

The Queensland Finch Society Inc.
Code of Conduct for QFS Functions
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Introduction.

The welfare of birds is of paramount importance at all functions organised by The Queensland Finch Society Inc.(QFS). This Code sets out the minimum requirements that are acceptable in ensuring that finches and softbills are properly presented and cared for at QFS functions. This Code also provides details of the responsibilities of both sellers and buyers at QFS functions. It applies to QFS breeder sales, QFS auctions, QFS general meetings, and all other functions organised by QFS where birds are displayed or offered for sale. The Code is consistent with the QFS Constitution and the Queensland Government's "Code of Practice - Aviculture".

Welfare of birds.

In presenting finches or softbills for sale, display or auction the following are minimum requirements:

1. Fresh water and seed must be available to birds at all times.
2. Cages must have only one open wire side. All other sides and the top and bottom of the display cage must be non-transparent, and must be part of the cage or a separate cover.
3. Cages must not be overcrowded with birds. Subject to cage size restrictions below, a useful rule of thumb is that at least one third of the available perch space is unoccupied by birds.
4. The smallest cage that is acceptable for the display or sale of finch-size birds is the QFS auction cage, with dimensions 20cm wide x 15cm deep x 15cm high, having a single perch. A maximum of two (2) birds may be displayed in this size cage.
5. The Qld standard finch show cage, with dimensions 30cm wide x 13cm deep x 25cm high, having two perches. A maximum of four (4) birds may be displayed in this size cage.
6. In cages larger than the Qld standard finch show cage, birds must not be overcrowded. For displaying more than four birds, the cage should be proportionally larger in floor area than the Qld finch show cage, be at least 25cm high, having at least two perches. For example, to display eight birds, the cage must have at least twice the floor area and twice the perch length of the Qld standard finch show cage and be at least 25cm high.
7. A maximum of ten (10) birds may be displayed in a single display cage of any size. This is to reduce stress on birds subject to being chased around the display cage, as other birds are being caught.
NOTE: The numbers of birds per cage mentioned in points 3, 4 and 5 above apply to small finches and softbills, up to the size of a Gouldian finch. The number of birds per cage shall be reduced in the case of larger birds, as determined by the Special Events Organiser.
8. Display cages must be clean, both inside and out.
9. All birds presented must be healthy, in the opinion of the person responsible for vetting the birds. Uncoloured Gouldians are not acceptable at a QFS sale or auction.
10. No hybrids may be offered for sale.
11. Incompatible birds must not be placed in the same display or carry cage.
12. Carry cages used by buyers at QFS events must also comply with points 1-11 above.

Responsibilities of sellers.

All sellers at QFS sales or auctions will be made aware of the existence and detail of this Code, and where possible, will be provided with a copy of the Code prior to the function. Sellers have primary responsibility for the welfare, **health and condition** of birds they display, and hence must conform with points 1-11 above. Sellers must correctly label/describe the birds they offer for sale. Sellers must comply with any legal requirements relating to the sale and movement of birds.

Responsibility of buyers.

All buyers at QFS sales or auctions will be made aware of the existence and detail of this Code and copies will be made available at the event. The responsibility for the welfare of birds transfers to the buyer when

he or she completes the sale transaction for the birds. Buyers can transfer purchased birds to a suitable transport box, which must also comply with points 1-11 above. Buyers must comply with any legal requirements relating to the sale and movement of birds.

Dealing with welfare concerns

All birds entered for QFS functions will be inspected by a responsible person nominated by the Special Event Organiser, or by a qualified avian veterinarian. Birds presented in a manner which does not comply with this Code will not be allowed into the event, unless the breach is rectified. If, during the course of any QFS function, the above requirements of this Code are not being met, the Special Event Organiser, or person acting as the QFS Special Event Organiser, shall immediately approach the owner, or person in charge of the birds, and request that they conform with the Code of Conduct requirements. If this cannot be achieved immediately, the birds must be withdrawn from the QFS function by the owner or person in charge of the birds. Failing this, the Special Event Organiser may have the birds impounded for the duration of the QFS function. *Note that the QFS inspection of birds by a veterinarian or other responsible person does not constitute a guarantee by QFS of the health of those birds. All responsibility for the birds remains with the seller.*

Additional requirements.

All persons who take part in QFS functions shall comply with the particular conditions of sale/participation for that function. Enquiries regarding this Code and any particular QFS function should be directed to the Special Event Organiser, whose decision shall be final.

The Special Event Organiser will take into account the weather conditions prevailing on the day, and if in his/her opinion, the conditions are detrimental to the welfare of birds, the function will be cancelled.