



**PYRRHURA BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION**

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President's Message

Along with weaning babies and dealing with heat in shipping, aviculturists in the U.S. have had pressing issues of regional and national magnitude requiring attention in the past few months (see articles later in this newsletter):

- Ø The aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita—on New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf Coast;
- Ø The ongoing wildfire problems in California;
- Ø SB1139/HB2669—the infamous AR-backed Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS), amending the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), that has the potential to eventually federalize animal breeding in the U.S.; and
- Ø NAIS (National Animal Identification System)—USDA's Mandatory Property and Animal Surveillance Program, now in draft form.

PBA has had several breeder articles in the past couple of years (e.g., the roseifrons article from Judi Robben), and those give wonderful insights into particularly the rarer species. We would like to feature more articles on specific species, not only from the breeding perspective, but also from the perspective of what some of these birds are like as pets, particularly the rarer species that are just entering the pet market. This should assist in this emerging market to impart knowledge about these birds. Of

course, there are basic "py" traits, but there are also some nuances of behavior that seem to occur within certain species. The International Conure Association published a series of such articles on the rose-crowned conure last quarter, and I congratulate and thank Darlene Johnson for her in-depth look at that species. I am working on an article on the crimson bellied for the next issue and welcome input from others. I will talk about breeding AND pet qualities, for I believe the latter will assure the continued proliferation in American aviculture.

We also would like more articles that give insight into aviculture in other countries, both in breeding practices and in the attitude of the country towards caged birds, focusing on Pyrrhura conures. I look forward to input from Pyrrhura breeders around the world!

Marcy Covault

PBA Officers

The PBA Officers are here to serve the needs of the organization. If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions, please bring them to the list or to us for discussion. We value every member's expertise and input, and we want to encourage teamwork and networking to further the mission of the organization, both educating about and promoting the feathered jewels that are the Pyrrhura conures.

President	Marcy Covault	President@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Vice President	Andrew Pike	Vicepresident@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
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Secretary	Kelli Eager	Secretary@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Webmaster/Editor	Judi Robben	Editor@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com

Treasurer's Report

Bee Gee Bunch

PBA has finally changed its bank account to Wells Fargo, because they have more locations for easy access by PBA officers needing to deposit checks, etc.

We now have a PayPal account set up, and it should be active as of October 10. Watch for an announcement on the PyrrhuraBreedersAssociation Yahoo group list.

BEGINNING BALANCE (3/31/05)		\$4,293.24
INCOME Membership dues received through 9/30/05		\$340.00
EXPENSES		
AFA Conference advertising		
AFA package	350.00	
AFA Conference Delegate expenses		
(donated to AFA Disaster Relief)	292.10	
BG Bunch \$146.05		
Pat Chinnici \$146.05		
AFA disaster relief donation (PBA)	\$100.00	
Conure nestbox project	\$100.00	
Newsletter 6/30/05	\$199.34	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>(\$1,166.44)</u>
BALANCE AS OF 09/30/05		\$3,466.80

Membership Report

Kelli Eager

We have 46 active members. We have added some new faces and lost some old faces. Time constraints and the economy have taken a toll on our membership roll. We need all active members to encourage people to join the PBA. We are only as strong and worthwhile as our membership. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience within our membership, and I encourage each of you to participate in educational dialog on both the PyrrhuraBreedersAssociation Yahoo list and the PyrrhuraConures Yahoo list.

Our membership spans the United States, Canada, Australia, and several countries in Europe. We want to make the PBA a source of education on Pys, support for members, and a place to network with others who enjoy the Pyrrhura Conures as pets and breeders. We are working very hard to make the PBA an organization that offers value to its members, in the form of education, networking support for breeding issues (including legislative alerts that affect aviculturists), and Consortium support. We want the PBA to be as non-political as possible, with its primary function as service to its members. However, we also will update our membership when proposed legislation will potentially impact them, and it sure likes like there is a lot of that right now!

AFA in Brief, August 2005

Carol Brasaemle, Editor

2005 OFFICER ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations to the winners!

President- Dr. Benny Gallaway

2nd Vice President - Brenda Piper

Northern CA Regional Director - Barry Wold

SE Regional Director - Nancy Speed

Western Regional Director - Lisa McManus

FL/Puerto Rico Regional Director -
Fred Smith

NE Regional Director - Linda Rubin

AFA thanks all the candidates who ran this year. Being a member of the BoD requires much time and energy. They have all shown dedication above and beyond the call of duty.

SUPER DRAWING WINNERS

* Key West Trip - Jim Malfitano, MA.

* 2006 AFA Convention Registration -
Rose Mueller, NV

* Ultimate Breeder Package -
Cathy Henderson, MS

* Loro Parque Registration for 2 -
Tami Baker, GA

* Trip to Belize - Dean Reyes, FL

* Generator - Marilyn Hawley, AZ

* Air Purifier - Laurie Baker, CA

* Avey Brooder - Jennifer Trescasiro, FL

*AND NEXT YEAR we will meet in DALLAS,
TEXAS.*

PBA Delegates at the AFA Convention

By Pat Chinnici

My name is Pat Chinnici, and some of you may know me as one of "The Bag Ladies." That name was coined by Wanda Elder, 1st VP of AFA. My friend Nora Schmidt and I help stuff the convention bags that every one receives with all the flyers and goodies in them. This year we also helped Bill Elder do the name badges with your cards for the banquet, etc. We generally do whatever they need us to do... we're sort of 'go-fors.'

I have been going to these conventions for about 20 years. I have been our club RAAVE's delegate since it joined AFA. I was also the old Reno clubs delegate for the Northern Nevada Cage Bird Society.

BeeGee Bunch and I were the PBA delegates, and we both attended the HoD meeting and voted on the by-law changes. There were many people speaking to the pros and cons of each

item. Genny Wall and President of AFA, Benny Galloway, did an excellent job of running the meeting.

We didn't get to have a PBA meeting with our members because, for some reason, Bird Endowment was in our room when we arrived—so we went in and enjoyed Laney Rickman's party.

Our club RAAVE had a youth contest this year and the winner received \$1,000 to attend the convention. Marshall Liger, SC for South Carolina did a talk on youth and highlighted our youth program. Our winner, Emily Gough and her mother were there along with a contingent of RAAVE members. An interesting thought that

Marshall put forth was that 'Youth in Aviculture' could be someone who was even 40 or more years old, as they were just getting into it and starting to learn.

A speaker that I had the privilege to introduce was Mark Stafford of Parrots International. He had another fabulous video for us to enjoy. He has been involved in doing conservation work in South America and some other countries.

I always come home from the convention all fired up with new ideas and enthusiasm. You don't know what you are missing till you come and mingle with the people who wrote the books and paint the pictures we all enjoy.

Physically Challenged Pyrrhuras—Breeder Stories

By Marcy Covault

Birds with physical problems are often birds so big in heart and personality that even their physical limitations are a reminder of the will to survive and thrive, and are an endearing part of what they are as living beings that share our lives.

Every breeder at one time or another faces a decision on what to do with a baby bird that either hatches with obvious physical problems, or through an unfortunate accident, experiences an injury that renders them physically challenged.

If you would believe the anti-breeding propaganda, most breeders are hard-hearted and bottom-line oriented, and most have few qualms about euthanizing such a bird.

From what I have experienced and the breeders with whom I have talked, that is NOT the case—*au contraire*—most breeders are emotional mush when it comes to their babies, and if there is a chance that the bird can have a reasonable quality of life, the breeder will nurture it, and they will either keep it or find it a home that will provide a specially-adapted environment.

It's time to be pro-active in educating the public about the love and responsibility most breeders demonstrate, rather than the more often espoused view that breeders care only about the money they earn "off the backs of birds" (to quote "animal rights" propaganda).

Following is a detailed story from Elke Davis, followed by three shorter stories that START with the breeder and discuss how they have dealt with physical problems of youngsters and the decisions made for the birds' futures.

Cebbee's Story

By Elke Davis

Even after 8 years of raising birds, we never get tired of the daily little miracles when watching a baby bird hatch, and then watching it mature from a rather homely looking little creature into a beautiful adult bird.

But along with those joys also come some trying times when things do not go right, and a baby is born that has special needs and often requires lots of hours of extra care every day and night just for it to survive.

This was the case with Cebee, a little crimson bellied conure.

During the daily nestbox check, Deryl discovered that the parents had tried to help both of the chicks that were hatching by enlarging the little pip mark the babies had made and trying to pull the babies out. Unfortunately, they already had succeeded with Cebee's clutchmate, and the baby had died in the process.

The 2nd chick was still completely inside the egg, the yoke sac had not been absorbed yet, he was horribly dehydrated and the inner membrane had completely dried around him, sealing him like a "seal-a-meal baggie." Fortunately, his head was in the opening from the egg and was not covered by the membrane, so he had not suffocated.

But while trying to pry him out, the parents had pulled off one wing and most of one leg. He was cold and had been bleeding. I peeled all of the eggshell away, except the part that held the egg sac. I removed the membrane with help of a warm, moist q-tip, after I had warmed the baby up, a little bit at a time, putting him back in the incubator frequently, so he would not get too cold again.

Under normal conditions, I would not have fed a baby that soon, but this little one was so dehydrated, I started giving him water mixed with Instant Ounces and Potent Brew, just a few drops every so often. This went on during the night, getting up every few hours and feeding him just a little.



By the next morning, the baby had absorbed the egg sac and was losing the last little bit of shell. I kept giving him water and Instant Ounces, and late in the afternoon, I started mixing a little handfeeding formula with it. I applied cream on the hurt places to try and avoid an infection on the injured limbs. The first 2 days and nights, I was feeding around the clock—which is exhausting when one has to get up every two hours—but I felt he had a better chance of surviving that way.

He was putting on good weight, but then got a little dehydrated again, and growth slowed down some. We kept up the every 2-hour feedings, then 3 hours, etc., and he started to improve again and had normal weight gains.

I had him on soft paper towels in the brooder, and although he managed to get around fairly well, he would sometimes fall over and start rolling, and it was real upsetting to him. The more he tried, the more he would just roll around, so I put him in a smaller bowl with another day 1 baby I had at that time, and that worked out a lot better. I think babies like the company and feel more secure when they have a warm little body with them, even at that



young age. When he was about 3 weeks old, I put him in an aquarium, lined with pine shavings and topped with a heater. He was able to get around without falling over.

He was walking on his stump and his knee joint on the other leg (they were about the same lengths). He was adapting to that real well and got around, but as his good leg started to grow longer this started to prove more difficult.

We put him on wire fairly early, and he immediately started to use his beak to hold on to the wire and walk. He would even perch, but just sitting on the side of the cage on his perch, so he could hold his balance with his beak on the wire.

We made him a little prosthesis using a rubber leg from a little GI Joe doll, hollowing it out. We put the end of his partial leg in there and taped it up with vet wrap. That actually worked real well as far as walking on flat surfaces, but the boot from the leg kept getting caught once we put him in wire.

We tried with larger soles on the boot, but that got to be too clumsy. We finally decided not to worry about it—the bird was getting around just fine without help from us. He never realized he

was handicapped, as this is all he ever knew, and he adapted just fine as he was growing up.

When it first happened, and I saw him for the first time, I was wondering briefly what kind of life lay in store for this poor little bird. We have occasionally had other birds with deformities or injuries, and have always found someone who was eager to make them their beloved pets. I knew this bird was in more trouble than the others, and did not know if he would survive that much trauma, but it never occurred to us not to try our best to save this bird and give him every chance we could.

As he got older he adapted so well to everything and turned into a beautiful little bird. I was in no hurry to place him—even though I knew we could not keep him forever, as even a breeder can only have so many pets—but I was waiting for the right person to come along.



When he was about 7 months old, I met a wonderful lady over the internet that was buying a little Half Moon conure from us. Even though I'd never met her personally, I felt she would be a wonderful pet owner for the little bird. I just told her about the little bird and immediately got an e-mail back with the subject

line, "I want him." We shipped him along with the Half-Moon and things have worked out wonderfully.

We still stay in touch, and I get cute pictures from her every so often—and looking at him, it is so hard to imagine he would turn out that well, when I remember seeing that half-opened egg in Deryl's palm for the first time.

Newton's Story

By Marcy Covault



My older green cheek pair have always been great parents, with perfect babies, so I hadn't checked the babies closely the first couple of weeks, other than to count beaks in the clump and be sure they had full crops. When I removed them for handfeeding, I noticed the youngest baby appeared to have a problem. I observed that his hip joints appeared "loose" — that is, he was squatting on his rear end because he could not hold his legs close to his body. I tried putting him in a brace, but that really wasn't successful. I had to be careful, because he had to be able to defecate, plus I couldn't strap his legs to his body tightly enough for fear of restricting his breathing.

There was a point when he was 3 weeks old when I wondered if he could have a quality life,

because he might be sitting in his own excrement if he couldn't elevate his body somewhat, and I debated at that time whether it would be kinder to have him euthanized. While I was looking at him with those thoughts in mind, he looked back up at me and chirped as if to say, 'I'll do just fine,' and I knew he had to have a chance.

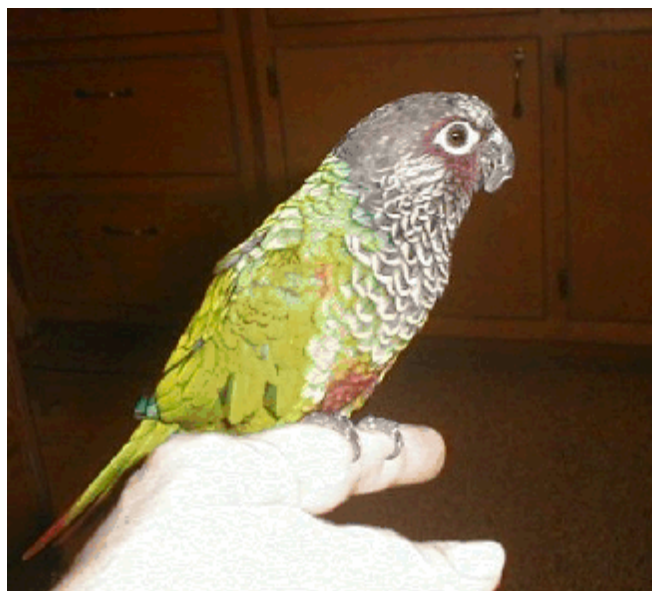
And he has done just fine. He learned to compensate by squat-perching (gripping well), flying, and using his beak to help himself climb.

Newton went through one surgery to take pressure off his hip joints, but that was only marginally successful. It was decided to not put him through another surgery, as he gets around well and is a sweet, loving pet with the couple that gladly accepted him into their family.

Sweetie's Story

By June DiCiocco

Sweetie, a painted conure, hatched here and was fed from day one. Her beak is twisted, but it did not come from handfeeding. I have fed hundreds of various species and never had this. I refused to sell her because she is a special needs bird and has to have her beak dremeled regularly, or she cannot eat properly.



I won't sell or place any of the handicapped birds that I have because of the care they require. It takes configuring perches and feeding stations so the birds can be comfortable, sometimes special food, and monitoring their health that might be affected by their handicap.

Fonzie's Story

By Tammy Wilkinson

When my crimson bellied conure, Fonzie, was preparing to hatch, it was noted that he hadn't pipped when he should have. He was carefully peeled out of his egg to find that there was a good reason for the lack of pips and that was that he was missing a portion of his upper beak, and thus his egg tooth as well. His beak made him look like a little fleshy turtle.

At about 4 weeks of age he came to live with me, and handfeeding was easy except he was a little shy than other young conures, perhaps because he was losing squabbles with other babies he had lived with.



He eagerly ate his hand-feeding formula, but he didn't take to eating seeds as quickly as other young birds. Peas, and soaked monkey

biscuits quickly became his favorite foods and it wasn't uncommon to find him with biscuit and peas shoved up onto his nares, which I carefully cleaned daily.

Soon after weaning, he learned to crack sprouted sunflower seed, but I still supplemented his diet with the biscuit until I

was sure he was eating enough seed to be able to do without. Peas are still his favorite, but he no longer needs face cleanings to prevent crusty buildup.

I was surprised at how normal he behaves, and the only lasting handicaps he has are preening and holding up his end of a quarrel. His feathers



have a few black spots here and there, what would be considered overpreening on any other bird, is pretty normal for him, just because his beak is a bit different.

Every few months he also requires a beak trim, which he hates, but it doesn't seem to hurt him. I just clip his lower beak with toenail clippers, because if I don't it will split and look ugly.

He has never had trouble eating regardless of how long his lower beak gets. The upper beak has maintained its size and shape. He is allowed to fly and I think that he may be the only bird I have that, if he were to escape, would fly back to me on command.

He is quite the pest when he is out and I don't want him on me. The added bonus of his handicap is that his bites don't hurt, unless he carefully plans a pinch which hurts like crazy. He has no piercing power though.

References

I believe it is important to present a breeder/ caretaker's perspective, because there are

already many articles from the pet owner's perspective, written from the point where a pet owner accepts the responsibility for one of these special birds

The following are a few web sites that contain more stories about physically challenged birds (not just Pyrrhura), how they've been accommodated, and how they have enriched lives.

<http://www.avianweb.com/specialabledbirds.htm>

<http://mikeoso.homestead.com/handicap.html>

<http://www.junglebirds.com/punkin.htm>

<http://www.lidoorg.com/alcatraz.htm>

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/7579/toto.htm>

<http://www.holisticbird.org/heal/cs10.htm>

<http://www.angelfire.com/tx/iluvbirds/gracie.html>

Hurricane Aftermath—Rescues and Caring Rescuers

By Marcy Covault

Those of us not in the New Orleans area watched the newscasts with concern for those who were affected by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Then, less than 3 weeks later, the Texas and Louisiana Gulf coast were in the path of Hurricane Rita. I thought to myself, "Why is Mother Nature so pissed off?" A bit of anthropomorphism, I admit—and probably suitable for another forum.

Because aviculturists are so close to animals in our daily lives, our focus after the human needs are being met, are the birds that were caught in the disaster, left behind for survival reasons, and not the preferred choice of their owners. And aviculturists and aviculture-related industries came to the rescue!

National groups like the AFA and OPA donated funds and their volunteer help for devastated aviaries that needed immediate and ongoing, rebuilding assistance. Pet supply companies also donated thousands of pounds of seeds and pellets.

From Houston, Texas, NPRPF (National Parrot Rescue and Preservation Foundation) engaged its members, soliciting supplies and volunteers to go to Louisiana—hauling via trailers and SUVs much-needed cages, toys, food, etc., to the Baton Rouge area.

The Volunteer Heroes

In my opinion, individuals with organizational ties and with individual commitment—such as Mattie Sue Athan, Mona Tuomi, Matt Schmitt, Rick Jordan, Tammy Wilkinson, Donna Powell,

and MANY others too numerous to name—are the "in the trenches" heroes in the aftermath of both of these hurricanes insofar as the animals are concerned. *This includes the small rescue organizations, which dropped everything and rushed to help!*

Just as last year, volunteers helped the aviculturists and other animal owners in the wake of the hurricanes and tornadoes in Florida and the mudslides in California, so these volunteers with "hearts as big as Texas" converged on the hurricane-battered southern states.

911ParrotAlert "Home Base"

Donna Powell is the founder of 911Parrot Alert, an organization in Baton Rouge, LA that was created to provide assistance in locating lost parrots. She has opened her home and her heart to volunteers and to the hundreds of dispossessed and lost parrots that were brought in from the devastated New Orleans area. Little did Donna know what she was getting into, but as other volunteers attested, her energy was almost limitless—driven to help these parrots

that needed food, a safe place, and sometimes medical attention, until their owners could be located.



This used to be Donna's sunroom.

Birds were also listed in a database, and a link was created (to a message board that allowed queries and responses) on <http://www.PetFinder.com>.

The 911ParrotAlert site gives plenty of journaling, pictures, and insights into what volunteers have encountered during this effort [<http://911parrotalert.com/index.asp> and <http://burgebirdservices.homestead.com/HURRICANEKATRINA.html>].

Wilkinson's Front Line E-mail about 911Parrot Alert's Efforts

Tammy Wilkinson spent over a week at Donna's and relates the following.

"She is wonderful—a very cool lady. A challenge was that most of the well-meaning pet owner volunteers didn't consider priorities or consequences of many birds thrown together in the same room. For example, you just can't let the birds out of their cages unsupervised when you don't know their temperaments. Strange birds running across the cages of other birds were just asking for bad bite injuries.

"I found myself spending a lot of time trying to get across priorities. For example, an emaciated

cockatiel restrained in a washcloth was brought in from NO, and the volunteer was hugging and kissing on it, which under ordinary circumstances would be great, BUT in this case, the bird was starving! As soon as we put it in a carrier with some millet, it started chowing down. At that point, it was hungry for food not starved for attention!

"But overall it is a good operation, and I think that as long as there is consistently someone there who cares about health and safety, all will be well."

Athan's Front Line E-mails for Assistance

Mattie Sue Athan, well-known avian behavior consultant and author, made the 14-hour trip from her home in Oklahoma to Baton Rouge to help Donna and the other volunteers. She thought she would likely just drop off some supplies and maybe help out for a day or so—but instead she stayed for many days. She chronicled events and e-mailed what it was like, as well as what was needed to support the rescue operations, so that bird lists and organizations knew how best they could help.

Following is a riveting clip from a 9/13 email from Mattie Sue:

"Yes we still need lots of help, but we need it in a concerted way, including administratively gifted individuals who can do more than go get birds, wash cages, wash toxic soup off emaciated survivors.

"We made it into the city today. Nightmare like something from a science fiction movie. Mold and high water mark and starving dogs foaming at the mouth in deserted streets. Luckily we had lots of dog food to strew on the streets. Saw an expensive collection of mostly macaws, bodies of drowned birds, if only if only they had raised the cages. The water made it just to the top of the cages and the birds drowned in their cages. Three blue and golds managed to escape (well, they were pairs, so there were probably four, but we didn't stay in the mold and chemical covered room to find the other body) and survived because they weren't locked in their cages."

Katrina... then Rita

Less than 3 weeks later, Hurricane Rita hit the Gulf coast, pummeling the Beaumont/Port Arthur area and inland cities in Texas and Louisiana, and causing re-flooding in New Orleans. Thank goodness, the area was better prepared, fewer people were there, and authorities were able to put assistance

procedures in place. Again, volunteers kicked into gear to help—the internet has been aflame with the communications, coordination of volunteers and supplies, and the words of encouragement and support.

Ongoing efforts continue in this area, as there are still pets being recovered and reunited with their owners.

California Fires—Experiencing the Effects

Santa Ana Winds Whip Fires Across Southland

By Amanda Covarrubias and Monte Morin, LA Times Staff Writers, 9/29/05

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-winds29sep29,1,4615106.story?coll=la-headlines-california>

Scores of homes are threatened as overgrown, tinder-dry brush from last winter's heavy rainfall fuels blazes in four counties. The first Santa Ana winds of the fall fanned eight brush fires across Southern California on Wednesday,

threatening dozens of homes near Chatsworth, Moorpark and in the hills above Redlands.



California Fire Fallout

by Ellis Keene

"Well, the gulf coast has hurricanes, and we have entered our fire season. Our first Santa Ana winds cranked up Tuesday, and the next thing you know, there is a 17,000- acre fire burning out of control about 7 miles away from my house. All the rain we got earlier in the year generated a lot of fuel for wildfires when all the brush dried out - we're paying for it now...."

"When I left work yesterday, my car looked like it was covered with snow - only problem - it's ash... nasty. Fortunately, I have a couple of electrostatic air cleaners, so I just turned on the A/C and closed up the house so all the py kiddies are in good shape."

Interesting comments on "natural disaster."

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/fire/ucsbfire.html>

"...many people do not understand the ecological and scientific concepts behind fire. For many, fire remains a fearsome, destructive force that can and should be controlled at all costs. Smokey Bear's simple, time-honored "only you" fire prevention message has been so successful that any complex talk about the healthy, natural role of fire gets lost, ignored or denied by broad internal and external audiences."

—from the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy & Program Review, Draft Report - June 9, 1995

Sure is a weird sight to look outside and see the daylight shining through the smoke - everything is yellowish. Probably similar to what the whole environment will look like in about 100 years..."

And a few days later...

"Very good news from the fire front here. It's slowly grown to about 24,000 acres, but is now about 85% contained. The Santa Ana winds

died down last Friday. The winds started blowing from the coast, and it got humid and cooled way down, so the fire pretty much came to a halt. This was the first Santa Ana wind condition we've experienced this year, and it was a SMALL one—winds not more than 30 - 35 mph that only lasted a couple of days. With higher, sustained, hot winds, it could have been much worse."

PAWS—What It Could Do to U.S. Aviculture

By Genny Wall

PAWS ALERT...The Pet Animal Welfare Statute of 2005

EVERY BIRD BREEDER WHO SELLS ANY BIRD TO A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AS A PET WILL BE COVERED UNDER PAWS AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO USDA INSPECTION, HOUSING, CARE, RECORD KEEPING, AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS !!

EVERY BIRD RESCUER WHO PLACES A BIRD IN A NEW HOME AND WHO ACCEPTS ANY COMPENSATION WILL ALSO BE COVERED UNDER PAWS AND WILL BE SUBJECT TO USDA INSPECTION, HOUSING, CARE, RECORD KEEPING, AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS!!

PAWS, SB1139 and HB2669, is written so that it appears that it is specifically meant to focus only on dogs and cats. PAWS was introduced to Congress on May 26, 2005 by Senator Santorum and co-sponsored by Senator Durbin. However, the result of this poorly crafted legislation is that all warm blooded animals which are now covered by the Animal Welfare Act are also covered by PAWS: birds, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, rabbits, etc.

Under the current Animal Welfare Act (AWA), "dealers" are regulated. In the current AWA a "dealer" is defined to include "any person who, in commerce, for compensation or profit,

delivers for transportation, or transports, except as a carrier, buys, or sells, or negotiates the purchase or sale of, (1) any dog or other animal whether alive or dead for research, teaching, exhibition, or use as a pet," but does not include "retail pet stores." PAWS does not remove this language from the AWA.

PAWS contains certain specific exclusions from regulation for certain dog and cat breeders and sellers. However, these exclusions in PAWS apply only to dogs and cats. While the PAWS exclusions will allow certain smaller dog and cat breeders and sellers to remain unregulated under the AWA, these exclusions do not exempt any breeders of any other warm blooded animals that are now included in the definition of "animal" under the AWA and that are included under the AWA. Pet stores cannot sell intact animals or "wild" animals or they also fall under the PAWS requirement of USDA inspections and permits.

PAWS completely reverses the original intent of Congress with regard to the Animal Welfare Act (AWA), and the regulation and inspection of animals "in commerce." When the AWA was first passed in 1966, the original intent of Congress was to regulate large commercial breeding

facilities and ensure that the animals in those facilities were treated humanely. The intent was never to regulate small in-home hobby breeders. This Congressional intent has been clear and consistent for over 38 years. Under the existing AWA (without PAWS), "retail pet stores" are exempt from regulation under the AWA.

For decades, the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that home-based breeders are "retail pet stores," and as such, are exempt from regulation under the AWA. The appropriateness and legality of this determination of the Secretary of Agriculture was specifically recognized and upheld by the federal appellate court in the recent case brought by the Doris Day Animal League. In that case, the DDAL sued the USDA to force the USDA to inspect small breeders in private residences who sell directly to the public on the theory that they were not excluded from the AWA as "retail pet stores." The court pointed out that home-based breeders are not completely unregulated, but are in fact subject to direct scrutiny and oversight by their customers, and that there are "many State and local laws and ordinances in place to monitor and respond to allegations of inhumane treatment of and inadequate housing for animals owned by private retail dealers."

The court also ruled that "it was also within the authority delegated to him by Congress for the Secretary to decline to amend the definition in light of the potential invasions of privacy that would result if federal inspectors began enforcing cleaning, sanitation, handling, and other regulatory requirements in private homes."

DDAL lost the case and appealed the decision to the US Supreme Court. The US Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal by DDAL, and the

decision stands that small breeders in private residences are excluded from regulation under the AWA.

The AWA does not now contain a definition of what is a "retail pet store," and over time the Secretary of Agriculture has determined that several types of breeders and sellers are exempt from AWA regulation as retail pet stores, including home-based breeders who sell pets to the public.

PAWS seeks to insert a new definition of "retail pet store" into the AWA, and PAWS states that a "retail pet store" does not include (meaning they will be regulated under the AWA):

(A) a person breeding animals to sell to the public as pets;

(B) a person selling hunting, security, or breeding dogs; or

(C) a person selling wild animals."

PAWS is an effort by DDAL and its associates to nullify that court decision and to nullify the longstanding intent of Congress that home-based breeders should remain unregulated by the AWA.

Although the arguments put forth for PAWS state that the intent is to regulate "puppy mills," it must be noted that all large commercial dog breeding facilities wholesaling animals are already inspected by the USDA. It must also be noted that the language in the PAWS bill speaks specifically to the regulation of in-home breeders and states that exemptions would apply to those who breed six litters or less or sell 25 or less dogs or cats.

Since there is no mention made of any other animals being excluded under PAWS, sale of any other "animals" will be regulated under the AWA.

Given the poorly crafted wording of PAWS, it would pose problems for many thousands of dog and cat breeders, small animal breeders, and all bird breeders who sell to the public.

Ed Note—this is just a brief synopsis.

Here's an interesting blog [Dog Politics]:

http://dogpolitics.typepad.com/my_weblog/2005/09/the_paws_bill_r.html#more

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PAWS, SEE ARTICLES AT THE FOLLOWING SITES.

<http://pet-law.com/index.html>

<http://saova.org/1139.html>

<http://ncraoa.com/alerts.html>

<http://www.tica.org/legislative/legpaws.htm>

<http://www.naiaonline.org/body/articles/SantorumPaws062005.htm>

NAIS—USDA's Mandatory Property and Animal Surveillance Program

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LEGISLATIVE ALERT – Why You Should Oppose NAIS—the USDA's Mandatory Property and Animal Surveillance Program

Poultry fanciers and keepers of small flocks are facing a grave threat from a proposed government intrusion into their innocent choice of pastimes and way of life.

For several years, the USDA has been working with the largest-scale animal industry organizations (for example, the National Pork Producers, Monsanto Company, and Cargill Meat) to develop a mandatory "National Animal Identification System" (NAIS). However, most small scale livestock producers, people who raise animals for their own food, and people who keep horses or livestock as companion animals do not know about the USDA's plans.

The NAIS will drive small producers out of the market, will make people abandon raising animals for their own food, will invade Americans' personal privacy to a degree never before tolerated, will violate the religious

freedom of Americans whose beliefs make it impossible for them to comply, and will erase the last vestiges of animal welfare from the production of animal foods.

The Problem

On April 25, 2005, the USDA released "Draft Program Standards" ("St.") and a "Draft Strategic Plan" ("Plan") concerning the NAIS. If you think the description below sounds too bizarre to be true, please go to usda.gov/nais, read the Standards and Plan, and check the citations.

By January 1, 2008, the NAIS will be mandatory. (Plan, pp. 2, 10, 17.) Every person who owns even one horse, cow, pig, chicken, sheep, pigeon, or virtually any livestock animal, will be forced to register their home, including owner's name, address, and telephone number, and be keyed to Global Positioning System coordinates for satellite monitoring, in a giant federal database under a 7-digit "premises ID number." (St., pp. 3-4, 10-12; Plan, p. 5.) Every animal will have to be assigned a 15-digit ID number, also to be kept in a giant federal database. The form of ID will most likely be a tag or microchip containing a Radio Frequency Identification Device, designed to be read from a distance. (Plan, p.10; St., pp.6,12,20,27-28.)

The plan may also include collecting the DNA of every animal and/or a retinal scan of every animal. (Plan, p.13.) The owner will be required to report: the birth date of an animal, the application of every animal's ID tag, every time an animal leaves or enters the property, every time an animal loses a tag, every time a tag is replaced, the slaughter or death of an animal, or if any animal is missing. Such events must be reported within 24 hours. (St., pp. 12-13, 17-21.)

Third parties, such as veterinarians, will be required to report "sightings" of animals. (St., p. 25.) In other words, if you call a vet to your property to treat your horse, cow, or any other animal, and the vet finds any animal without the mandatory 15-digit computer-readable ID, the vet may be required to report you.

If you do not comply, the USDA will exercise "enforcement" against you. (St., p. 7; Plan, p. 17.) The USDA has not yet specified the nature of "enforcement," but presumably it will include imposing fines and/or seizing your animals.

There are no exceptions—under the USDA plan, you will be forced to register and report, even if you raise animals only for your own food or keep horses for draft or for transportation.

The Negative Effects

Eradication of Small Farms - People with just a few meat animals or 40-cow dairies are already living on the edge financially. The USDA plan will force many of them to give up farming.

Loss of the True Security of Organic and Local Foods - The NAIS is touted by the USDA and agri-corporations as a way to make our food supply "secure" against diseases or terrorism. However, most people instinctively understand that real food security comes from raising food yourself or buying from a local farmer you

actually know. The USDA plan will only kill off more local sources of production and further promote the giant industrial methods which cause many food safety and disease problems.

Extreme Damage to Personal Privacy - Legally, livestock animals are a form of personal property. It is unprecedented for the United States government to conduct large-scale computer-aided surveillance of its citizens simply because they own a common type of property. (The only exceptions are registration of motor vehicles and guns, due to their clear inherent dangers - but they are registered at the state level, not by the federal government.)

The NAIS would actually subject the owner of a chicken to far more surveillance than the owner of a gun. Surveillance of small-scale livestock owners is like the government subjecting people to surveillance for owning a couch, a TV, a lawnmower.

Insult to Animal Welfare - The NAIS is the ultimate objectification of higher, sensitive living creatures, treating individual animals as if they were cans of peas with a bar code. Many people who raise their own animals or buy from small, local producers do so because they are very troubled by industrial-scale production of chickens, cattle, and pigs. These people will be forced either to sacrifice their personal privacy to government surveillance, or to stop raising their own food by humane standards.

Burden on Religious Freedom - Many adherents of plain (and other) faiths raise their own food animals and use animals in farming and transportation because their beliefs require them to live this way. Such people obviously cannot comply with the USDA's computerized, technology-dependent system. The NAIS will force these people to violate their religious beliefs.

OTHER LIST COMMENTS ON NAIS:

"What about non-livestock animals? Will the government next want to register all cats, dogs, and parakeets, and demand the global positioning coordinates of their owners' houses and apartments?"

The following is from a list member in response to the above question:

"Count on it. NAIS is a USDA-directed, Homeland Security-funded program under each State's Department of Agriculture oversight and administration. The Homeland Security funding is federal "pork" to each state, so it has the support of state legislators. The primary purported rationale is to protect the food supply from outbreaks of contagious exotic and emerging diseases, such as foot and mouth, etc., that may possibly be brought into the country by "terrorists" trying to deliberately expose and infect livestock.

"A new canine influenza virus is now in the news. It is believed to be an equine influenza virus that jumped the species barrier to dogs. Guess what other species dogs live intimately with? For the last several years the neocon terrorism peddlers of the administration and the

servile media stenographers have already had the opportunity to alarm the gullible American public on the Asian bird flu. Here is some more ammo for them to impose this program on the docile and brainwashed American public.

"A Wisconsin veterinarian employed in the NAIS program has already publicly stated that this program should be extended to dogs and cats because this virus, or other pet pathogens, could mutate into a human-infectious form and the health of the nation is at risk. I see it coming. Do you?"

"Post-PAWS [proposed Pet Animal Welfare Statute, amendment to AWA potentially federalizing home animal breeding], civil disobedience will be difficult indeed! It wouldn't surprise me one bit if when any of these diseases jump the species barrier to hominids, government will use it as an excuse to enact mandatory microchipping for everyone, under the guise of "homeland security." 1984 is here. I have seriously begun looking into moving to Canada or Europe. This is not my country!

"For those of you that are going to stick it out, my advice is invest in microchip company stock. It's sure to be a growth industry."

[Ed.—Accurate? You decide, based on your own experience with the government!]

The Fox Farm Experiment—Selecting Genetically for Domestication

This is an interesting article on domestication of foxes in a long-term controlled environment. The implication and application to other species close to the wild (e.g., parrots) may merit consideration!

A research station in Novosibirsk, Siberia, is home to an extraordinary group of foxes - Border Collie-coloured foxes; foxes with blue eyes; foxes that whimper and compete for human attention; foxes that answer to their names. They are all the result of a remarkable 50 year-long experiment in domestication.

The ambitious project was the brainchild of Russian geneticist, Dmitry Belyaev. As a young man, he was intrigued by the fact that all domestic animals seem to show strikingly similar changes from the ancestral wild type. Be they goat or ferret, dog or cow, they all display

new coat colours and sizes, altered sexual cycles, modified skull shape, and many even have floppy ears or curly tails. Could it be, Belyaev wondered, that one special feature of the domestication process could account for all those changes?

Belyaev's great insight was to suspect that the key factor was not size or reproduction, but behaviour.

The rest of the story may be found at <http://abc.net.au/animals/program1/factsheet5.htm>

PBA Member Ads

Rockport Roost, Rockport, TX www.rockportroost.com

Deryl and Elke Davis, deryl44@sbcglobal.net, elke47@sbcglobal.net

Phone: 361-729-6745

- ® 3 pair of 2005 "pineapple" mutation green cheek conures, \$1095 a pair. To see pictures go to the following URL: <http://www.rockportroost.com/Pineapplepairs.html>.
- ® 1 pair of 2005 crimson bellied conures. They are starting to get their colors. These are still fairly rare in the states and are really beautiful birds. Asking \$1295 for the pair.

We do ship with Continental and Delta, weather permitting.

Feathered Companions Aviary, Austin, TX www.birdcompanions.com

Marcy Covault, birdcompanions@juno.com

Phone: 512-250-0442 or 512-419-6267

2005 Conures (pictures and prices on web site) at <http://www.birdcompanions.com/conures.htm>

- ® Pineapple green cheek males, females, pairs.
- ® White-eared (*I. griseipectus*), two males (would trade one for a female).
- ® Handfeeding crimson bellied, should wean in December.

Shipping via Continental and Delta, weather permitting

Hideaway Farms, North Augusta, SC <http://www.hideawayfarms.com/aviary/>

June DiCiocco, jdiciocco@mindspring.com

Phone: 803-593 9500

Handfed Conure babies:

- ® Cinnamon green cheeks
- ® Roseifrons
- ® Painted

Scott Stringer, Austin, TX, scottostringer@hotmail.com

2005 Conures:

- ® Pineapple green cheek: male and female.
- ® Crimson bellied: male and female.
- ® Turquoise yellowsided green cheeks and splits.

Please write for pricing and discounts for multiple bird orders.

PBA—Preserving Birds through Aviculture

The Pyrrhura Breeders Association is an AFA-affiliated specialty organization.

PBA Mission Statement

1. To bring together people interested in the keeping and breeding of Pyrrhura Conures.
2. To enhance those interests, through mutual education.
3. To provide a background in keeping of all the species and sub-species.
4. To encourage the domestic breeding of all species and sub-species.
5. To provide a networking studbook on the uncommon and rarer species.

In addition, according to PBA Bylaws, the organization's purpose is to

- ü create a cooperative spirit and feeling among the various bird owners and breeders and to enhance our common bond;
- ü educate the public, pet owners, and breeders in good avicultural practices;
- ü promote better caged bird care and husbandry;
- ü promote the conservation and preservation of Pyrrhura Conures through captive breeding of common, uncommon, rare, or endangered species and sub-species;
- ü assist each member in solving of any problems that may arise in the pursuit of aviculture; and
- ü keep the members informed of local, state, and national legislation which impacts aviculture.



PYRRHURA BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Kelli Eager, Secretary
604 Fairway View Dr.
Burleson, TX 76028

FIRST CLASS MAIL