

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Guidelines for Education Facility Housing of Captive Avifauna 2012

EDUCATION ANIMAL ENCLOSURE GUIDELINES

Facilities shall be designed to ensure sufficient ventilation and access to natural sunlight while taking into consideration escape and accident possibilities, natural history of the bird, and issues of privacy/behavioral stimulation. Birds that naturally live in an aquatic environment shall be supplied with sufficient access to safe water so as to meet their aquatic behavioral needs. The information below is intended as a guideline and is designed to accommodate no more than 2 birds in any one enclosure.

Construction:

- Wire (chain-link, hardware cloth) may be used for walls and ceilings provided that the enclosure is lined with screening or a very fine-meshed netting, such as shade-cloth. External wire on outdoor caging for songbirds and hummingbirds should be ½" x ½" galvanized hardware cloth.
- Cover from the elements and protection from potential predators must be provided. Solid or hardware cloth barriers are recommended for use above or to the side of any perches or locations where an education animal may come into contact with a potential predator.
- High stress raptors should be provided interior spaces that eliminate or minimize visual and auditory stress.
- Non-flighted birds should be provided visual barriers at eye/ground level to minimize visual stress from wildlife or pets.
- Secure, safe floors, or barriers dug at least 2 ft below the ground should be provided to minimize the potential for burrowing animals to enter the enclosures and/or create openings that might provide for escape.
- Feeding doors are recommended to prevent escape during feeding.
- Double doors, or effective door barriers, are recommended for the prevention of escape.

Furnishings

- At least two perches or platforms should be placed in each cage, preferably at different heights and different angles. More than one surface substrate should be offered on the perches in each cage. Perches can be wood doweling or plastic piping (or the equivalent) covered by ¼-inch-pile AstroTurf™, hemp, cocomat, or indoor/outdoor carpeting. Natural wood perches should be covered or replaced when sharp edges or smooth surfaces develop.
- Facilities for Burrowing Owls and other cavity nesting species should provide secure burrows or nest boxes.
- Covered ramps should be provided for non-flighted birds to reach shelves or perches that are up off the ground.
- Fresh water and bathing bowls should be provided.
- Perches should not be placed over water or food bowls.
- Corvids and vultures should be provided with enrichment, such as a view and/or appropriately safe "toys."

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	Minimum Cage Size (WxLxH)
Hummingbirds	3'x4'x4'
Passerines < 5" long	3'x4'x4'
Passerines/Columbids > 5" long	4'x8'x6'
Crows	6'x8'x8'
Ravens	8'x12'x8'
owls and falcons with wingspans 24" or less	4'x8'x8'
<u>smaller raptors with wingspans 24-30"</u> including Aplomado Falcon, Merlin, Mississippi Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk	6'x8'x8'
<u>medium-sized raptors with wingspans 30-50"</u> including Cooper's Hawk, Spotted Owl Peregrine Falcon, Prairie Falcon, Red-shouldered Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Barn Owl	8'x10'x10'
<u>large raptors with wingspans > 50"</u> including Harris Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk Ferruginous Hawk, Great Horned Owl Turkey Vulture, Osprey	10'x12'x10'
eagles	20'x40'x12'

REFERENCES

Arizona Administrative Code, Title 12, Chapter 4, Section 428: Captivity Standards. Online [Available at http://www.azgfd.gov/eservices/special_licenses/pdfs/rules/R12-4-428.pdf]

Buhl, G and L. Borgia. 2004. Wildlife in Education. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, St. Cloud, MN.

Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 2, Chapter 69, Subchapter J, Rule.305: Facility Standards. Online [Available at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/>]

Miller, Erica A. (ed). 2000. Minimum Standards for Wildlife Rehabilitation, 3rd edition. National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, St. Cloud, MN.