

BCSA Bird Carers Guidelines

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Liaise with the BCSA Show Manager
- Collect the listing of ring numbers of the first FOUR birds in each class from the electronics coordinator of the State Selection Show. The birds beyond the first three selected for travel in the BCSA Team may be required as emergency substitutes.
- Arrange location of the holding area, collection of the Team, boxing for travel, transportation of the Team to and from the ANBC National Show and presentation of the BCSA Team at that Show.
- Participate in the boxing and expeditious return of the Team to Adelaide airport on the Monday immediately following the ANBC National Show.
Arrange the pickup of the team from the airport and return to the Adelaide holding area and coordinate the distribution of the returned birds to their owner or their authorised representative.
- Compile Information Sheet prior to the State Selection Show to hand out to all exhibitors who have birds selected in the Team.
- Compile Team Summary including contact details for exhibitors who have birds selected in the Team so that they can be contacted if necessary.

ESSENTIAL MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Financial member of the BCSA.
- Considerable experience breeding and exhibiting budgerigars.
- Track record in having birds selected in the State Team.
- Skills in show preparation.
- Organisational skills to enable effective management of the Team and presentation of entries for benching within deadlines set by the host State / Zone Show Manager.
- Ability to work as a member of a team.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

- Previous experience as a BCSA Bird Carer.

APPOINTMENT PROCESS

- **November:** BCSA calls for nominations from affiliated / associated clubs.
- **January:** BCSA selects four bird carers, two or three of whom shall (where possible) have had previous experience, one of whom shall be selected as the COORDINATOR to ensure ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES are carried out.
- **Selection criteria:** In the event of there being more applicants than positions available, applicants will be assessed against the criteria listed under ESSENTIAL MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS. Preference for the fourth position will be given to an applicant who has not previously been a BCSA Bird Carer but has the potential and desire to fill that position in subsequent years.
Successful applicants must confirm their willingness to carry out the ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES to the BCSA Secretary along with electronic photograph

for dispatch to the host State / Zone, for security purposes.

STATEMENT OF ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES:

- Bird Carers to register for the ANBC National Show, book their accommodation within easy reach of the show venue, book flights (at least two if possible on the same flight), being mindful of the need for birds to arrive in time to feed and settle prior to lights out in the bird room.
- Make the bookings with the airline regarding transport of birds on the same flight as the Bird Carers as accompanied freight 90 days out from travel and establish and book return flights and times for the birds, either as freight, or as accompanied freight of any member of the BCSA (usually one or more of the Bird Carers) who are willing to undertake the task.
- **State Selection/Logan Shield:** Attend the state selection show, move the selected Team to the 'local' holding area or assist where necessary in relocating the Team to the holding area, noting that not all birds will be held in this location.
- Ensure that all selected birds, not held at the 'local' holding area, are organised to, and do, arrive at the holding area at a predetermined time as specified on the Information Sheet prior to departure of the team. This is facilitated by compiling a list of contact phone numbers for breeders with birds selected in the Team and handing out the Information Sheet compiled prior to the show to all the successful breeders detailing flight times and the collection and pickup arrangements.
- Ensure that travel boxes (with keys) are clean and prepared for travel.
- Early on the morning of departure to the Host City, box the birds, checking off the ring numbers. Bird Carers from outside the metropolitan area to arrange a proxy where necessary, to ensure that at least two fanciers are present to box the birds.
- **Transport the team to the airport.** Airport arrival between two hours and 90 minutes prior to departure, as deemed by the carrying airline company. Paperwork and two sets of keys to be taken by the bird carers to the show. One set of keys and paperwork to remain in Adelaide with the nominated recipient of birds if different from the Bird Carers returning from the ANBC Show.
- **When the show is held in South Australia.** Breeders **may** collect their birds directly from the Bird Carers at the venue after rings have been checked off at predetermined times subject to such arrangements being appropriate for the selected venue.
- **Upon arrival in the Host City.** Collect the Team from the freight terminal and at least one Carer to stay with the birds during transport from the airport to the show. Check off ring numbers as they are transferred from the carry cages to the holding cages.
- Distribute the Team across compartments in the holding cages for ease of locating and minimising disturbance during final show preparation, benching on the day of the show and boxing for the return journey.
- Provide as soon as possible water and seed, the latter in containers as well as spread on the floor of the holding cage to facilitate feeding and restoration of body weight after the flight. This to include high energy food such as oats. Otherwise, all feeding and watering protocols to be standard, as if the birds were in their home holding cages.
- Check birds regularly for signs of stress or incompatibility and react when the need arises to minimise all risks to the birds noting that routine veterinary inspections and assistance is provided at the venue.

- Bird Carers must be prepared to be with the birds for as long as required for show preparation, benching and de-benching, in line with opening hours of the bird room and scheduling for benching the Team.
- Bird Carers to be available at the end of the show each day to receive the Team back into the bird-room and clean the show cages in readiness for use the following day, or the following year.
- Provide spark to the birds on the evening prior to travel to the show and after the show on Sunday evening prior to return home on Monday.
- **Early Monday morning** after completion of the ANBC Show, box the birds, check off ring numbers, ensuring paperwork has been left back in Adelaide if not travelling with the Team to facilitate checking off and distribution of birds back to owners or their authorised representative.
- If travelling back with the Team, pick up the Team from the airport and return to the 'local' holding area. If not travelling with the Team, ensure arrangements are made for pickup of the Team from the airport and returned to the designated holding area.
- Coordinate the distribution of the returned birds to their owner or their authorised representative, or arrange for that process.
- Ensure carry cages have been cleaned for storage, and all sets of keys have been returned and kept with those carry cages.

OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

- BCSA Show Regulations
- BCSA Show Manager
- BCSA Risk Assessment Statement for Shows and Sales Schedules
- ANBC Guidelines for Budgerigars travelling to and from the National Show

Reviewed: April 2020

Next Review Due: June 2022