



International Association of  
Avian Trainers and Educators

## **CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS**

*Prepared and published by*  
The International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators  
[www.IAATE.org](http://www.IAATE.org)

August 2009



## AN IAATE MEMBER SHALL:

- Strive to achieve high standards of training, animal care and educational programming through knowledge and training.
- Follow a hierarchy of behavioral procedures in training with a goal of using the least intrusive, most positive methods to influence behavior before considering the use of aversives.
- Make the physical and mental well being of each animal the primary consideration in management, training and presentation.
- Provide professional and humane care for the animals in their care, respecting the wild nature and maintaining the dignity of each animal in life and in death.
- Abide by local, state, provincial, and federal laws concerning avian training and associated activities.
- Legally acquire animals and include proper documentation.
- Only transfer animals to legal and reputable facilities
- Establish safe work habits and conditions, abiding by current health and safety practices at all times.
- Encourage community support and involvement through public education. The common goal is to promote a responsible concern for living beings and the welfare of the environment.
- Work on the basis of sound ecological principles, incorporating appropriate conservation ethics and an attitude of stewardship.
- Acknowledge limitations and enlist the assistance of a veterinarian or other trained professionals when appropriate.
- Respect other trainers and persons in related fields, sharing skills and knowledge in the spirit of cooperation for the welfare of the animals.
- Respect the intellectual property and copyrights of other individuals and entities.
- Conduct all business and activities in a professional manner with honesty, integrity, compassion, and commitment; realizing that an individual's conduct reflects on the entire field of avian training and environmental education.

*Copyright IAATE 2009*

*(Inspired by and adapted with permission of the National Wildlife Rehabilitator's Association)*