

JERSEY CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE WELFARE OF COMPANION AND EXOTIC SPECIES SOLD COMMERCIALY

THE CODE

The Code of recommendations for the welfare of all species specially those kept or sold through Pet Shops is intended to encourage those responsible for looking after these animals to adopt the highest standards of husbandry. It takes account of five basic needs, known as the "Five Freedoms".

The Five Freedoms are:

1. FREEDOM FROM HUNGER AND THIRST

- by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour;

2. FREEDOM FROM DISCOMFORT

- by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area;

3. FREEDOM FROM PAIN, INJURY OR DISEASE

- by prevention or by rapid diagnosis and treatment;

4. FREEDOM TO EXPRESS NORMAL BEHAVIOUR

- by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals' own kind;

5. FREEDOM FROM FEAR AND DISTRESS

- by ensuring conditions and treatment to avoid mental suffering.

HOUSING

1. Animals shall at all times, whether displayed indoors or outdoors, be kept in accommodation suitable with respect to construction, size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness. Reference should be made to other applicable Codes of Practice

2. Animals shall not be exposed to draughts.

3. Housing shall be constructed of non-porous materials or be appropriately treated.

4. Animals shall not be kept in housing in such a way that they can be interfered with by other animals or the public.

5. All livestock, for sale and in stock, must be readily accessible and easy to inspect.

6. Accommodation shall be cleaned regularly to maintain good hygiene standards, consistent with the rate of stock turnover. Sleeping area and bedding must be maintained clean and dry where appropriate for the species.

7. Where accommodation is on a tiered system, water, food or other droppings shall not be allowed to enter the lower housing.

8. All accessories provided in the accommodation shall be suitable for the species.

9. In the case of exotic animals, such as reptiles (example - snakes, iguanas, lizards), chelonians (example- tortoises and terrapins) and amphibians (example – frogs),

particular care should be taken to ensure that their individual, species specific environmental requirements are met at all times; suitable ventilation, relative humidity, temperature and lighting (including additional access to a suitable ultraviolet light source if appropriate for that species) must be provided. All chelonians should have access to fresh water for drinking and bathing.

MANAGEMENT

Exercise facilities

10. Suitable and sufficient facilities must be available. Environmental enrichment must be provided as appropriate to that species for mental and physical stimulation.

Stocking number and densities

11. The maximum number of animals to be stocked on the premises will be determined by the accommodation available. As a guide to good practice, please refer to the following tables:

Table 1	Cage Birds
Table 2	Juvenile Small Mammals
Table 3	Ornamental Fish
Table 4	Reptiles and Amphibians

Health, disease and acclimatisation

12. All stock must be in good health, as far as can be reasonably determined without veterinary inspection. Only healthy stock should be offered for sale.

13. Any sick or injured animal must receive appropriate care and treatment without delay. Euthanasia may only be carried out by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon.

14. Inexperienced staff must not treat sick animals unless under appropriately experienced supervision.

15. Veterinary advice should be sought whenever necessary.

16. Any animal with an obvious, significant abnormality which would materially affect its quality of life must not be offered for sale. When in doubt, veterinary advice should be sought.

17. All animals must be allowed a suitable acclimatisation period before sale.

18. A suitably equipped facility to isolate sick animals must be provided.

19. All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent the outbreak and spread of disease.

20. All necessary precautions must be taken to prevent the introduction or harbourage of rodents, insects and other pests. In this context, 'Rodent' and 'insect' excludes livestock for sale and for feeding.

21. No animal which is suffering from or could reasonably be suspected of having come into contact with any other animal suffering from any infectious or contagious disease, or which is infested with parasites shall be brought into or kept on the premises unless effectively isolated and treated.

22. Livestock used for feeding (such as crickets) must be provided with a suitable climate, food and water.

23. Puppies and Kittens must be kept separate from other litters.

Food and water

24. Animals must be supplied with adequate amounts of food and drink appropriate to their needs, and at suitable regular intervals.

25. All foods must be suitable for the species concerned.

26. Food and drink receptacles must be constructed and positioned to minimise faecal contamination.

27. A sufficient number of suitable receptacles must be provided and cleaned at regular intervals.

Food storage

28. All food, excluding live foods intended for feeding to livestock on the premises, must be stored in impervious closed containers.

29. The containers and equipment used for feeding must be kept in a clean condition.

Observation

30. There must always be a competent person available. Animals must be observed at suitable intervals for their health safety and welfare.

Special arrangements must also be made to attend to sick animals during the day and night.

Excreta and soiled bedding

31. All excreta and soiled bedding must be stored in impervious containers with close fitting lids.

32. Stored excreta and soiled bedding should be removed from the premises on a regular basis, at least weekly, to avoid attracting flies and vermin. The material must be disposed of appropriately.

33. All containers must be kept in clean condition.

RECORDS

The information kept should be managed in accordance with the Data Protection (Jersey) Law 2018:

34. A livestock purchase register must be maintained for all species.

35. A livestock sales register must be maintained for all species.

TRANSPORTATION

36. Animals imported to Jersey for sale must be vaccinated as appropriate for the species and a licence obtained where applicable

37. When receiving stock, the licensee must ensure that it is transported in a suitable manner to prevent unnecessary suffering or distress. There should be adequate ventilation and the interior of vehicles must be kept clean.

38. Any livestock received or consigned shall be transported according to current legislation.

39. Livestock must be transported or handed to purchasers in suitable containers.

SALE OF LIVESTOCK

40. All livestock sold must be in good health and free from obvious parasitic infection as can be reasonably determined without veterinary inspection.

41. No mammal shall be sold unweaned or at an age at which it should not have been weaned.

42. In the case of non-mammals they must be capable of feeding themselves.

43. No animal should be sold to any person under the age of sixteen years unless that person is accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

44. In all cases the licensee should be satisfied that the purchaser's intention towards the acquisition is consistent with the well-being of the animal concerned.

PET CARE ADVICE

45. Pet care leaflets relating to the species purchased must be made available to customers at the time of purchase.

46. Purchases of accessories must be accompanied by proper advice about their maintenance and use.

47. Appropriate reference books must always be available for use by staff.

48. No animal should be stocked or sold unless a permanent member of staff is familiar with the care and welfare of the species.

STAFF TRAINING

49. At least one member of staff working at the premises should hold a City and Guilds Pet Store Management Certificate, or other appropriate qualification, or must be in the course of training.

50. A written training policy and training record for all staff is required. There should always be supervision and induction training for new staff, particularly those not experienced in animal handling.

BOARDING OF ANIMALS

51. If animals are boarded, they must be kept in separate, appropriate accommodation suitable for the species and not accessible by the public. Codes of Practice for boarding dogs and cats are available.

EMERGENCIES/FIRE PREVENTION

52. Appropriate steps must be taken for the protection of all animals in case of fire or other emergencies.

53. A proper emergency evacuation plan and fire warning procedure must be drawn up in consultation with the Fire Safety Officer and posted on the premises.

54. Fire Safety equipment must be provided in accordance with advice given by the Fire Safety Officer

55. All electrical installations and appliances must be maintained in a safe condition.
56. Heating appliances must not be sited in a location or manner where they may present a risk of fire, or risk to animals.
57. Precautions must be taken to prevent any accumulation of materials which may present a risk of fire.
58. There must be adequate means of raising the alarm in the event of fire or other emergency.

LEGISLATION

59. The following legislation is of relevance:

- Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004
- Animal Health (Jersey) Law 2016
- Veterinary Surgeons (Jersey) Law 1999
- Community Provisions (Welfare of Animals during Transport) (Jersey) Regulations 2013

16-02 AWC (31/01/07) (legislation amended 19/10/17)

TABLE: 1. STOCKING DENSITIES - CAGE BIRDS

	Length of Bird		Floor area (sq. cm.)		Floor area (sq. ins.)		Cage height	
	cms	Inches	Single	Each Additional	Single	Each Additional	cms	Inches
Budgerigar			650	200	100	30	30	12
Canary			650	250	100	37	30	12
Cockatiel			1000	250	170	45	40	16
Finches	up to 12.5	5	650	100	100	15	30	12
	12.5 - 17.5	5 - 7	750	150	115	20	30	12
	over 17.5	7	1000	200	170	30	30	12
Parakeet	up to 25	10	1000	250	170	45	30	12
	25 - 35	10 - 14	1000	250	170	45	40	16
	over 35	14	1000	450	215	75	50	20
Parrot	up to 30	12	800	275	130	45	40	16
	30 - 35	12 - 14	1250	625	200	100	50	20
	over 35	14	1500	750	260	115	60	24

NB.

All Birds should be housed in accommodation which is of sufficient size to permit the bird to stretch its wings freely.

For perching species, a perch or perches of appropriate size must be provided at such a height that the bird can stretch to its full height without its head touching the top or its tail touching the bottom of the cage

A good quality padded net should be used when catching birds in an aviary.

TABLE: 2. STOCKING DENSITIES - JUVENILE SMALL MAMMALS

Dimensions sq.cms. (sq. ins. In italics)

Number of Animals		1 -4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Min Cage Height	Min Cage Depth
Mice, hamsters, gerbils	sq. cms. <i>sq. ins.</i>	450 <i>72</i>	525 <i>84</i>	600 <i>96</i>	675 <i>108</i>	750 <i>120</i>	825 <i>132</i>	900 <i>144</i>	25 <i>10</i>	25 <i>10</i>
Rats	sq. cms. <i>sq. ins.</i>	675 <i>108</i>	785 <i>126</i>	900 <i>144</i>	1010 <i>162</i>	1125 <i>180</i>	1235 <i>198</i>	1350 <i>216</i>	30 <i>12</i>	30 <i>12</i>
Guinea Pigs	sq. cms. <i>sq. ins.</i>	1350 <i>216</i>	1570 <i>252</i>	1800 <i>288</i>	2020 <i>324</i>	2250 <i>360</i>	2470 <i>396</i>	2700 <i>432</i>	30 <i>12</i>	30 <i>12</i>
Rabbits up to 2 kg, Ferrets, Chinchillas Chipmunks	sq. cms. <i>sq. ins.</i>	2250 <i>360</i>	2625 <i>420</i>	3000 <i>480</i>	3375 <i>540</i>	3750 <i>600</i>	4125 <i>660</i>	4500 <i>720</i>	40 <i>16</i>	30 <i>12</i>

NB. Raised shelving should be provided but not taken into consideration when assessing total floor area.

TABLE: 3. STOCKING DENSITIES - ORNAMENTAL FISH

It is virtually impossible to determine the quantity of fish to be kept in a tank purely on a weight/volume or numbers of fish/volume.

The variation in system design, husbandry techniques and types of fish involved would render any such method too simple to be useful or too complicated to be practical.

The maintenance of water quality standards is essential and is a simple but effective way to determine stocking densities. Water quality testing should be carried out at least once a week in centralised systems and 10% of individual tanks should likewise be tested. Unsatisfactory test results must be recorded in a register together with the corrective action taken. Further tests must be carried out when visual inspection of the tanks indicates the need.

WATER QUALITY CRITERIA (1mg/litre - 1ppm)

Cold water fish	Dissolved Oxygen*	-min	6mg/litre
	Free Ammonia*	-max	0.02mg/litre
	Nitrite	-max	0.2mg/litre
	Nitrate	-max	50mg/litre above ambient tapwater
Tropical Fish	Dissolved Oxygen*	-min	6mg/litre
	Free Ammonia*	-max	0.02mg/litre
	Nitrite	-max	0.2mg/litre
	Nitrate	-max	50mg/litre above ambient tapwater
Tropical Marine Species	Dissolved Oxygen*	-min	5.5mg/litre
	Free Ammonia*	-max	0.01mg/litre
	Nitrite	-max	0.125mg/litre
	Nitrate	-max	40mg/litre, this is an absolute figure; it does not relate to ambient tapwater
	pH (tropical marine only)	-min	8.1

*These parameters should be checked first. Only if a problem exists with these tests is it necessary to check nitrite and nitrate levels.

NB: Tanks should be checked for dead fish daily and these should be removed immediately.

Information displayed on the tank must include size when full grown, environmental requirements, suitable tank size, approximate life span, community or species fish, suitable cohabitants and special needs.

TABLE: 4. STOCKING DENSITIES - REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS

LIZARDS, TERRESTRIAL AND SEMI-TERRESTRIAL NEWTS, SALAMANDERS AND OTHER TAILED AMPHIBIANS

Display Accommodation		
	Minimum Length	45cm (18in)
	Minimum Depth	25cm (10in)
	Minimum Height	25cm (10in)
Length		Number
	Up to 5cm (2in)	1 - 25
	Over 5cm (2in) up to 10cm (4in)	1 - 15
	Over 10cm (4in) up to 15cm (6in)	1 - 8
	Over 15cm (6in)	1 - 4

TERRAPINS, BOX TURTLES, TERRESTRIAL AND SEMI-TERRESTRIAL FROGS, TOADS, TREE FROGS AND OTHER TAILLESS AMPHIBIANS

Display Accommodation		
	Minimum Length	45cm (18in)
	Minimum Depth	25cm (10in)
	Minimum Height	25cm (10in)
Length		Number
	Up to 3cm (1.2in)	1 - 20
	Over 3cm (1.2in) up to 5cm (2in)	1 - 10
	Over 5cm (2in) up to 10cm (4in)	1 - 4

SNAKES

Display Accommodation		
Length	Minimum Width	Minimum Height
2/3 length of snake	15cm (6in)	10cm (4in) or 4 x thickness of snake (Arboreal species - 1/3 length of snake)

AQUATIC AMPHIBIANS

As Ornamental Fish - see Table 3

NOTES - ALL CATEGORIES

Nursery/Isolation Units: (labelled as such) for hatchling/newborn specimens or single specimens of small, inactive species - minimum size 22 x 10 x 10 cm high (9x4x4in).

Stock/Breeding Accommodation: (off display) As Display Accommodation, including Nursery/Isolation/Pairing Units (unlabelled) for hatchling/newborn specimens or 1 - 2 specimens of small, inactive species, of minimum size 22 x 10 x 10 cm (9x4x4in).

Snakes - Stock/Breeding Accommodation: as above, but minimum height for arboreal species - 1/3 length of snake.

Stocking densities must depend not just on the floor area, but also the furnishings within the vivarium. For climbing species the sides and roof should also be considered as part of the effective floor area. Behavioural trends of individual species should also be considered.