



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 City and County of San Francisco's Commission of Animal Control and Welfare is an advisory panel that provides expert input and policy recommendations about animal issues in San Francisco to the City's Board of Supervisors. The ordinance recommended here would state that acquisition of pets in San Francisco should be based primarily on the adoption of the many rescued or surrendered animals who, through no fault of their own, need homes and caretakers. This recommendation by the Commission is based on the serious companion animal overpopulation crisis in San Francisco and across the United States.

Mickaboo asserts that the passage of such an ordinance requiring the humane acquisition of pets in San Francisco is the right and responsible thing to do, and it is an appropriate action for any city to take in response to this pet overpopulation crisis.

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 birds produced by these breeders has contributed to the ever-increasing and already astonishingly high numbers of pet birds which end up at rescue organizations like Mickaboo and MickaCoo, many of them sick, injured, malnourished, or otherwise in need of veterinary care. In addition, many of these birds coming from breeders are sold at a precariously young age, frequently before being weaned, and many are overbred, causing injury to the parents, or bred in a way that leaves them predisposed to genetic defects.

MickaCoo (for doves and pigeons) and Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescues are based in the Bay Area and serve a large area of north-central California stretching south to Santa Cruz, north to Santa Rosa and east to the greater Sacramento area. The combined organizations have more than 600 birds currently in foster care and have taken in more than 300 birds in 2011. More information is available about these rescues at www.mickaboo.org.