



# The Avian Welfare Coalition

“Dedicated to the Welfare and Protection of Captive Birds”

## About Legitimate Avian Rescue and Sanctuary Organizations.

### What they do!

- Strive to achieve and maintain high standards of avian care.
- Conduct business and related matters in a professional, ethical manner.
- Are open to oversight by professional, accrediting, and/or regulatory organizations.
- Provide accountability to donors and comply with best-practice nonprofit governance standards.
- Have appropriate educational materials and public outreach programs to generate awareness of the plight of parrots and other captive birds.
- Advocate for social, legislative, and policy changes aimed at improving the lives of birds in captivity.
- Promote respectful collaboration and share expertise and resources with colleagues to benefit birds.
- Maintain all required licenses and permits in good standing as well as their federal 501 c 3 not-for-profit status.
- Conduct fundraising with honesty and integrity and avoid sensationalistic and manipulative funding appeals.
- Allow access to birds only under conditions in which visitation does not invade the birds' privacy or result in disruptions of their routine.
- Acknowledge their limitations and enlist the assistance of veterinarians and other supporting organizations and professionals as needed.
- Have an active independent board of directors without conflicts of interest.
- If they are a permanent sanctuary, they provide professional and humane care through all phases of a bird's life and assume lifetime responsibility for animals placed in their care. (*This may include rehabilitation and transfer to another facility that is better suited to their needs and where similar or higher standards of care and prohibitions on breeding and commercial activity are complied with.*)

### What they don't do!

- Breed birds or place birds in breeding situations
- Engage in the commercial trade in birds
- Profit from or support the wild and exotic animal trade
- Use birds or other animals for research, entertainment, commercial purposes, or purely for exhibition.
- Support captive breeding programs for any commercial purpose. (*Exceptions may be made on rare occasions when a species is on the verge of extinction and where a credible, scientifically based breeding and reintroduction program is in place.*)
- Use birds in their care to satisfy human expectation or amusement, nor put their emotional needs, financial gain, or self-promotion before the needs of the birds.

### If the organizations places animals, it should have firm policies that:

- Prohibit animals from being placed in breeding situations or for commercial purposes.
- Provide for a thorough screening process for potential placement partners, educational outreach, and a follow-up to ensure that animals placed are thriving in their new environment.
- Provide them with legally binding contracts to ensure that animals can be recovered if they are not receiving proper care or if the present guardian is no longer willing or able to care for the animal.

For more information on avian sheltering organizations and accreditation visit:

The Avian Welfare Coalition [www.avianwelfare.org/issues/sheltering.htm](http://www.avianwelfare.org/issues/sheltering.htm)

The Global Federation of Sanctuaries [www.sanctuaryfederation.org](http://www.sanctuaryfederation.org)

To learn about specific non-profit animal care organizations or to research charities, visit [www.GuideStar.org](http://www.GuideStar.org)