

Northwest Avian Flyers

Membership Agreement for Northwest Avian Flyers Participation

Guidelines for Membership

1) All birds participating in Fly Day need to be examined by an Avian veterinarian at least every 18 months, and our Veterinarian Health Form needs to be signed by the attending veterinarian stating that the following tests are within normal limits:

- Physical examination by a board certified avian veterinarian (if available)
- Complete blood count
- Blood chemistry panel
- Cultures (choana and cloaca)
- Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease test (for Old World species) or birds under one year of age
- Chlamydophilia test (for cockatiels only)
- Polyomavirus testing (lovebirds)

Note that budgerigars (parakeets) are not eligible for participation in Fly Day due to the risks of prevalent diseases in this species.

The best defense against communicable diseases is two-fold. First, our birds should have a healthy, well-developed immune system. For this reason, it is recommended that birds younger than one year of age not participate in Fly Day. Until their immune systems are fully developed, young birds are more susceptible to infectious agents. Secondly, if possible, we believe that you should have an ongoing relationship with an avian certified veterinarian. If you are new to birds, it is good to have a professional on your side to help you monitor and understand your bird's health. If your veterinarian has a question and recommends additional tests to help diagnose a problem, please follow through. If you suspect that your bird is sick, please do not bring him to the fly day.

Your first visit to a fly day should be attended without your bird so that you can see the building and so that we can have an opportunity to meet and answer any questions that you might have. We will try to set this up as an orientation period to ease the transition for you and your bird into a new flying space.

2) It is your responsibility to provide the Veterinarian Health Form (provided) to the club designee prior to your bird(s) first appearance at a Fly Day. This form is located in the "files" section of the Northwest Avian Flyers YahooGroups home page.

3) Whenever you add a new bird to your existing flock, you must follow the club's recommended quarantine requirements. Additionally, after acquiring a new bird, please do **not** participate in Fly Day during the required 30-day quarantine period.

4) Participation in Fly Day is a privilege and failure to adhere to any of these guidelines is grounds for immediate dismissal from Fly Day. Please treat fellow members and their birds with respect.

5) Be aware that there is an inherent risk of infectious disease, injury, escape or other damage to any bird from being in close contact with other birds. There are avian diseases that could be fatal and present at fly day even though veterinarian tests are normal on the bird. Please acknowledge this risk and understand that by participating in Fly Day activities you assume all risk of injury, infectious disease, escape or other damage to your bird. As a condition of participating in Fly Day activities, you release and will not attempt to hold Fly Day, its officers, directors, members, and all others affiliated with Fly Day liable or responsible for any injury, infectious disease, escape or other damage of any kind whatsoever to you or your bird.

6) Finally, birds are wild animals, their behavior is inherently unpredictable, and they are capable of inflicting injury to other animals and to humans. They can damage property and it is your responsibility to protect your property and that of the building or other participants from such damage.

7) I release Northwest Avian Flyers, it's officers, members and all others affiliated with Northwest Avian Flyers from any liability arising from injury or property damage of any kind arising from Northwest Avian Flyers events.

Date

Signature of Northwest Avian Flyer's Member (Please sign and print your name)

Northwest Avian Flyers
<http://www.nwavianflyers.com>
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthwestAvianFlyers/>

Vet Recommendations

We recommend the Bird and Exotic Clinic of Seattle on Aurora Avenue North in Seattle. Phone number is (206) 783-4538. The Northwest Avian Flyers recommendations were drawn up with input from Dr. Tracey Bennett DVM- Diplomate American Board of Veterinary Practitioners - Avian Specialty.

Dr. Bennett graduated from Washington State University in 1994. She was one of the first students from WSU to enroll in the exotic animal track. While at WSU she completed externships in exotic animal medicine in California and Oregon. Immediately after graduation she began exotic pet practice in Seattle with the late Robert Shelley DVM. She founded the Bird and Exotic Clinic of Seattle in 1997. Dr. Bennett credentialed for the avian boards in 1999 and became a board certified avian specialist in 2001.

Other Board Certified Avian Specialists in the Greater Seattle area

- Dr. Scott L Ford, Bird and Exotic Clinic of Seattle, (206) 783-4538
- Dr. Darrell Kraft, Kraft Mobile Vet Service, Snohomish (425) 482-6345
- Dr. Cathy Johnson-Delaney, Eastside Avian & Exotic Animal Medical Center, Kirkland (888) 821-6165
- Dr. James Onorati, Des Moines Veterinary Hospital, Des Moines (206) 878-4111

What to do in the unfortunate event that a bird in your care dies

If any bird in your possession dies, please have a complete necropsy and histopathologic analysis performed by an avian veterinarian to determine the cause of death. The carcass should immediately be ziplock bagged and refrigerated (not frozen) and the necropsy should be performed within 24 hours of death. Furthermore, the results of this necropsy should be delivered to the Northwest Flyers, and may be released to the club if it is suspected that the deceased bird posed, or any other birds in the flock still pose, a threat to the other birds participating in fly day. This guideline is intended to protect the health of other birds at fly day, and also to help control the spread of disease.