

Dear fancier,

Are you the next BCSA Show Manager?

Please contact the BCSA Secretary, Nigel Tonkin if you are interested. A copy of the position description will be forwarded to you.

Heat Policy:

Over the past month, high temperatures have caused the BCSA committee enough concern to review the effects of hot weather on bird shows or sales. Our existing practice is to cancel a show if forecasters predict a temperature greater than 32 degrees on the night prior to the day of the show or sale.

Stories of birds being shown interstate in temperatures over 40 degrees have caused real concern. We have received feedback, again from interstate that fanciers have lost up to 50 birds in this extreme heat.

We do not want birds to die just so fanciers can win shows.

Another example of heat death occurred some time ago after a show interstate when a fancier carted a few birds to his already hot vehicle at the conclusion of the show. He returned to the show hall and by the time the second lot were delivered to his vehicle, the first lot were dead. A very unpleasant outcome; but preventable. This was witnessed by a SA fancier.

The Committee's concern is as a result of the extended periods of high temperatures we have experienced this year. We discussed the fact that where the temperatures are excessively hot in the days before a show, birds are already in a stressed condition even if the day of the show is more moderate. The time to recover from the trauma of days of high temperatures could realistically take numbers of days even once the weather is cooler. We believe the birds would be at serious risk if attending shows or other activities.

We would like to believe that no fancier would handle birds, show them, freight them, or travel with them if temperatures exceeded 32 degrees.

Sadly this does not appear to be the case as confirmed by the fact that has been alleged that birds have been shown interstate in temperatures over 40 degrees this year.

In the interest of the bird's welfare, the committee has therefore recommended that there be an extension to the existing practice. The intent of the extension is that shows and sales would be cancelled if there has been excessively hot weather in the days before shows.

The following is a summary of the draft policy: -

- Shows or other bird activities will be cancelled if forecasters predict a temperature greater than 32 degrees the night prior to the day of the show or sale.

(This is already the existing practice)

- Shows or other bird activities will be cancelled if the local temperature is higher than 35 degrees on 3 consecutive days immediately prior to the event.
- That this extension to the existing practice will apply even if the local temperature is forecast to be 32 degrees Celsius or below.

This recommendation was accepted by all delegates at the meeting.

The draft policy is now available for comment from Societies and Committees.

The BCSA committee are taking this seriously in the interest of the welfare of the budgerigars. Our draft policy sets best practice standards above existing government recommendations but we believe that recent extremes of temperatures and the resulting deaths of bird interstate have required us to take this seriously.

It would be a major impact on the fancy if we did not have a sensible Policy to at least encourage all to be responsible.

16mm Perch Trial:

The 16mm perch trial is returning some unexpected but now obvious positive results. It will be interesting to see what others have found with their trials. Remember the end of March is the cut off date.

State Selection Show:

All should be thinking about the Logan Shield / State Selection show by now or at least considering what birds might be suitable to show?

The committee has come up with the idea of an annual 'Logie' for the winner of each class at the Logan Shield / State Selection show – any suggestion of contacts would be appreciated so we can progress this. We are hopeful of having 'Logies' in place this year, but we cannot guarantee.

Bird Carers:

The bird caring team for the national event in Tasmania is John Mulley, Ian Marshall and Doug Lange.

Tasmania Nationals:

Are you going to Tasmania and interested in sitting in as part of the BCSEA committee at the Monday ANBC meeting? Please advise, as we may be able to accommodate you in this area.

Until next time

Nigel T