



Queensland Finch Society Code of Conduct for QFS functions Date of issue –August 2007

Introduction

The welfare of birds is of paramount importance at all functions sponsored by the Queensland Finch Society (QFS). This Code sets out the minimum requirements that are acceptable in ensuring that finches and softbills are properly presented and cared for at QFS functions. This Code also provides details of the responsibilities of sellers and buyers at QFS functions. It applies to QFS breeder sales, QFS auctions, QFS general meetings, and all other functions organised by the QFS where birds are displayed or offered for sale. The Code is consistent with the Constitution of QFS and with the "Code of Practice for Aviculture" which applies in Queensland. If birds other than finches or softbills are presented at QFS functions (eg budgies or parrots), then these must meet the requirements of the relevant Code of Conduct.

Welfare of birds

In presenting finches or softbills for sale, display or auction the following are minimal requirements:

1. Fresh water and seed must be available to birds at all times.
2. Display cages should have only one open wire side. All other sides and the top and bottom of the display cage should be non-transparent, and should be part of the cage or a separate cover.
3. The smallest cage that is acceptable for the display of finch-size birds is the QFS auction cage, with dimensions 20cm wide x 15cm deep x 15cm high, with a single perch. The most birds to be displayed in this size cage is four(4).
4. The Qld standard finch show cage has dimensions 30cm wide x13cm deep x 25cm high, and has two perches. A maximum of six (6) birds may be displayed in this size cage.
5. In display cages larger than the Qld standard finch show cage, birds should not be overcrowded. For displaying more than six birds, the cage should be proportionally larger in floor-area than the Qld finch show cage, be at least 25cm high, and have at least two perches. For example to display twelve birds the cage must have at least twice the floor-area of the Qld standard finch show cage and be at least 25cm high. No more than twelve birds may be displayed in a single display cage provided it is of appropriate size.
NOTE. The numbers of birds per cage mentioned in 3, 4 and 5 above refer to small finches and softbills, up to the size of a Gouldian finch. The number of birds per cage shall be reduced in the case of larger birds, as determined by the Special Events Organiser.
6. Display cages must be clean, both inside and out.
7. All birds presented must be healthy, fully coloured, and self sufficient.
8. No hybrids should be offered for sale.
9. Incompatible birds must not be placed in the same cage.

Responsibilities of sellers.

All sellers at QFS functions will be made aware of this code and where possible will be provided with a copy of the code prior to the function. Sellers have primary responsibility for the welfare of birds they display, and hence they should conform with the points 1-9 above. Sellers must correctly label/describe the birds they offer for sale. Sellers must comply with any legal requirements relating to the sale and movement of birds.



Responsibility of buyers.

All buyers at QFS functions will be made aware of the existence and detail of this code and copies will be made available at the event. The responsibility for the welfare of birds transfers to the buyer when he or she completes the sale transaction for the birds. The birds may be transferred to a suitable carry box. Alternatively the acquired birds should be put in a suitable holding cage by the buyer if they are to be kept for an extended period of time before transport to home. Buyers must comply with any legal requirements relating to the sale of birds.

Dealing with welfare concerns

If the above requirements of this Code are not met at any QFS function, the Special Event Organiser or person acting as the QFS Special Events Organiser shall immediately approach the owner or person in charge of the birds and request that they conform with the Code of Conduct requirements. If this cannot be done immediately, the birds must be withdrawn from the QFS function by the owner or person in charge of the birds. Failing this, the Special Events Organiser may have the birds impounded for the duration of the QFS function.

Additional requirements.

All persons who take part in QFS functions shall comply with the particular conditions of sale/participation for that function. Enquiries regarding this Code and any particular QFS function should be directed to the Special Events Organiser whose decision shall be final.
