



February 6, 2023

To: Ron Coughlin, Chief Executive Officer, Petco
Cc: *Soumik Chatterjee (Chief Strategy Officer)*
Francesca Mahoney (Head of Sustainability)
Jonathan Williamson (VP Animal Care, Education & Merchandising)

Sent via email: ron.coughlin@petco.com, soumik.chatterjee@petco.com,
francesca.mahoney@petco.com jonathan.williamson@petco.com.

Re: Live Bird Sales

Dear Mr. Coughlin,

The undersigned organizations acknowledge the responsible decision your corporation made several years ago to discontinue the sale of larger species of birds such as cockatoos, macaws, and African grey and Amazon parrots. We are now writing to ask you to take another step by committing to phase out all bird sales by 2025.

Birds commonly kept on display or traded as pets are often genetically, physically, and behaviorally indistinguishable from their wild counterparts—they are the native species of other countries. While some of the birds that you continue to sell in your stores—including budgerigars, cockatiels, lovebirds, canaries, and finches—have been bred for several generations in captivity and are commonly hybridized or selectively bred to express color mutations and other physical traits that distinguish them from their wild counterparts, behaviorally they remain unchanged. However, cages and housing arrangements for captive birds are typically designed for the convenience of the keeper, not for the needs of the animal. Indeed, the restrictions imposed by the captive environment may significantly reduce the ability of the birds to express natural behaviors including socialization, foraging, and flight—which are essential to bird welfare.

While you may be able to implement some level of control over the captive environment that birds in your store experience, it is impossible to ensure a high level of care and commitment for the life of the birds that leave your stores. The reality for many birds is that once the initial novelty wears off, they will spend the bulk of their days confined to cages that are incapable of accommodating flight and other natural behaviors. Though many bird rescues adopt captive birds into private homes out of necessity, they typically engage in a level of adopter education, support, screening, and post adoption follow up that is impossible to achieve as a retailer.

At a time when many companies are focusing on sustainability and social responsibility, we hope that your company will recognize the sale of captive birds is incongruent with those goals and will commit to ending all bird sales.

Sincerely,

Monica Engebretson
Vice President
Avian Welfare Coalition

Kristin Leppert
Wildlife Director – the Americas
Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

Liz Cabrera Holtz
Wildlife Campaign Manager
World Animal Protection

Nancy Blaney
Director Government Affairs
Animal Welfare Institute

Sue Leary
President
American Anti-vivisection Society

Angela Grimes
Executive Director
Born Free USA

Allie Taylor
President
Voters for Animal Rights

Jill Capps
Executive Director
STAR St Louis Avian Rescue

Steve Gruber
Director of Communications
Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals

Stan McDonald
Foreman
Serenity Park Parrot Sanctuary

Steven Lindner
Board of Directors
Lockwood Animal Rescue Center

Karen Windsor
Executive Director
Foster Parrots Ltd

Janet Trumbule
Executive Director
Oasis Sanctuary Foundation

Sarah Lemarié
Acting CEO
Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue

Kaytlyn Clous
The Bird House Exotic Avian Rescue & Rehabilitation

Christi Richter
Executive Director
Icarus Foundation/Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary

Beatrice M. Friedlander, JD
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Attorneys for Animals, Inc.

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Exotic Avian Sanctuary of Tennessee Inc

Caryn Cullen
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For The Love of Birds

Daphna Nachminovitch
Senior V.P. Cruelty Investigations Department
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Joanne Freel
President
For The Love Of Birds NJ Rescue

Tara M. Smith
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Exotic Bird Rescue of Oregon

Dr. Lorin Lindner
CEO
Association for Parrot C.A.R.E.

Jill L. Lewis
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Northeast Avian Rescue, Inc.

LoraKim Joyner
Co-Director
One Earth Conservation

Susan Brandt
Founder
Rational Animal

Galiena Cimperman
Executive Director
Midwest Avian Adoption & Rescue Services