

Committee To Review Prohibited Species Laws Meets In Sacramento

The California Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Importation Advisory Committee met on October 15, 1974 to review the prohibited species regulations. Newly appointed A.F.A. committee-member, Jerry Jennings, was in attendance.

A general discussion was held on the scope and intent of the newly enacted Senate Bill 1766 resulting in the consensus that the law applied only to mammals and that aviculturists would not be affected. The committee was charged, however, with the responsibility of drafting guidelines for the humane treatment of mammals in accordance with SB 1766. A subcommittee will be appointed in early 1975 to carry out that task.

At the conclusion of the discussion on SB 1766 the Wildlife Importation Advisory Committee temporarily adjourned. Members split up into smaller groups on birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians to review existing regulations. The subcommittee on birds was composed of Jerry Jennings, Mike Keffer-Dept. of Food and Agriculture, Robert Mallette-Dept. of Fish and Game, Ed Pickett-National Audubon Society, Merton Rosen-Dept. of Fish and Game, and Dr. Warren Thomas-Los Angeles Zoo.

Upon review of the birds currently prohibited under state law, the subcommittee recommended that the Java Rice Bird be removed from the prohibited list for possession since those existing in captivity were captive bred and were unlikely to establish themselves in the wild should they escape. The importation of the species would still be prohibited.

If the Fish and Game Commission accepts the committee recommendation aviculturists will again be able to raise and keep the once common Java Rice Bird.

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