

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**MICKABOO and MICKACOO COMPANION BIRD RESCUES support the proposed San Francisco ordinance prohibiting the selling of small animals in city pet stores.**

**(San Francisco, 7/01/10)** Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue and its sister rescue, MickaCoo, today announced their support of the proposed ban on selling small animals in San Francisco pet stores.

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). More than 400 birds are surrendered to Mickaboo and MickaCoo yearly.

On July 8, 2010, at 5:30pm, in Room 408 of San Francisco City Hall, a possible action to prohibit the selling of dogs, cats and other small animals, including birds, will be discussed by the SF Animal Welfare Commission. Several Mickaboo representatives will be attending to express the organization's position.

The sale of exotic birds as household pets has skyrocketed in the last ten years. Although stores that sell birds are mandated 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.

As a result, bird rescues are overwhelmed with birds who lose their homes due to insufficient time, funds, space and/or attention on the part of the purchasers.

Pet stores' stocking requirements encourage breeders who can turn birds out fast and young (frequently before being weaned). Unknown numbers of birds are suffering from this overbreeding, and many baby birds die shortly after being moved from breeder to store.

Most state animal cruelty laws are inadequate in recognizing a safe and healthy situation for birds, either in the breeding world or in the home care world. Breeders without scruples advocate for these incredibly intelligent, highly sensitive creatures to be classified as "chickens" so that they may be treated as livestock (under much looser legislation).

While this ban will not solve the problem completely, Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue feels it is an essential first step in recognizing the huge and growing problem of birds being sold to unsuspecting buyers and ending up in rescues or worse.