

AFA IN BRIEF, July 2006
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AFA'S POSITION STATEMENT CONCERNING CALIFORNIA'S ASSEMBLY BILL AB2862

The American Federation of Aviculture has issued an official position statement opposing California's Assembly Bill AB2862. The following was sent to the sponsor of AB2862 accompanied by a letter from AFA President Dr Benny Gallaway. To view the accompanying letter, visit http://www.afabirds.org/CA_AB2862.shtml

AFA OPPOSES AB2862 as it is unnecessary, overbroad and over-burdensome. It will also fall short of its intended goal of improving the care of birds in pet shops.

AFA FINDS that California has sufficient animal welfare statutes already on the books that can and should be enforced.

AFA FINDS the definition of "pet store" is so overbroad that it could be construed to include hobby breeders, pet owners, non-profit bird clubs and children involved in animal husbandry projects including 4H or scouts.

AFA FINDS the imposition of liability on events such as bird shows and marts for minor unintentional violations by a single vendor, to be extreme and severe and may lead to the disbanding of bird clubs and other educational organizations.

AFA RECOGNIZES breeders of birds are now covered under the Federal Animal Welfare Act and will be regulated by U.S. Department of Agriculture; therefore, regulation by individual states is unnecessary and burdensome.

AFA FINDS AB2862 imposes unreasonable and unnecessary husbandry standards for birds and is more regulatory than legislative in nature.

AFA FINDS AB2862 contains vague, nonspecific language that may result in misunderstanding and misinterpretation by both pet shop operators and animal control officers.

AFA OPPOSES the penalties for violations under AB2862, which are drastic and severe. This will do nothing for animal welfare but does have the potential of criminalizing thousands of law-abiding citizens that may misunderstand or misinterpret the law.

AFA OPPOSES the public posting of animal purchase sources that would be considered proprietary information. It reveals confidential information about breeders that could be used by activists, thieves or members of the public to trespass on private property.

AFA CONVENTION

If you haven't already registered to attend the 2006 AFA Convention in Dallas, TX, it's not too late. Here are a few things we have planned for August 3-5, 2006:

- We have three of this country's avicultural icons –Dick Schroeder, Bob Nelson and Lynn Hall.
- Barbara Heidenrieck is giving a four-hour workshop, the cost of which is included in your convention registration.
- We have three speakers from Australia, including Joesph Forshaw.
- Renowned veterinarian, Dr. Darrel Styles will give a presentation on avian influenza.
- You can hear from Dr. Susan Friedman and Dr. Irene Pepperberg.
- Carlos Bianchi and Dr. Donald Brightsmith will speak on conservation issues.
- Our keynote speaker is David Waugh, the director of Loro Parque Foundation in Tenerife, Spain.
- Matthias Reinshmidt, Curator of Birds at Loro Parque will provide two presentations.
- And many more.....

For all the details about the convention, including a full schedule of speakers and registration information, visit www.afabirds.org. Online registration will be available until August 2, 2006.