



## Press Release 6/10/2011

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

***MICKABOO and MICKACOO COMPANION BIRD RESCUES support the recommendation by the San Francisco Commission of Animal Control and Welfare that San Francisco require the humane acquisition of pets.***

**(6/10/11)** Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue and its sister rescue, MickaCoo, today announced their support of the recommendation from San Francisco's Commission of Animal Control and Welfare to the Board of Supervisors that the city pass an ordinance requiring the humane acquisition of pets.

The ordinance recommended by AWC would state that, in San Francisco, people can acquire pets of all species through the following methods: 1) Pet store adoption events; 2) Pet store permanent adoption centers/partnerships; 3) Direct sale from small breeders; 4) Adoption from shelters such as Animal Care and Control and the SF/SPCA; 5) Adoption from animal rescue organizations. Methods that fall outside of those listed above, such as non-adoption sales through pet stores, would not be permitted. Under this ordinance, pets would include dogs, cats, birds, small animals (including but not limited to hamsters, gerbils, rats, mice, guinea pigs, and chinchillas), reptiles, amphibians, and aquarium fish. Live animals purchased as food for pets would be excluded.

The sale of exotic birds as household pets has skyrocketed in the last ten years. Most stores that sell birds currently get them from mass breeders. The sheer number of these birds coming from mass breeders has contributed to a serious pet bird overpopulation crisis which is overwhelming rescue organizations like Mickaboo and MickaCoo. In addition, many of these birds are sold very young, frequently before being weaned, and many of them are overbred, causing injury to the parents, or bred in a way that leaves them predisposed to genetic defects.

While pet stores are currently required by law to provide informational "care" sheets with each bird they sell, the law supporting this behavior is effectively unenforceable. Additionally, the knowledge and preparation potential bird owners need to insure a successful outcome cannot be communicated in a simple handout. If pet stores were to partner with adoption centers and rescues to humanely place rescued birds, they could leverage the expert care knowledge of these organizations to educate their customers while reducing the number of unwanted birds being bred.

Mickaboo and MickaCoo (for doves and pigeons) Companion Bird Rescues serve the Bay Area and beyond, stretching from south of San Jose, north to Santa Rosa and east to the foothills (including the Sacramento area). The combined organizations currently have more than 400 birds in foster care and have taken in more than 300 birds in 2011.