

IT'S SHOW TIME

by Jan Parrott-Holden
Vancouver, Washington

I followed the man around a large room. He was dressed in a white coat and moved so briskly that it flapped like a kite in the wind. No, I wasn't pursuing a doctor. The man was a judge of pigeons — the event, a Grand National Pigeon Show.

As each show season approaches, breeders begin to envision receiving ribbons, trophies, and cash prizes. They want to impress those men in white coats. They want to feel they've advanced in a hobby they somehow can't live without, to open the show report and find their name listed among the top breeders in the country.

A few exhibitors realize their aspirations. Others shake their heads and chalk it up to fate, bribery, or knowing the right people. Now, I won't deny that these factors can and probably do play some role in all bird shows. But there are other considerations. Chances are the exhibitor with consistent wins in the showroom has learned a few basics in regards to preparing both his birds and himself for competition. Let's look at a few of these, often ignored, "keys" to showroom success.

Let's start off with the bird. After all, you may be dressed like a million dollars, with every hair in place, but the judge isn't looking at you (at least he shouldn't be). It's logical to assume that you selected a few of your very best specimens for the show. In other words, much as I'm allergic to standard books, I hope you looked at the standard more than once. You would be wise to have nearly memorized the standard so that you *know* what an acceptable Indian fantail looks like. And, should you find you possess *no* acceptable Indians, enter

a good, clean bird anyway. You'll learn something just from the experience. (For one thing you'll learn whether or not you can handle criticism. Ha!) And, your fellow exhibitors may be able to give you some good advice for improving the quality of your stock.

Now that you have selected the birds you wish to enter, the real job begins.

Birds love to bathe. Everyone knows that. Yet, an awful lot of birds must crawl into their drinking vessel if they want to wet their plumage. From several feet away, these birds may appear to be clean and well-cared for. But a judge picks up each bird, handles it, even examines the feathering. If he finds soiled feathers, or bug holes, your show is over before it began.

Bright, warm days are the best times to offer a bath. But simple bathing will not eliminate lice and other creepy crawlies that love to live on your birds. Believe me, even a clean aviary is not completely free of these vermin. For this reason it is wise to resort to a pigeon dip once or twice a year.

Sodium fluoride makes an excellent dip for pigeons and doves. It is simple and effective when used as follows:

Mix one heaping tablespoon of sodium fluoride plus one tablespoon Ivory liquid in a gallon of tepid water. Stir until the powder has dissolved. Dip pigeons in the mixture, head and all. Let the birds dry naturally in the sunshine. The soap allows the sodium fluoride to penetrate the minuscule pores of the feathers where it remains and helps ward off lice for six to eight months. (After applying this technique, I found that those telltale pinholes in my birds' feathers ceased to occur.)

Don't be overcome with guilt just because your flock has that woebegon appearance after their dunking. You haven't inflicted pain, and, unless the weather is cold or draughty, you haven't chanced their health. In a few hours you'll notice a remarkable change. Feathers will have more lustre, a softer,

silky texture, and best of all, you'll have freed your entire loft of these troublesome bugs.

If you happen to live in one of the colder areas of the country, where dipping can't be done often, you may wish to supplement the procedure with a poultry dusting. I use a Pet, Poultry and Livestock Dust once a year as an additional precaution, dusting liberally under the wings and around the vent. The powder is helpful in controlling both lice and mites. Frequent use of both the dip and the powder plus occasional mild bath water will insure you against the embarrassment of having your show birds disqualified.

You have half the battle licked if your birds are carefully selected and free from bugs. The additional steps you take will be your icing on the cake.

Some exhibitors like to use vaseline on their birds' feet to give them more lustre. That's fine as long as the bottoms of the feet aren't adorned with mudballs and excrement. Generally speaking, if loft floors are kept clean and dry, you won't be having to deal with any of these bugaboos. If you do have a foot problem or two, a cotton swab dipped in alcohol will help loosen the build-up while disinfecting the soft pad of the bird's foot.

How much can you do to help mother nature along? In bird showing there are some fine lines between grooming and cheating. While it is certainly acceptable to do a little plucking here and there, you have to stop short of sewing-in feathers where there aren't any. I've heard stories about fanciers using needle and thread to sew in a flight where it was missing. Problem with this was not only the question of ethics, but the guy used *pink* thread on a *white* flight. Judges are not stupid.

In some breeds, such as the long-faced clean-legged tumbler, a short beak is one of the important hallmarks of the breed. In day-to-day maintenance, filing and clipping the beak is necessary.

NOTICE TO

DISPLAY ADVERTISERS

Watchbird display ad rates will increase approximately 20% as of October 1, 1986.

R & L EXOTIC BIRDS, INC.
 11805 S.W. Cnty. Hwy. 484
 Dunnellon, Florida 32630
(904) 489-6965



When quality counts, come to us for
Domestic & Imported Birds
Surgically Sexed Birds
Wholesale to Pet Stores & Breeders

We are proud of our breeding ranch and wholesale operation. We would like to add you to our list of satisfied customers. Send your name, address and tax number to start receiving our current price list - or just call.

We ship out of Orlando weekly.
 Open 7 days a week by appointment.

NEST BOXES

R & L's nest within a nest design for added privacy & comfort
 or
 custom built, your design.
 call or write for specification sheets and prices.

BOOKS

A must for your library
PARROT PRODUCTION
 and
PIONUS PARROT
 by John & Pat Stoodley
\$29.95 each
 plus \$2.50 each handling

Thus, it would not be considered unethical to file the showbird's beak before bringing it to the exhibit hall. On the other hand, it would be scandalous to use your secretary's correction fluid to paint a colored feather white. In other words, use your good common sense. And, if in doubt, ask.

About a week before the big show is to take place, it would be a good idea to move your entries into a show-type cage. It will help accustom them to small quarters and will allow you to handle them frequently.

You might invite trusted neighbors or good friends to come glance at the birds so that they aren't in shock when a flock of curiosity hounds parade by their enclosure. In other words, the calmer they appear, the better presentation they will make on show day.

Judges may use a show or training stick for certain breeds. This object looks like a radio antenna (in fact, *mine is a radio antenna*). It's used to maneuver the birds around in the cage so that the judge can watch their performance. Use one from time to time so that your highly bred pigeon won't become hysterical at the sight of it snaking through the cage wires.

These simple keys will help guarantee your bird is ready for competition. The only thing left is *you*.

If you are nervous on show day, that's absolutely natural. Those birds you have tended, selected and entered represent work, caring and a fair share of your own self-esteem. If they do miserably — you feel miserable. But this is where sportsmanship comes into the picture.

Most judges are human. They are trying to do their job as fairly and accurately as possible. Some may even bend over backwards to jot down a few comments on your entry card. They do not, however, appreciate being tagged after while judging, since total concentration is required to make decisions within the allotted time. More im-

Continued on page 32

PARROT PARADISE
(313) 776-3551

Distributing quality wrought iron bird cages.

We sell only fat and healthy birds - Guaranteed!!
 All birds can be shipped anywhere in the U.S., and can be surgically sexed. We operate a U.S.D.A. quarantine station.

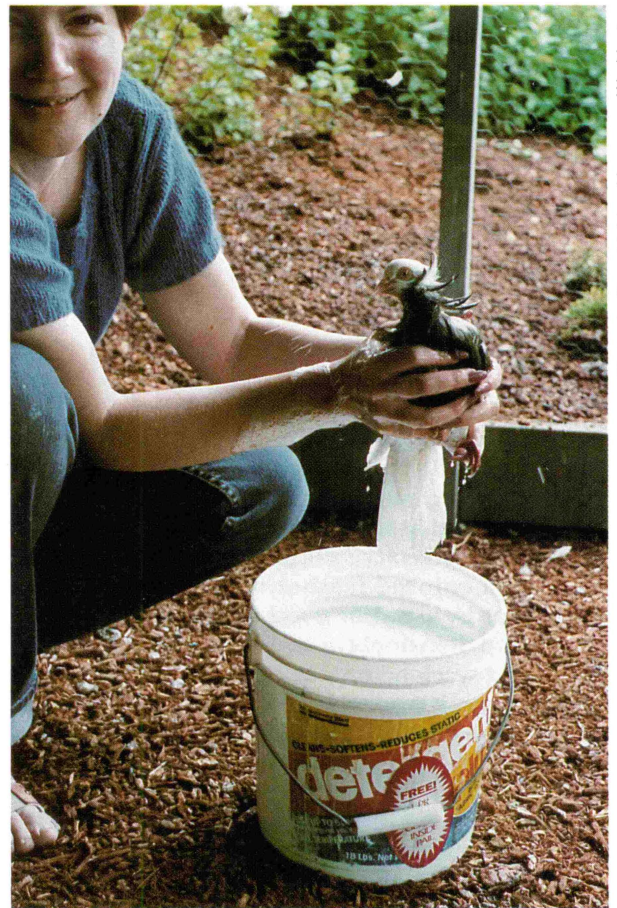
Quantity prices are available on Macaws, Cockatoos, Amazons, Finches and Softbills.

SPECIAL: hand fed baby Yellow Napes
 Get on our Mailing List!

Parrot Paradise - 26530 Harper St. Cl. Sh., Mich. 48081 - (313) 776-3551



After the ordeal of bathing and training, this bird is ready to see the judge.



Photos by Steve Holden, Vancouver, Washington

This pigeon gets a dunking in a sodium fluoride and Ivory concoction.



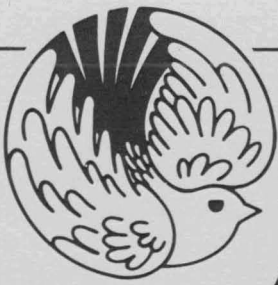
This red long-faced tumbler gets its beak trimmed and filed.

portantly, they do not care to indulge in arguments about their methods or abilities. What they have given as a "mark" is based upon an educated opinion. Don't try to change that opinion. It seldom works.

There can be a great deal of fun in showing birds. There can also be some newly gained knowledge. So make the most of it — *it's show time!* ●



In summer, parks and fairgrounds become popular sites for lawn shows.



AFA in action... **NEWS and VIEWS**

AUGUST 1986

Tennessee Breeders Turn Back Threat to Aviculturists

*by Debbie Dorsey
Nashville, Tennessee*

What started as a nightmare became a stark reality, and I was totally unprepared. I hope after reading this article you won't let it happen to you.

Numerous warnings of harmful legislation had gone in one ear and out the other. That kind of thing happened in other states, not Tennessee! I thought Tennessee laws still only dealt with moonshiners and country music. At least I'll never make that mistake again.

It all began as a "harmless" little bill introduced by Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency intending to "put tighter restrictions on the people who kept pet lions, tigers and bears." Oh my, how could that concern a parrot person, you may ask? You had only to read the general wording of this bill's introduction to understand my concern.

"It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, transport, import, export, buy, sell, barter, or transfer any live wildlife, whether indigenous to this state or not, except as provided by this Act and rules and regulations promulgated by the Commission pursuant to this Act." The remainder of this bill was also consistently vague, leaving it open for dangerous interpretation or misinterpretation.

The following is a calendar of events after the introduction of this wildlife bill. It wasn't quite overnight, as jokingly stated at the San Francisco AFA convention, but if you are not careful a bad bill can become a worse law quicker than you think.

January 21. Simultaneously a bill was introduced into the Senate as #1449 and the House of Representatives as #1546.

February 7. I first heard about this bill from an exotic pet owner who thought I may be concerned. I would have found out three weeks earlier if I had heeded all the AFA warnings. Immediately our other club delegate, Jennifer Lee, and I began our phone calls. First TWRA told us their interpretation of this bill, which was not at all what we were reading. Not exactly sure of what to do next, I contacted Jerry Jennings and Lee Phillips. After being reassured of a reason for concern, they advised our next steps and, more importantly, gave their sincere moral support.

February 10. Received the first packets of legislative information in answer to my cries of help from the AFA. Most of it dealt with strictly bird bills but the same principles could be applied.

February 14. I attended the AFA Phoenix convention and came back much more confident and ready to come out fighting. While there, Jennifer informed our bird club members of what was happening at our February meeting. As president, I was voted to select a committee and begin a plan of action.

February 19. First House sub-committee met concerning the bill but they postponed or "rolled a week" (a term with which we were to become very familiar).

February 23. Special bird club committee met and put in writing our specific opposition to this bill.

February 25. Attended a public meeting hosted by TWRA and proponents of the bill. Thanks to our club members there was a strong showing of bird people. Due to published "Letters to the Editor" and other newspaper articles, the media even attended. Very smooth talking convinced some there was nothing to concern any bird owners, but we wanted that written in the bill, not promised with a handshake.

February 26. Attended a House of Representatives public hearing full of all types of exotic pet owners including many bird people. We were advised to draw up an amendment to this bill which would satisfy us. These hearings are held for the public to voice their views — pro and con.

March 2. Held an emergency bird club meeting to approve an amendment. Throughout this entire time, club members were calling *and* writing their representatives to voice their dissent over this bill in its present form. Middle Tennessee Cage Bird Club has a super group of members (I thought it was time for a commercial break).

March 3. Submitted our amendment to the representative with whom we were working to be presented to the House committee. Amendments can only be submitted by elected representatives, not individual citizens or groups.

March 5. House sub-committee voted to pass the bill on to the committee.

March 12. Due to the amount of amendments submitted and excessive controversy, bill was rolled to next week at a committee meeting called exclusively for that. Meanwhile the committee accepted and rejected amendments to write

a compromise bill.

March 19. A very amended bill came to the committee. It was now quite specific on what restrictions were on what animals. All non-native avian species (except two previously banned species and currently regulated waterfowl) are now in a Class 3 which exempts them from all permits, inspections, etc. Our amendment was included.

March 20. Bill passes through Calendar and Rules Committee and is scheduled for the House and Senate floors.

April 2. Bill passes to the Senate.

April 3. Bill comes to the House floor. Two amendments were added. One of these amendments was strongly opposed by the sponsor of the bill who, once again, rolled it to next week (again).

April 9. The representative sponsoring the second controversial amendment refused to rescind. The bill sponsor sent the bill back to Calendar and Rules. After much pleading with both representatives, amidst continual threats of killing the bill, and with the dreaded thought of going through all of this (or worse) next session, that night after two-thirds of the House members voted the bill back out of Calendar and Rules the conflicting amendment was pulled back and the bill passed the House.

April 10. Senate accepted the amended form and our controversial wildlife bill became law.

Before others find themselves in this virtually inevitable predicament, I would like to share some things I hope may help them in the same situation.

1. Before anything threatening comes up in your state, become familiar with the law-making process, such as what happens after a bill is introduced. Acquire a Senate and Representative Directory with all of their phone numbers and addresses.
2. Find a representative concerned with your cause that you can trust. That may be easier said than done.
3. It might be easier if all AFA state coordinators who don't live in the state capitol could locate a bird person or representative who can monitor these bills closely. Luckily we live in the capitol and the weekly trips to the House or Senate just cost a few parking fees. Jennifer Lee and I persisted until the end and are now known as the Bird Ladies by a lot of politicians. I don't think they will readily oppose us again soon (at least, I hope not)!
4. In monitoring your legislation, use the information supplied by AFA. Hal Koontz sent us his methods of monitoring California with the suggestion of acquiring a current bill index which would keep us informed on new legislation as it is introduced. This may be rather expensive but could be shared by clubs all over the state who would all benefit.
5. Keep your AFA legal and legislative representatives informed. They are more than willing and able to help as witnessed by their immediate replies to my floundering cries for help. They also learn more with each new case which may someday help in your state.
6. Read the original bill and all amendments *carefully*. Wording can be tricky, with different interpretations changing the meaning entirely. Typographical errors and even punctuation can present problems.
7. Don't accept an oral promise concerning the interpretation of a bill. Make sure it is specific and in writing.
8. In our case, quantity of opposition to this bill was an asset. Involve all who could help your cause including the media if possible. Phone calls *and* letters are the

determining factors of whether there is a public hearing.

9. In the various government offices secretaries, clerks, etc. are dealing with a multitude of laws, not just the ones that concern you. Be persistent in your phone calls to check time and dates of meetings. Always double check to make sure you know the correct time, date and place as sometimes these change at the last minute. Don't rely on their promise to return your call with the information, call them back yourself.
10. Stick with each bill all the way. Amendments can be added up to and on the House and Senate floors which could really affect the outcome.

In closing, I would like to stress: you should never feel you have to make the best of a bad situation by just accepting a bill as law. These laws are supposed to be by the people and for the people. You *can* make a difference. We did! ●

A.F.A. Represented at Western Poultry Disease Conference

by Jerry Jennings
Woodland Hills, California

Recognizing the inter-relationship between poultry and exotic birds, Dr. A.S. Rosenwald, of the University of California Veterinary Extension and Secretary-treasurer of the Western Poultry Disease Conference, invited AFA's support and participation in the 35th Conference held April 29 through May 2, 1986 in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Amid swaying palms and balmy tropical weather, conferees from around the world engaged in an exchange of information on research into avian nutrition, husbandry, and disease as well as on new vaccines and treatment protocols.

Representing AFA at the conference was Dr. Amy B. Worell, Director of AFA's 1986 Convention Veterinary Seminar and vice-president of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV). In addition to poultry subjects, a number of papers on exotic birds were presented.

Perhaps the most important result of AFA's participation in the WPDC is the growing support of the poultry industry for aviculture. They recognize it is in our mutual interests to strive toward cooperative efforts in developing and maintaining high standards of husbandry and health care management.

Editor's Note: Other examples of this cooperative spirit include the Maryland Poultry Industry's written support of the Maryland Cage Bird Improvement Plan and their support of AFA's successful opposition of the recently defeated legislation to ban exotic birds in that state.

The Pacific Egg & Poultry Association (PEPA), representing eight western states, has a Pet Bird Industry Advisory Committee, of which AFA President Jerry Jennings is a member. PEPA has been outspokenly supportive of AFA and a strong, credible bird industry. ●

Legislative Round-up

by Lee Phillips
Harwood, Maryland

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has advised that the east coast outbreak of Velogenic Viscerotropic Newcastle Disease previously reported has been contained with depopulations at only two sites although 12 states and 325 shipments were involved. During the past year there has been a change in USDA's procedure for dealing with VVND outbreaks which have benefitted aviculture and new regulations are currently being written which will reflect this change.

In **New York State** where the ban on the sale of wild-caught birds became effective on May 1, only 20 requests for permits under the new law have been received and granted by June 15. A.F.A. Representative Paul Gildersleeve advises that A.F.A.'s offer to transmit to its New York State members the information necessary to apply for a permit has been accepted; this information will be forwarded to our New York members as soon as it is received from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Also in **New York**, Senate Bill 7384, which would have regulated trade in exotic wild-caught birds (and which was deemed an improvement over the current law), was withdrawn by its sponsors when it appeared that the votes necessary for its passage could not be mustered. It was felt that an inflammatory editorial in *The New York Times* contributed to the failure to gather support.

In **New Jersey**, bill A-1417, which had languished in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for some time, was replaced by bill A-2332 which would accomplish the same thing, i.e. a ban on the sale of wild-caught birds patterned after the New York bill. Despite the willingness of opponents of the bill to testify, the bill was hurried through a public hearing, voted upon and passed out of committee. The bill is currently in the Assembly and A.F.A. State Coordinator Terry Veraldo has been active in meeting with legislators. A letter was sent to all A.F.A. members in New Jersey along with a "fact sheet" and list of legislators, their addresses and phone numbers; they were urged to contact their legislators and present their viewpoint as Terry felt that the voice of the aviculturist had not been heard in the matter. Action on the bill is pending.

Pennsylvania's Senate Bill 1479, which would have banned the possession of wild-caught birds, has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in the Game and Fisheries Committee and reports indicate that none is likely. Letters sent by A.F.A. to its members in Pennsylvania urging them to contact their legislators from the list provided may have had some impact on the decision not to press for passage of this bill. A.F.A. State Coordinator Bill Lumley has been in contact with legislators and the Game and Fisheries Committee on this matter.

In **Louisiana**, Senate Bill 746 reads in part, "No person shall keep or permit to be kept on his premises, any wild or

exotic animal for display, exhibition purposes, or to sell, whether gratuitously or for a fee." A.F.A. State Coordinator Dr. John Lawrence has met with the sponsors and testified at the public hearing before the Natural Resources Committee. He was able to amend the bill to provide for the exemption of "all avian species except ratites, for licensed raptors, for accredited members of the American Federation of Aviculture, for accredited members of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums and for circuses and veterinary clinics." The latest word is that the bill has been tabled for this year.

In **Ohio** the efforts of A.F.A. State Coordinator Michaelen Rogers and Stanley Rehm have been rewarded with word that both HB-611 and HB-283 have been killed. HB-283 would have prohibited the possession of "exotic animals" and HB-611 would have classified as a retail pet store any premise with 15 or more animals. This is an excellent example of successful grass roots efforts at influencing legislation.

In **Manatee County, Florida**, Chuck Saffell is working to exempt birds from an ordinance intended primarily at regulating circus animals.

Comments have been invited by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in response to changes proposed for the 1987 C.I.T.E.S. meeting in Ottawa, Canada and A.F.A. President Jerry Jennings has responded.

In **Maryland**, state funding for the first year of operation of the Maryland Cage Bird Improvement Plan is held up pending working out the legal contractual arrangements between the State of Maryland and the M-BIP Steering Committee. A group of Virginia aviculturists have adopted the Maryland Plan with only minor changes, calling it the Virginia Aviary Management Plan (VAMP). They join aviculturists in the State of Maine in adopting the Maryland Plan.

One of the most effective tools in the battle against restrictive legislation is good public relations and the dissemination of facts regarding the importation and captive breeding of exotic birds. It seems to me that aviculture is sorely lacking in its ability to project its viewpoint. Animal rights' activists have done an excellent job of getting their not-always-truthful message to the general public and, more importantly, to the sympathetic ears of legislators. Some effort must be made by bird breeders to present a truthful picture of our activities at the very least. It will not be easy to change the public's perception that the bird trade is fraught with abuses and that there is no good reason to keep birds in captivity. If bird breeders would make an effort to contact their local media when they have unusual birds or successful breedings, permit photographs and include positive statements about captive breeding, a small start could be made toward changing public attitudes. ●

Beware the Silent Government

by Gary P. Lilienthal
AFA Legal Counsel

While many of us in AFA have been fighting a vigilant battle to educate our legislators and elected officials concerning the pros and cons of the myriad of proposed legislation affecting aviculture, until recently one of the most serious issues impacting aviculture has gone unnoticed and unheeded. That is the silent government.

As elected officials and representatives of the people, our legislators and members of the executive branch of government (governors, lieutenant governors, attorneys general and the like) are generally responsive to the people and seek input from their constituencies. The silent government, on the other hand, is made up of governmental employees who act as regulators but who, in reality, have the power of legislators. More often than not, these people have paid staffs of "so-called" experts who advise them on the formulation of policy to implement the general laws passed by the legislature and implemented by the government. Many of these so-called experts have personal prejudices and beliefs regarding the keeping of exotic animals. Other persons comprising the ranks of the so-called regulators and experts, despite their good efforts and best intentions, often rely on mistaken personal beliefs or misinformation furnished by alleged conservationist groups which are opposed to the keeping of birds as pets, or the like. In most cases, none of them know very much if anything about the avian species which they regulate. Generally speaking, with the exception of hearings provided for in most states but generally unpublicized and unnoticed, the silent government unilaterally creates regulations which strictly control and provide for enforcement of avicultural activities.

The New York law prohibiting the sale of wild-caught birds implemented on May 1, 1986 is actually a law put into effect through regulations. While in the case of the New York law, input was sought and received in the framing of the regulations (notwithstanding the fact that "the bird was already out of the aviary," in light of the passage of the New York law without hearings and based upon the proponent's misrepresentation that there was no known opposition) generally speaking, regulations are drafted, adopted and promulgated by the so-called experts without anyone knowing they even exist. However, they have the force and power of law.

Surprisingly, some of the most important "laws" affecting aviculture are actually very detailed sets of regulations. The controls by the United States Department of Agriculture of the exotic Newcastle's Disease (VVD) problem is administered and enforced through very detailed regulations promulgated and revised from time to time under the rule-making power and regulatory authority of the United States Department of Agriculture. Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes rules and issues regulations relating to the possession of and trade in endangered species and the endangered species permit process. Also, as we saw earlier this year, the Fish and Wildlife Service makes rules

and promulgates regulations with respect to avian transportation under the Lacey Act.

Fortunately, after many years of hard work and cooperative efforts, both the USDA and the USFWS have recognized the value of input from AFA and now actively solicit, seek and seriously consider AFA's input, depth of knowledge, expertise and recommendations when changing these rules and regulations. The positive partnership between these so important federal agencies and AFA has been cultivated and nurtured for years and aviculture, both from the point of view of the regulators and the aviculturists, is surely better for it.

Regrettably, this is not the case with all of the state regulatory agencies. Their silent governments pose a serious threat to the survival of aviculture and the benefits both in terms of conservation, education and the quality of life which it brings to our society. Even more unfortunate is the recognition that in many cases the actions by these state agencies are taken out of ignorance or, even worse, personal prejudice of the regulators.

This year alone in Massachusetts, Tennessee and Arizona, as well as other states which I regret to say have probably not come to our attention, regulations were proposed and, in some cases, enacted seriously impacting aviculturists' pursuit of their interests.

In Massachusetts, regulations under a law originally designed to regulate the keeping of raccoons, skunks, venomous snakes and species considered to be native to and endangered in Massachusetts were passed which now provide that if you own, for example, a legally-imported scarlet macaw, you must apply annually to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife for a license to keep your bird even though it was imported prior to its being listed on Appendix I of CITES (August 1985) and even though its ownership is not regulated at all by the U.S. government. You must pay a fee, subject your premises, in most cases your home, to an annual inspection by the law enforcement arm of the enforcing agency and convince them that you are an aviculturist because under the regulations you cannot obtain a permit to keep your bird as a pet. You must submit detailed plans of your aviary and in your application (a public record) disclose the location of your birds. The Environmental Police, who enforce these regulations, have no background in the care and keeping of exotic pet birds and, notwithstanding their good intentions, may track disease from one aviary to another or disturb nesting birds, causing destruction of eggs or young, or, out of ignorance, require actions relative to the keeping of birds which bear no relationship to what is really in the best interest of the birds. Under prior, less restrictive, versions of the new regulations, stories of people attempting to obtain licenses for a year or more were not uncommon. Additionally, if you wish to move into the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with your regulated pet bird or acquire a regulated bird while out of state, before you can bring your bird

into the state you must apply for a license, build your aviary and then hope you can obtain a license. By the way, the regulations provide that no permits will be issued to keep regulated birds as pets including domestically-bred offspring. If you run afoul of this law, in addition to the criminal penalties, you face having your beloved pet confiscated by the state. No one has yet addressed the serious impact these regulations will have on the quality of life of the average pet bird owner nor has anyone addressed the tremendous expense enforcement will cause for a set of regulations which as they relate to aviculture of legally-imported birds have no benefit to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Additional regulations were proposed this year in Tennessee and Arizona ranging from regulating the type of pets you could keep to classifying the keeping of pet birds as the same as keeping a mountain lion. Fortunately, the regulators in these states seemed open to input from concerned aviculturists, and thanks to their joint efforts aviculture will not be unnecessarily regulated and avicultural activities will continue to be encouraged. In other states, such as New Jersey and Maryland, in order to keep exotic birds under certain conditions existing regulations provide that you must be licensed. Many such regulations are used to enforce record-keeping and humane treatment laws and, if properly enforced and implemented, can benefit aviculturists and avian species.

Of course, where regulations exceed the statutory authority under which they are promulgated or are unreasonable, one always has recourse to the courts. Unfortunately, when you sue the state, one way or another, you pay for both sides of the case (personally and as a taxpayer).

What this all means is that we need AFA in order for aviculture to survive.

It is the obligation of AFA, every aviculturist, avian pet owner and pet and pet products supplier to educate his or her government and those who govern regarding the benefits both to humanity and avian species of keeping and breeding exotic birds. It is our (yours, mine and AFA's) responsibility through education to influence and enlighten the people who govern so that any regulations enacted will have positive humane treatment, disease prevention, anti-smuggling and recordkeeping purposes and so that the silent government is not given a mandate or an ability to regulate unresponsively and inhibit the avicultural, conservation and humanitarian pursuits sponsored under the name of aviculture. The classification of legally-imported, foreign pet birds in the same category as dangerous or injurious animals is totally unfounded and intolerable. Be active and be aware. Only through education of our governors and legislators can each and every one of us enable the rewards realized from keeping avian species to continue. It is up to you. By the way, in Massachusetts, "we have just begun to fight," (John Paul Jones and Gary P. Lilienthal). ●

California Legislation Update

by Hal M. Koontz
Bakersfield, California

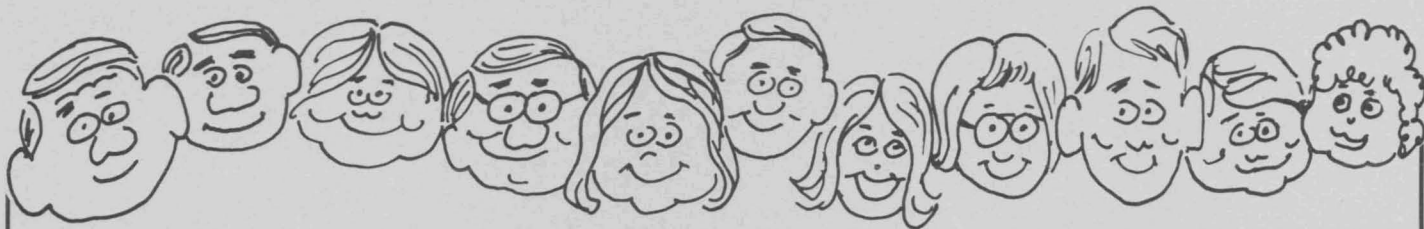
SB 1405 has been amended to eliminate the language in the bill which AFA found most objectionable. As amended, it differs very little from current law. Nevertheless, AFA is not comfortable with current law.

SB 1405 relates to the powers of humane officers to enforce laws relating to the humane treatment of animals. Under current law, humane officers are not required to have any training before they are appointed and are required to have minimal training only if the training courses are within 100 miles of their humane organization. If the humane officer is more than 100 miles from a training course, no training is required at all.

AFA would like to see current law changed in these respects:

1. Humane officers should be accountable to a government official who can revoke the humane officer's appointment if the humane officer is abusing the power of his position.
2. Humane officers should be required to have training in the enforcement of humane laws before they are appointed, regardless of their proximity to training courses.
3. Humane officers investigating the humane treatment of birds should be required to have substantial training on the proper care and treatment of birds.
4. Humane officers should inspect private breeding facilities at reasonable times acceptable to the owner of the facility and should obey reasonable inspection rules made by the owner to minimize disturbance.
5. Humane organizations should be required to carry insurance or a bond to compensate persons injured by one of its humane officers.

There is a lot of opposition to SB 1405 as it relates to research facilities. It is possible the bill will be dropped because of the opposition. If so, AFA's concerns about current law will not be addressed and AFA will have to wait until 1987 (no new bills can be introduced in 1986) to have its own bill introduced to address these issues. All California AFA members are urged to get to know their assemblymen and state senators and to inform their representatives of their avicultural interests in general (such as those stated above). Letting your representatives know you exist will be helpful later on. As for SB 1405, no general membership letter writing campaign is needed at this time. ●



The American Federation of Aviculture
P.O. Box 1568
Redondo Beach, California 90278

Volunteer Corps

The A.F.A. is in need of a large group of members that would be willing to share their individual skills and talents to help benefit the A.F.A. Regardless of what you feel your qualifications are, A.F.A. has a need for YOUR help. If you have but a few spare minutes or have a few spare hours or even days and would like to help out in any way at all, please take a few of those minutes right now and help by letting us know your capabilities and interests. Please complete and return this form as soon as possible to the home office.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

AREA CODE () _____

TELEPHONE _____

Please circle if appropriate or list if other than given:

OCCUPATION:

Accountant	Electrician	Marketing Consultant	Salesperson
Actor	Farmer/Rancher	Media	Secretary
Artist	Financial Analyst	Medical	Teacher
Attorney	Fund Raiser	Office Clerk	Telemarketer
Bookkeeper	Insurance	Photographer	Travel Agent
Carpenter	Journalist	Police	Typist
Computer Operator	Lecturer	Postal Employee	Veterinarian
Computer Programmer	Manager	Public Relations	Zoologist
Corporate Executive		Real Estate Broker	

Other: (please specify) _____

SKILLS, TALENTS and UNIQUE ABILITIES:

Artwork Construction Crafts Photography

Other: (please specify) _____

INTERESTS:

Please specify: _____

CONTACTS WITH VENDORS:

Computers Supplies Items A.F.A. might sell

Other: (please specify) _____

IDEAS TO PROMOTE AND BENEFIT A.F.A.:

Please specify: _____

Amount of time available: _____

Donations to the general fund are also most welcome!
Remember — donations to A.F.A. are tax deductible!

Dear Readers/Members,

Please ask others to join the most prestigious avian organization in the U.S.A. . . .

Why should you join the American Federation of Aviculture?

When you become a member of the AFA, you are not just subscribing to a top-quality, award-winning bird magazine, **you are protecting your interest** in the collecting and breeding of exotic and, often, endangered avian species.

WHO provides a "watch bird" service to halt legislation which would prevent you from owning certain birds which you treasure?

AFA DOES!

WHO sponsors and underwrites the cost of significant research in such areas as the protection of endangered species and avian health?

AFA DOES!

WHO helps to educate the public on issues crucial to your best interests?

AFA DOES!

WHO else does *all* that AFA does with *no* profit motive?

NO ONE ELSE DOES!

So, if you feel that it costs a few dollars more to belong to AFA than merely to subscribe to another bird periodical, remember that you are getting **MORE, far more**, than a beautiful and informative magazine.

You are getting an organization with a mission and a message!

Join us, today!

Help AFA Serve You Better...

by donating to these funds considered most critical and beneficial to American aviculture. AFA is a non-profit organization recognized by the U.S. government as a genuine grass roots movement.

All contributions are tax deductible!

Amount

Avian Research Fund Your donation to the Avian Research Fund is needed to help the AFA pursue the ever important research projects that ultimately contribute to improved health care and husbandry of birds in captivity. Your contributions make it possible for AFA to support a variety of studies that are vital to the understanding of our birds and their needs.

\$ _____

Conservation Fund Your donation to the Conservation Fund is an important demonstration of your commitment to the preservation of exotic birds, from which we derive such great pleasure. Your support of AFA's activities in the field of conservation will assure that AFA will be able to go forward with such projects as restoring the Grayson's Dove to its native habitat, from which it has become extinct; the captive propagation of the Venezuelan Siskin and the Siskin Studbook, which will help prevent this species from becoming extinct; the provision of nest boxes for the double yellow headed Amazon, whose nesting trees are being destroyed in the wild; and many other projects under consideration.

\$ _____

General Fund The General Fund is the core fund from which AFA operates. It is through this Fund that many activities receive support and it is from this Fund that AFA operates on a daily basis and it also supports the publication and distribution of the *Watchbird*. Your contributions to this fund help AFA on a daily basis.

\$ _____

Legislation Fund Never before in the history of aviculture have we been faced with so many challenges on the legislative front. We have seen the New York Wild Bird Ban go into effect, and we have seen identical legislation proposed in the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Kansas. These mass appearances of legislation require a tremendous expenditure of energy and resources from AFA. Without your support, AFA cannot possibly hope to prevail. Please give generously to this Fund, and read the *Watchbird* for regular updates on the legislative situation.

\$ _____

Public Relations Public Relations are so important to a national organization such as AFA, which wants to get its message across to the public. Few people outside bird circles are even aware of our existence. With your contributions to this Fund, we will be able to mount effective local and national PR campaigns.

\$ _____

Date: _____

Total Donations: \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I understand AFA will apply my donations to the funds I have designated and that all donations are tax deductible.

In succeeding issues of *Watchbird*, names of those with contributions of \$50 or more will be listed.

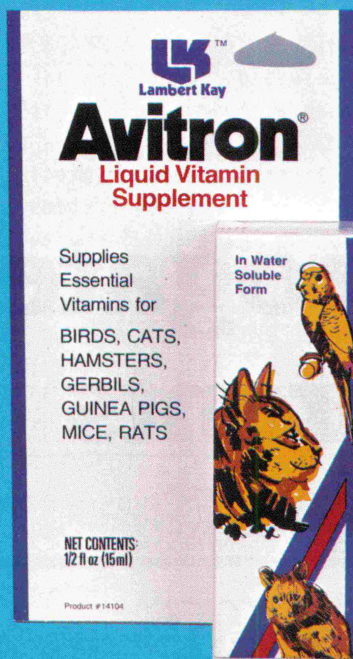
If you do NOT want your name published, please check here:

Please send, and make all contributions payable to:
American Federation of Aviculture
P.O. Box 1568, Redondo Beach, California 90278

THANK YOU for helping AFA accomplish its goals!

—THE A TEAM

A



TEAM UP
AVITRON® AND
AVIMIN® IN
YOUR BIRD'S
DRINKING
WATER AND
HELP ASSURE
COMPLETE,
VITAMIN/
MINERAL
INTAKE.



Avitron Delivers Eight
Essential Vitamins Plus
Other Vital Nutrients.

These can be critical. Because birds use vitamins rapidly. But can't always rely on seed to supply their needs.

Important B Complex vitamins, for example, are found in seed hulls. Unfortunately, the hulls usually end up on the bottom of the cage... along with the B Complex vitamins. A lack of B vitamins may result in nervous and digestive disorders, curly toe paralysis and weakness.

Some seed mixes, on the other hand, are just vitamin poor. They lack quality and proper seed variety. And even the very best can lose their potency during storage. AVITRON helps make up for this. And aids in preventing problems such as impaired vision, poor muscle development, unhealthy skin, soft eggshells, rickets and excessive bleeding due to vitamin shortages.

Avimin Supplies Six Essential
Minerals In Water Soluble
Form.

That makes AVIMIN more effective and convenient than most other mineral supplements such as cuttlebone, blocks and powders. Because the bird gets a balanced variety of minerals every time it drinks.

AVIMIN helps promote strong bones, sturdy eggshells, healthy skin, balanced body fluid and muscle tone. And aids in reducing the possibility of anemia, rickets, goiters and slipped tendons due to muscle deficiency.

So why let your birds nutrition be in doubt. Team up AVITRON and AVIMIN in its drinking water. And be assured that your bird is getting the VITAMINS AND MINERALS it needs for good health and vitality.

Lambert Kay™
Division of Carter-Wallace, Inc.
Cranbury, New Jersey 08512
© Carter-Wallace, Inc., 1985