



Frequently Asked Questions – Aviculture licences

Aviculture, or the keeping and breeding of birds as a hobby, is well established and popular in Australia. Nearly all species of Australian parrots and finches can be found in aviaries in Western Australia. Many introduced or exotic birds are also kept by aviculturists.

<p>Completed applications should be returned to: Department of Environment and Conservation Locked Bag 30 Bentley Delivery Centre WA 6983 Or faxed to (08) 9219 8242</p>	<p>Further information on the licensing requirements is available from DEC Wildlife Licensing Section Phone: (08) 9219 8835 Email: wildlifelicencing@dec.wa.gov.au</p>
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Q. In Western Australia what Licence do I require to keep birds as pets?

- A. The licence that is required, if at all, for keeping birds as pets will depend on the species and, in some cases, the numbers held. **Some** species are exempt from licensing.

If you wish to apply for or renew a licence/permit, please indicate on the application form the species and numbers of birds actually held. Include only birds currently held. Do not list intended acquisitions. The aviculture application forms are as listed below.

Exempt	Birds that are common both in the wild (native species) and in aviculture. They are easy to keep and breed.
Avicultural Licence	Relatively common and easy to keep birds. The licence fee is \$10 per annum.
Advanced Avicultural Licence	Birds that are the subject of illegal activities; are difficult to keep and breed and/or are uncommon or threatened in the wild. The licence fee is \$20 per annum.
Permit To Keep Declared Animals (Birds)	Birds (mainly exotic) declared under the <i>Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976</i> . These are known to, or have the potential to, be agricultural pests. These permits are either free or \$30 per annum, depending on the species held. Some birds will require both an (Advanced) Avicultural Licence and a Declared Bird Permit.

Q. Why do I require a permit to keep birds in WA?

- A. Section 12 of the *Wildlife Conservation Regulations 1970* makes it a statutory and legal requirement for any person who wishes to breed or keep avian fauna for hobby persons to hold the relevant licence to do so. Department of Environment and Conservation are responsible for the issue of such licences.

Q. Where can I find out which species I can import into WA?

A. The *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* determines the list of the animals that are 'declared' allowed / prohibited in Western Australia. These declarations categorise the following and list where each animal sits within their assigned category and what activity is possible / authorised under the categorisation:

- A1 Entry prohibited.
- A2 Subject to eradication in the wild.
- A3 Keeping prohibited.
- A4 Entry subject to permits and/or conditions.
- A5 Numbers to be reduced / controlled.
- A6 Keeping subject to permits and/or conditions.
- A7 A management program for each species outlines the area and conditions under which controls may be applied. Programs are for the whole of the State or as indicated for each species.

This list is available on the DEC website at the same point that this FAQ page is located. This list is also available on the Department of Agriculture and Food website at <http://www.agric.wa.gov.au/>.

Q. What is the requirement for importing/exporting birds?

A. An application should be made to Wildlife Licensing on the relevant forms for any import or export activity into Western Australia for birds being kept as pets. This application is available on the DEC website at the same point that this FAQ page is located. Import and Export permits require a minimum of three (3) working days to process and incur a \$20 fee. Family pets being imported into Western Australia, travelling with their family are exempt from import licence fees. There is no fee exemption for export permits.

NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TAKEN FOR CASH PAYMENTS SENT VIA MAIL.

Licence fees can be paid by:-

- Cheque enclosed – made payable to Department of Environment and Conservation
- Money order enclosed – made payable to Department of Environment and Conservation
- Payment made at DEC office
- Credit Card (complete 'Credit Card Payment' section on application forms - card holder to sign)

Q. How do I get a copy of an application form?

A. By obtaining them at the DEC website – [insert link with new aviculture application forms](#)
Or by contacting Wildlife Licensing and asking for a copy – via email wildlifelicensing@dec.wa.gov.au, or telephone (08) 9334 0441 or facsimile (08) 9334 0242
By attending Wildlife Licensing at Block 1, 17 Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington or your nearest DEC office

Q. The lady/man at the pet shop did not tell me I needed a permit to keep my bird

A. Ignorance of the law is no defence for breaching Acts or Regulations – however licence to hold birds as pets is only required once the bird(s) has been acquired – so now that you know that you need a licence, make immediate application to Department of Environment and Conservation to obtain the relevant aviculture licence.

Q. Are there any records that I need to keep?

- A.** Only aviculture dealers are required to provide returns. Your aviculture keeper licence must reflect all of the birds that are currently held by you (not intended acquisitions but animals currently in your care) and as such births and deaths must be notified to the Department of Environment and Conservation so that your licence can be updated to reflect the animals currently in your care.

Q. What if I want to acquire or dispose of birds from / to another person?

- A.** The first thing you should do is ensure that the person you will obtain the birds from is a licensed aviculture keeper - Ask to see a copy of their keeping permit. If they do not have a licence then it is suggested that you walk away from the transaction - as you will not be able to prove that the bird has been lawfully obtained.

It is best to record the licence number from any licensed keeper from whom you will be purchasing / obtaining the bird and provide that detail when you make application for your own keeper licence. If you are making the sale of a bird, then be willing to provide the purchaser / new owner with your own licence number – to demonstrate that you have held / obtained the bird lawfully.

Birds purchased from an authorised dealer (eg. pet shop) will be recorded on the dealer's return and the dealer will include your name and contact information on their return.

Q. I am moving to WA from interstate what permit if any are needed?

- A.** An import permit will need to be applied for prior to entry by the bird at a West Australian border – this includes birds being transported by air. An import application requires a minimum of three (3) working days to process and incurs a \$20 fee for any animals that are not family pets – family pets are exempt from import licence fees.

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Q. We are travelling around Australia can we bring our pet bird?

- A.** As above an import permit will be required to import your bird for a holiday stay – an export permit will also be required for the export of the bird at the end of your visit when you leave Western Australia. An export application requires a minimum of three (3) working days to process and incurs a \$20 fee. There is no fee exemption for export permits. Licence fees can be paid as above.

Q. I have seen birds advertised on the internet, can I bring them into WA?

- A.** Please refer to the Aviculture Keeper Licence Application form. Provided that the birds you have seen advertised on the internet are listed on this application form, you are able to apply to bring them into Western Australia. If the birds are not listed, then please refer to the *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* to ensure that the birds are not Declared Species and make contact with Wildlife Licensing Section at the Department of Environment and Conservation to confirm your licensing requirements – an import permit will be required for any bird being imported into Western Australia, along with making an application for a permit to keep and perhaps also an Application to Keep Declared Animals.

Q. Why can I not bring a Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo into WA?

- A.** Corellas, galahs and other cockatoos can be destructive because of their flocking nature and their habit of chewing for bill maintenance. The majority of corellas and galahs in the Perth area and regional towns of south-west Western Australia are introduced from the eastern states. Galahs are now common in many Perth suburbs, due in part to the escape and release of aviary birds. The birds in the metropolitan area appear to be almost exclusively from eastern Australian origin. These introduced birds, of various subspecies from around the country, could pose a threat to the western species through interbreeding and also may displace native birds by competing for food and nesting places. The presence or suspected presence of a prohibited animal should be immediately reported to the Department of Agriculture and Food.

Q. Why is there more than one agency involved in aviculture licensing?

Q. Why does each State and Territory allow different species to be imported / kept?

- A.** Biosecurity safeguards Western Australia's environment, agriculture, economy, and human health from the risks of introduced pests, diseases and weeds. As well as preventing new animal and plant pests, diseases and weeds from arriving, biosecurity legislation involves controlling those already present. New diseases and pests can not only impact on human health, but also damage agricultural or horticultural production, forestry and tourism and affect trade in international markets. The consequences of failing to protect Western Australia can affect jobs, health and lifestyles. Biosecurity concerns all of us. The community at large is encouraged to take responsibility for their actions and help prevent the introduction and spread of animal and plant pests, diseases and weeds. In Western Australia two (2) primary pieces of legislation authorize biosecurity measures and monitoring – these are the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950* administered by Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) and *Agriculture and Related Resources Protection Act 1976* administered by Department of Agriculture and Food. Although both pieces of legislation have aspects that apply to the keeping of avian fauna as a hobby – the application and issue of all licences in this regard has been delegated to DEC for management and compliance and as such any licence applicant is only required to liaise with DEC for obtaining a licence, or seeking information about the various aviculture licences.

The species that occur naturally within each State / Territory will have significant impact on the animals that can and can't be kept in each location, and also that can and can't be moved into or out of that location. To ensure that no new diseases are transferred across borders, import and export activities are limited accordingly.