

Dear Aviculturist,

The purpose of this survey is to gather data to determine if regulation under the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) will severely harm the bird industry as a whole and to determine the potential financial impact AWA regulations would have on individual bird facilities. This data will be important to support our requests for exemptions from regulation in order to prevent adverse consequences of AWA regulation.

All questions are optional, but the more complete each survey is, the more valuable the data will be. Any information received by PIJAC is confidential and only aggregate information will be used. PIJAC's Board of Directors or members are NOT allowed to see raw data in surveys. This is a long standing PIJAC policy of more than 30 years.

Questions 1-8 of the survey are intended to establish the value of the bird industry as a whole. Questions 9-32 are intended to gather data on the potential impacts of AWA regulation on individual facilities. There might be those who will terminate their businesses rather than face regulation. This needs to be documented. Among the things that need to be considered by the respondents are any negative impacts that regulation might have and whether those negative impacts will cause the loss or the discontinuance of business. The following are some key areas of concern:

1. The standard requirement concerning the necessity of a complete paper trail on every bird and the office space required to make that documentation available for inspection, will in some cases, be sufficient to cause some to cease their business due to the inability to invest the time or incur the expense of a professional secretary.
2. Another important consideration is whether someone will be constantly available throughout the year to allow entry to USDA inspectors so they can inspect the facility, the animals in that facility and gain entry into the office area to check paperwork, when their unannounced inspections are made during normal business hours (M-F 9AM-5PM). Those that do not maintain a constant staff person on the premises, with that capability, may need to hire someone.
3. Those that maintain species that are either shy or aggressive should consider losses due to egg breakage and or mate aggression and the economic impact of this.
4. Those that have cage wire that shows surface rust or those cages that do not meet the size or design standards that are adopted, will be required to replace such cages.
5. The USDA has historically required that all enclosure materials be "impervious to moisture". Thus, we need to document that wooden nest boxes, perches and other items are acceptable and that replacing such items with other materials that are not impervious to moisture is unnecessary and cost prohibitive.
6. The ability to transfer ownership or possession of unweaned birds is a vital and successful part of aviculture. Data is needed on the numbers of unweaned birds in the trade as well as data on the success rate of this activity. Prohibiting the shipping and transfer of unweaned birds is a target goal of certain anti-avicultural organizations.

Completed survey forms can be mailed to:

PIJAC Bird Breeder Survey
Suite 400
1220 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Or emailed to:

mmeyers@pijac.org
Subject: PIJAC Bird Breeder Survey

CONFIDENTIAL
PIJAC AVIAN
BREEDER INFORMATION SURVEY

NAME: _____ TELEPHONE: (____) _____
ADDRESS: _____ FAX: (____) _____

EMAIL: _____

1. TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRDS IN FACILITY: _____
2. TOTAL NUMBER OF SPECIES: _____
(OR, list totals for each species in your collection. Use a separate sheet if necessary)
3. DO YOU SELL ONLY RETAIL TO THE PUBLIC? (YOU NEVER WHOLESALE) YES / NO (circle one)
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRDS SOLD ANNUALLY: _____
5. GROSS ANNUAL SALES FROM BIRDS? \$ _____
6. TOTAL AMOUNT SPENT ON EMPLOYEES/FEED/SUPPLIES? \$ _____
7. I HAVE BEEN BREEDING BIRDS FOR _____ YEARS
8. THERE ARE _____ PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THIS BUSINESS.

QUESTIONS 9-14 ARE FOR INDOOR FACILITIES

9. THE SIZE OF MY BIRD BUILDING(S) IS (ARE) _____ X _____ X _____
10. BUILDING INTERIOR MATERIAL (i.e.: wood, drywall, plaster, metal, block, concrete, wire, etc.) _____

11. BUILDING EXTERIOR MATERIAL (i.e.: wood, metal, block, concrete, wire, etc) _____

12. DO YOU USE A VENTILATION SYSTEM (if yes, describe) _____
13. DO YOU USE A HEATING SYSTEM (if yes, describe) _____
14. DO YOU USE A LIGHTING SYSTEM (if yes, describe) _____

QUESTIONS 15 THROUGH 17 ARE FOR OUTDOOR FACILITIES

15. THE ROUGH SIZE OF MY BREEDING AREA IS _____ X _____ X _____
16. SHELTER MATERIAL IS (i.e.: wood, metal, block, concrete, wire, etc) : _____
17. FLOORS OF ENCLOSURES ARE (i.e.: wood, earth, wire concrete, etc.): _____

18. BREEDING CAGE SIZE FOR EACH BREEDING PAIR IS _____ X _____ X _____

(Use a separate sheet if necessary.)

19. THE CAGES ARE MADE OF (wood, metal, block, concrete, wire, etc) _____

20. COST TO PURCHASE OR CONSTRUCT A CAGE? \$ _____

21. NEST BOXES ARE MADE OF (wood, metal, block, concrete, plastic, wire, etc) _____

22. HOW MANY NEST BOXES ARE IN YOUR FACILITY? _____

23. COST TO PURCHASE OR CONSTRUCT A NEST BOX \$ _____

24. FEEDING SCHEDULE _____

25. WATERING SCHEDULE _____

26. CLEANING AND SANITIZING SCHEDULE _____

27. WHAT IS THE MINIMUM AGE OF THE BIRDS YOU SELL _____

28. DO YOU SELL OR TRANSFER OUT OF YOUR FACILITY ANY UNWEANED BIRDS?

YES/NO (circle one)

29. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNWEANED BIRDS SOLD OR TRANSFERRED _____

30. PERCENTAGE OF UNWEANED BIRDS THAT DIED AS A RESULT OF BEING SOLD OR
TRANSFERRED _____

31. IF YOU HAD TO REPLACE YOUR CAGES AND EQUIPMENT TO COMPLY WITH USDA STANDARDS
SUCH AS CAGE SIZE OR CAGE DESIGN, WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO STAY IN BUSINESS?:

YES/NO (circle one)

32. ESTIMATE HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST TO REPLACE ALL YOUR CAGES AND EQUIPMENT: _____

33. IF UNANNOUNCED USDA INSPECTIONS OCCURRED, WOULD YOU BE LIKELY TO LOSE EGGS,
CHICKS OR ADULT BIRDS AS A RESULT OF THE DISTURBANCE?: YES/NO (circle one)

34. ESTIMATE THE POTENTIAL FINANCIAL LOSSES UNANNOUNCED INSPECTIONS COULD CAUSE:

\$ _____

35. IF YOUR VETERINARIAN MUST INSPECT YOUR FACILITY AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR TO COMPLY
WITH ANIMAL WELFARE ACT REQUIREMENTS, WHAT WOULD BE THE ESTIMATED COST?

\$ _____

36. COMMENTS (use a separate sheet if necessary):

SIGNATURE (OPTIONAL) _____