

29/3/2018

Hi Everyone

A brief update on the NSW Pet Shop Standards and related matters since the March CCBFA meeting may be of interest to your members. Please feel free to distribute - print in newsletters or email.

Commencement of our marketing/publicity on Saturday March 3rd at Orange Sale, including support from local Shooters, Fishers, Farmers Party MP, Phil Donato, definitely had an effect. Hundreds of sellers kindly agreed to hold the #imnotapetshop hashtag flyer and be videoed entering the Orange sale and many many hundreds of signatures to get the petition off to a solid start. The video is playing on the @ccbfa Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/CCBFA/>.

The Sydney Royal aviary bird competition and display was Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th March – earlier this week. The Sydney Royal has been a great chance to meet with other affected animal groups – poultry, reptiles and dogs, in particular. Our banners, flyers and petitions were on display with hundreds more signatures collected – thanks to officials from all bird groups for their efforts. On Monday Minister Niall Blair dropped by and I was able to discuss the matter with him. On the Tuesday, the matter was discussed as part of my lunch time presentation on birds in the Pet Animal Pavilion arena – with Farmer Dave, who I believe is a celebrity from the first Big Brother TV show. In the afternoon I spoke on radio about aviculture, including the Pet Shop matter. A variety of photos, and video of the radio interview have been viewed by thousands via our Facebook page.

These ongoing efforts by members of CCBFA affiliate clubs have resulted in direct and ongoing communication and negotiations with both the Minister's office and the Deputy Director General DPI, Dr Bruce Christie's office. Although the problem is not yet resolved, there is definite progress. On behalf of CCBFA, much thanks to all for their support – when the government knows aviculture is behind our efforts, the job of negotiating a solution is greatly simplified.

Campaign banners, flyers and petitions continue circulating NSW bird sales, budgerigar shows and auctions, canary shows, agricultural shows and other avicultural club events. We have marketing material ready for distribution to all NSW pet stores and produce stores should negotiations stall. We are meeting and co-ordinating with other affected animal groups. Social media has taken off and we are developing contacts for radio, TV and mainstream newspapers. We thank all who are assisting for their tremendous effort and support.

Although addressing the issue itself is critical, it is also important for those negotiating that we can point to significant avicultural achievements. My personal interest, aviculture working with threatened species, is well known - it is a large part of why I undertook to represent aviculture to government. Apart from the obvious conservation potential, working with threatened species is a fantastic advertisement for aviculture. There are numerous projects we have quoted to media and government officials – the Red Siskin Initiative with the Smithsonian, Black-throated Finch projects with Macquarie Uni, ANU and UWS, Golden Shouldered Parrot work led by John Griffiths, Spix

Macaw efforts by ACTP and Al Wabra, Save the Gouldian Fund, work on Orange-bellied Parrots by PRIAM, plus of course the efforts of various zoos around Australia and internationally, such as the recent efforts by ACTP supporting in-situ rehabilitation and to build offsite captive insurance populations of threatened parrots from a number of Caribbean Islands after the devastating effects of recent hurricanes in the region. I encourage all aviculturists to support these conservation efforts, just as these efforts are supporting you and your hobby.

Your support is valuable and vital. Please keep up contact with your local State MP and sign our Petition to Parliament – why not inspire your members to download a copy www.ccbfa.org.au/petition.pdf and encourage family, friends and neighbours to sign as well. We already have a few thousand signatures, if we get ten thousand then an hour is set aside in Parliament to debate the matter – now that would make a difference!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Davis', with a horizontal line underneath.

Sam Davis
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