  
Our responsibility to detect?  
Our responsibility to advise?  
Our responsibility to test?

The costs of investigation dilemma and lack government / university support

Case in point: Avian tuberculosis in racing pigeon stud.

Hormone treatment of Birds

Birds for human and/or animal consumption

Exhibition and pet poultry not for consumption

Caged and aviary birds

Devocalisation of Birds

Is It ever ethical?

Why is it requested?

Why are the vocalisations of birds a problem?

Gallinaceous birds

Psittacine Birds

Other species.

Mutations

Colour mutations

Feather structure mutations

Feather dusters budgerigars

Feathers deviated across or onto eyes

Loss of flight

Loss of insulation, thermoregulation

Longevity

Susceptibility to cancer

Neurological deficits

Euthanasia of Birds

Is euthanasia indicated?

Our perceptions of suffering

Our percepts of relief of suffering

Techniques for euthanasia of individual birds

Those used by "bird keepers"

Those advocated by Veterinary Surgeons

Techniques for euthanasia of groups of birds

Killing birds for museum collections and scientific studies.

## **Slaughter of Birds**

For human consumption

For animal consumption

Control of Birds Perceived as Pests

Elimination of breeding sites

Trapping

Poisoning

Collection of eggs

Bird contraception

Decoy crops and food sources

Predators

Netting

Cannons

## **Rehabilitation of Birds**

Exhibition of Birds

Zoos

Private Fauna Parks  
Reserves  
Circuses  
Amusement Centres  
Shopping Centres  
Hotels, motels, hospitals, Nursing homes  
Bird Shows  
Healthy birds  
Sick birds  
Judges' sticks  
Birds and teaching  
Incapacitated birds  
Quality of life  
Anthromorphism  
What criteria?  
What perspectives?  
Basic needs  
Food  
Water  
Shelter  
Exercise  
Other needs  
Companionship  
Grooming  
Sexual gratification  
Breeding  
Migration  
Play  
Hunting

### **Birds as experimental animals**

Treatment trials  
Invasive research  
Non-invasive research  
Wild Bird Rescue  
Alleviation of Pain  
Zoonoses and birds  
The bird breeder  
The bird trapper  
The bird dealer  
The pet shop  
The veterinary surgeon  
Birds on exhibition  
Bird Brain  
Aspects of The Ethics of Modifying Unethical Behaviour!  
Consider the following truisms:  
Life: a learning experience  
Do under others as you would have done unto yourself  
People living in glass houses should not throw stones.  
Judge not yest ye be judged.  
No man is an island.

A person convinced against his will is of the same opinion still.

When you hurt someone you hurt yourself

When you help someone you help yourself.

When you disempower someone you disempower yourself

When you empower someone you empower yourself.

Consider that the veterinary profession and its members are constantly evolving and refining new attitudes and ethics within the wider evolving social context.

Recognise that within our veterinary profession there are perhaps as many “questionable ethics” as in any other group within our community.

Each of us has made “mistakes” and each of us will continue to make “mistakes” while we live in this reality we call life.

Some of us repeatedly knowingly or unknowingly continue to make the same mistake.

We see a big difference between knowingly or consciously acting unethically (Eg. consciously misleading people and mistreating birds with ineffective or inappropriate drugs) and being blissfully ignorant of adverse results of our attitudes and behaviour.

When we are determining a course of action with the purpose of improving unethical behaviour, should we weigh our options in terms of:

What appears best and most humane for the individual who has previously been exhibiting unethical behaviour? Why?

What appears best and most rewarding for those individuals who have experienced the adverse effects of unethical behaviour? Why?

Some other considerations: Please detail and explain.

How should we prompt review and modification of unethical behaviour?

Based on ignorance?

Based on conscious choice to act unethically?

What options, what tools, do we have, to prompt others to review and hopefully improve their behaviour?

Some options might involve

Education through teaching by another

Education through networking and self-directed investigation

Peer pressure

Coersion

Deprivation

Deregistration

Recognition and praise for appropriate behaviour (Motivation/incentive)

Others: list and expand your ideas and suggestions!

Let us now examine our list of options and determine:

which are likely to cause least harm and most benefit to an individual and the wider community?

Which are the most cost effective?

Which options would you recommend for a colleague who unwittingly was repeatedly behaving unethically?

Which options would you recommend for a colleague who repeatedly thumbed his/her nose at indications from peers that his/her behaviour is unethical?

What options, what tools, do we have, to assist ourselves to review and hopefully strengthen our resolve to improve our own behaviour?

Self-help books of which there are many, for example

Various books of religion and spirituality: Eg. The Bible

The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen R. Covey

How to Win friends and Influence People by Dale Carnegie?

The Power of Positive Thinking

Learning to recognise and distinguish those things in life that create inner longterm happiness and satisfaction and which raise self-esteem from those which blur our judgement and give short-term superficial pleasures.

Attending courses given by others

Participating in discussion groups

Trying to teach someone else and trying to understand someone else's "point of view".

Others: add to and expand this list!

Let us now examine our list of options and determine:

which are likely to cause least harm and most benefit to an individual and the wider community?

Which are the most cost effective?

Which options would you choose for yourself if you suddenly realised that you had unwittingly been repeatedly behaving unethically?

What would cause you to change your own behaviour?

Reasoning and logic?

Emotions?

Attitudes?

Beliefs?

WIIIFM? (What is in it for me?)

Many of us do not or apparently cannot think beyond this, and cannot conceptualise or realise through deeper or higher spiritual experience that we are each aspects of a "bigger whole".

Emotion generally wins over reasoning and logic

Beliefs and attitudes affect emotions

The ability to perceive or experience more than one point of view often seems to depend on personal "adverse" or "challenging" experiences in life. Many cannot judge the honey without tasting it!

Appendices

Compatible species

Incompatible species

Base diets for nominated species

Supplemental diets for nominated species

Wing span of nominated species

Minimum permanent cage dimensions for nominated species