

ANBC Guidelines For Budgerigars Travelling To And From The National Show

Preface

Modified from recommendations supplied by Dr Michael Cannon BVSc, MACVSc (Avian Health), GradDipEd intended as a minimum set of basic Guidelines which may be implemented by States/Zones.

More detailed recommendations have been compiled by Dr Rob Marshall BVSc, MACVSc (Avian Health) as an extension to these minimum Guidelines and if so desired are available from ANBC Secretary. There may be specific requirements for individual Zones where certain endemic diseases are more common than elsewhere.

Brand names of products have not been stated since products available may vary from place to place and it is not our intention to recommend one product over another. By entering a bird for Zone selection, the breeder agrees to these minimum guidelines.

There are 3 broad aims of the following protocols

- To minimise stress on individual birds
- To prevent any diseases that may break out from passing to other birds
- To treat any ill birds that become apparent during the National Show

What breeders need to do before sending birds to States/Zones Selection

Parasite control and antibiotic treatment as below is the responsibility of the individual breeder long before travel to States/Zones selection and the National Show. In the months leading up to States/Zones selection recognise potential problems in your flock and treat your flock if required for:

- Internal parasites such as worms
- External parasites such as scalyface, mite, lice.
- Coccidia
- Megabacteria
- Canker (Trichomonas)
- Psittacosis (Chlamydia)
- Finally, a recognised avian probiotic to balance required gut microflora.
- Only send birds for States/Zones selection if you know they are in good condition and health.
- The SQBBA would encourage breeders to try and feed their birds up in order to be carrying a little more condition, as this could help them to better cope with changes to the environment/conditions in which they are used to and the stresses related to travel.
- Do not send ANY birds if there are significant health issues in the rest of the flock.
- Enhance the diet several weeks before to bring bird into optimal condition for travel.
- In the week prior to the zone selection apply lice and mite spray to all birds.
- Cease green/vegetable feeding several weeks prior to States/Zones selection.
- For 1-2 days prior to travel to Zone selection provide a recognised energy and electrolyte supplement.

- Check that travel cages have been cleaned and disinfected.
- Provide a note to the carers stating that your birds have been wormed etc; what you have done/given to them to prepare them for the States/Zones selection National Show.

What do States/Zones do with the birds in the week prior to Travel

- Health interventions such as energy and electrolyte supplements and probiotics may be undertaken by the Zone in order to minimise travel stress which may render the bird more susceptible to disease and a source of transmitting infection to other birds.
- Keep records of birds that are housed together as they enter the holding area such as ring number, owner name and contact details.
- As far as practical keep birds from different owners separated in holding cages and when travelling.
- Supply fresh water (changed daily), seed & millet sprays, with Groats on the first day.
- For 1-2 days prior to travel to the National Show provide a recognised energy and electrolyte supplement.
- Any bird that feels “light” or is ill should be immediately isolated and the owner contacted. Wash hands after handling such a bird and before handling any other bird.
- Sick birds do not travel to the national event.
- Travel to the National Event
- No birds, other than the States/Zones Team, to be allowed in the travel cages or the holding area of the National Show.
- Travel cages have previously been cleaned and disinfected.
- Book the most direct return flights and minimise wait time when transshipment is necessary.
- For early departures ensure lights on at least an hour prior to boxing to enable birds to drink and fill their crops with seed.
- Supply fresh seed and/or millet sprays for travel.
- Arrive at the venue as early as possible after it opens in order to allow birds to settle prior to lights out.

Arrival at the National Event

- Same as relevant parts of What do States/Zones do with the birds in the week prior to travel
- Spread seed mix, millet sprays and (for the first day) Groats on the floor of the holding cages to ensure immediate access to all birds as they are checked out of their carry cages, supply energy and electrolyte supplement in water.
- Any sign of illness in a bird must be notified to the on-site vet immediately.
- Once vet has finished the examination any recommendations should be discussed with the carers and then if deemed necessary with the owner, if possible,

The host States/Zones provides the following at the venue (See also ANBC Attachment 3 to By-Law 1(a))

- Hospital cages, preferably one per Team.

- Energy and electrolyte supplement and probiotic.
- Clean water, seed mix, millet sprays and Groats.
- 1ml and 3ml syringes and suitable crop needles and food (not generally supplied) and not a procedure for the uninitiated.
- Sink and hand wash disinfectant with paper towels.
- Have arrangements to house any birds that are too ill to travel home.

Handling and treatment in the holding venue

Vet and Carer Checks:

- Birds assessed visually soon after arrival and again once they have settled in.
- Observation should be continued regularly throughout the time the birds are on site.
- Any ill bird noticed by carers or stewards should be brought to the attention of the vet
- Medications and/or fluid replacement therapy may be required.
- Maintain individual records for any ill birds and any medications used. This information should travel back with the birds when they return home.
- Carer mobile phone contacts are held by Security.

Preparation for travel back to zone

- Same as relevant parts of What do Zones do with the birds in the week prior to travel and same as relevant parts of Travel to the National Event.
- If any bird is too ill to travel it may need to stay until fit to travel.

Handling and treatment once the birds are back in the Zones holding establishment

- Allow birds to settle down when they arrive back in their home zone before releasing them to the owners, preferably after they have received an electrolyte supplement.
- Clean and disinfect travel cages as soon as possible.

Handling when arrive at owner's aviary

- Quarantine birds for a minimum 6 weeks.
- If the birds are ill when they arrive home, the 6 weeks quarantine begins from recovery.
- Supply an energy and electrolyte supplement for one week.
- Any sick birds should be taken to an avian vet for examination to identify the cause and to prescribe treatment to avoid any problems being passed on to the rest of the flock.
- Breeder to advise home Zone committee if any health problems arise during the minimum 6 weeks quarantine period at owners' aviary (ASAP).

Note below is a few of the products available that may help

Product Reason used

- Coopex Powder cleans up mites & lice, does not hurt the birds.
- Quik Gel Contains polysaccharides, vitamins & organic acid, can really turn a birds health around in 90% of cases if used early enough
- Nilstat Treatment following over use of antibiotics, which may have caused
- Thrush in the birds.
- Electrolytes To try & prevent dehydration in birds which are unwell, & give healthy
- birds a lift also.
- KD Powder If birds have a sickness problem, KD powder will hopefully hold
- them & prevent the problem from getting any worse
- Canker Medication Ronivet S, or Turbosole
- Chlorsig 1% eye ointment Available in both cream and drops, good for clearing up eye
- infections
- Coopers Nilverm Bird wormer
- Avian Probiotic Balance the gut flora