

Guideline and requirements for registration of pet bird breeder farm

Breeding of pet birds full time or part time is a good income generating business. This type of business requires moderate funding, basic equipment & knowledge of bird rearing. Other requirement is knowledge on bird selection, feeding management and maintenance. Although they have short lifespan, most of the small birds breed several times per year making the business more profitable.

Types of common pet birds that can be reared for breeding purposes are: Canaries, Parrots, Budgerigar, Finches, Parakeets, Cockatiels, Cockatoo, Macaw & Love birds.

To establishment of a pet bird breeder farm in Sri Lanka must breeder/applicant register at the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Diseases Act No. 59 of 1992. The DAPH will assess hygienic and bio security practices for such registration. Additionally, the applicant needs to get a clearance certificate from the national environmental authority.

Registration is valid only for one (01) calendar year and annual renewal of registration thereafter will be based on compliance to hygienic and health standards stipulated by the department.

- Registration of requirements

1.Required documents:

Following documents should be submitted to Director/VRA (DAPH).

1. Duly filled application form with a requesting letter.
2. Copy of the business registration certificate.
3. Copy of the letter of environmental authority approval.
4. Copy of the land deed or any other land permit to confirm the ownership of the land.

A site inspection will be arranged based on the information provided by above documents.

2. Location of the farm:

The farm should be located in an elevated area to prevent flooding and also it should be isolated from houses/urban areas.

If the surrounding area of the proposed land is free from flowering plants, it will be a more suitable location for the farm to be constructed in order to prevent it from the possible airborne diseases.

However, by covering the cages with particular nets may prevent the predators and the other wild birds intruding the cages.

Separate buildings/compartments for quarantine and isolation should be built away from the cages, in order to fulfil the isolation and to prevent disease spreading.

It needs a surrounding fence to prevent the entrance of predators/rodents in to the farm.

3. Biosecurity:

- Availability of footbath at the entrance (separate footbath for each compartment)
- Separate clean equipment for every section – A breeder needs to stock necessary accessories for the wellbeing of the birds.
- Adequate water supply to clean the cages.
- Proper waste disposal method
- Minimum distance between the farm and the garbage disposal area- 100 feet
- Proper ventilation – If the farm is enclosed blowers or exhausts must be present.
- Adequate sunlight – Some birds need at least 12hrs natural sunlight to stimulate breeding.
- Separate place to treat the sick birds

4. Electricity and water

Make sure to have an emergency plan for a power failure and adequate water supply for drinking and cleaning, throughout the day.

5. Availability of brooder & hatchery

6. Availability of Storage Facilities

Proper storage facility-Separate places to store feed, drugs, vaccine etc.

- Maintenance of optimum temperature and humidity in the storage.
- Properly maintained refrigerators to store drugs/vaccine.

7. Feeding of birds

- Proper diet encourages fast growth, good health & good lifespan. Therefore, it should be a nutritionally balanced diet that consists of seeds, vegetables, pellets & fruits.
- Feeding trays must be clean and accessible at all times.

Preparing cages & nest boxes with bedding for the eggs & chicks.

8. Cage spaces

- Size of breeding cages – 6'x3'x3', nest boxes – 1'x1'x1'

(These sizes may change according to the species)

-Cages should have enough space for the birds to fly around and perch. Farm should have concrete flooring. – avoid taking sand and soil as a bedding.

9. Labour

Enough & separate labour forces to prevent contagious diseases.

10. Record keeping – vaccination & deworming records, biannual health reports, sample

collection records, No: of cages, birds, identification etc.

If the site inspection is satisfactory with the completed information in the document form establishment will be registered.