

The HISTORY of the AMERICAN FEDERATION of AVICULTURE



Established in 1974

The **American Federation of Aviculture (AFA)** is a nonprofit national organization founded in **March 1974** to represent all aspects of aviculture and to educate the public about keeping and breeding birds in captivity.

The Catalyst: A Crisis in the Early 1970s

During an outbreak of Exotic Newcastle Disease in California, thousands of healthy exotic birds in private collections were euthanized if even one bird was suspected of exposure.

Following the outbreak, proposed California legislation sought to severely restrict or ban private ownership of exotic birds.

This crisis united Southern California bird owners and clubs — and from that unity, AFA was formed.

AFA's Core Philosophy

AFA defines anyone keeping exotic birds in captivity as an **"aviculturist."** With that designation comes responsibility:

- Understanding species-specific needs
- Awareness of conservation status
- Staying current with research
- Knowledge of state and federal regulations

Continuing the Mission

- Protect responsible aviculture
- Promote education
- Support conservation awareness
- Represent the interests of bird owners nationwide

Why AFA Was Created

- Serve as a national umbrella organization for aviculture
- Protect responsible private bird ownership
- Represent breeders, owners, veterinarians, and industry professionals
- Promote education and responsible bird care

Who AFA Represents

- Bird breeders
- Pet bird owners
- Avian veterinarians
- Pet & bird store owners
- Bird product manufacturers
- Individuals dedicated to the future of aviculture

Visit: www.afabirds.org

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