

## GUIDE TO PARROT REGISTRATION

1 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) is an international body responsible for the regulation of international trade in wild animals and plants, to ensure that their survival is not threatened.

2 Nearly 6000 animal species and 30,000 plant species are protected by CITES against over-exploitation, and they are listed in three **Appendices**. *Appendix III* includes the least endangered. *Appendix II* already includes the majority of parrot species, and as such they are protected, and documentation is required, although rarely policed. *Appendix I* contains the severely endangered species, and as far as parrots are concerned, since 4<sup>th</sup> February 2017 these now include the **African grey parrot** (*Psittacus erithacus*) and its sub-species the **Timneh grey** (*P. e. timneh*).

3 Nomenclature is complicated in the European Union (EU) (isn't it always?!) by replacing Appendices I-III with **Annexes A, B, C and D**. So for routine use, Appendix I and Annex A are the same thing. In the UK, CITES applications are dealt with by-

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Email: [wildlife.licensing@apha.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wildlife.licensing@apha.gsi.gov.uk)

With regard to African grey Parrots, an APHA statement says – “Any Appendix I-listed parrot will require a CITES licence in order to be used commercially within the EU, or imported/(re)exported out of the EU. **No** CITES licence will be required to keep an African Grey Parrot as a **pet** and they will **not** be required to be registered. For CITES purposes, commercial use is defined as: The purchase, offer to purchase, acquisition for commercial purposes, display to the public for commercial purposes, use for commercial gain and sale, keeping for sale, offering for sale or transporting for sale of specimens of the species listed in Annex A”

Such a licence is commonly known as an **Article 10 certificate** – something that has been required for birds of prey for many years.

4 Thus owners of these birds as pets need *do nothing* at this stage, except get their paperwork in order. Carers should be thinking about application in the longer term, to allow for the possible sale of the bird(s) in the future, should the need arise. Try to accumulate as much as possible, such as receipts of purchase, insurance policies, microchip or sexing certificates, veterinary invoices, to support your ownership of the bird and the length of time it has been in your possession. There may come a time when your circumstances change, and you (or your family, after you die!) may need to re-home the bird, and it will then not be possible to *sell* it or use it for breeding without certification. The parrot may, however, be *given away* if no money changes hands.

5 If, however, you wish to buy or sell an African grey parrot (AGP), or move the bird out of the UK, or breed from a pair and sell their offspring, then you will need to apply to the above office for an Article 10 certificate. Application and communication by *email* is preferable to standard post or telephone calls. It is quicker, and there will be an audit trail on both sides. Paper documents may be ‘lost in the post’, while telephone conversations may be ‘mis-remembered’. The applicant will receive an email confirmation of receipt, so you will know

that it has got there and when. An email message will be sent once the application has been processed and the certificate has been sent out, so you will know to expect it within a couple of days.

6 Registration for this certificate requires significant supporting documentation, as well as some form of *permanent identification of the bird*. A list of suitable supporting documentation includes the following. As many as possible should be provided, to expedite the process, but they are all possible *alternatives*, not each *essential*:

*If acquired prior to 04/02/2017*

- A dated receipt for your purchase of the bird, and/or
- A signed statement from your vet or copy of your veterinary records, confirming the date that the bird was registered with the practice by you, and/or
- A DNA sexing or microchipping certificate that is dated prior to 04/02/17, and /or
- Copies of pet insurance paperwork in your name that is dated prior to 04/02/17, and/or
- If purchased privately or through sites such Preloved or Bird Trader, then dated copies of the email trail, or screen shot of phone messages detailing the purchase, and/or
- If acquired through a rescue organisation then a copy of the adoption paperwork, and/or
- A signed statement from the previous owner, which confirms the date of acquisition and provides full details on the origin of the bird, and/or
- A copy of the CITES permit used to import the bird to the EU or a copy of a previously issued EC certificate.

*If born and bred in captivity*

Captive bred specimens should be accompanied by all known details of captive breeding, including

- The name and address of the breeder AND
- Full details of each parent (origin, name and address of the breeder, hatch date, ring/microchip number, date and details of acquisition, and Article 10 number or import permit number)

7 Permanent identification of the parrot is preferably by **closed leg ring**. Obviously not all AGPs have such rings, which can be applied only within a few days of hatching. However, *future captive-bred AGPs* will be expected by APHA to have been close-rung in order to be accepted for registration. *In certain circumstances*, split ring identification will be accepted, provided it is adequately supported by appropriate paperwork. However, a legitimate alternative is microchip identification. Microchips have been available for insertion into animals for several decades, but the advent of the *mini-chip* has made this process even simpler for use in birds. A unique 15-digit code is contained on a tiny silicon chip, which is encased in a small capsule of biologically inert glass. The capsule is implanted using a trigger device with a hollow needle. This is *not* a remote tracking device: the chip remains totally inert inside the animal, with no power supply, and is simply read using a battery-powered hand-held scanner passed over the animal at a distance of some 2"-4".

8 I have emphasised important points in *italics* or in **red**. Make sure that you *communicate* with APHA! Let them know for example that the letter from your vet will not be available for another two weeks because your vet is on holiday. In this way they will continue to keep

your application file open. If, however, they hear nothing from you within 15 working days, then your file will be closed, certification will be refused, and you will have wasted your processing fee (currently £31 per bird). Their busiest time is the spring and summer seasons, so do not start telephoning to see how they are getting on after just three days! They indicate that they have processed **98%** of all applications within **15 working days** (i.e. three weeks), so allow that time scale.

**9** An electronic application form FED1012 is available on-line, so you do *not* necessarily have to physically sign a piece of paper, then scan it or photograph it and convert it to a digital format, and then send it in. Search 'apha.gov.uk' – the [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website is not the easiest to navigate, while searching apha will take you straight there. Guidance notes are also supplied on the site. For those not up to speed with computer technology, then enlist the help of younger friends or family, or use the facilities at your local library.

**10** Remember: APHA staff resolve to process applications as speedily and efficiently as possible, given the correct information. However, the whole process is an official, legal requirement, and as such cannot be circumvented nor abused. Since AGPs were already Annex B listed, the transition to Annex A is not a fantastic leap compared to some other animal or plant species, so no leeway is expected.

**11** The above information of course also applies to all other Annex A species, such as Moluccan and Goffin's cockatoos, Scarlet macaws, most Amazon parrots, and many others. A full list is available on [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org)

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