

Five Freedoms for Animal Welfare

(+ 5 Welfare of Falconry Raptors)



Guidelines for the General Welfare of Falconry Raptors (approved Doha 2014)

International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey

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To ensure that falconers have the knowledge to fulfill all the requirements mentioned, the IAF recommends that all people, who would like to become falconers, should undertake an apprenticeship with an experienced falconer for at least one hunting season. The IAF also recommends that aspirant falconers join a falconers club to make contact with other falconers. In addition, a good falconry course should be taken, even if it is not required by law in the country. To Administrations, we suggest that provision of a "Falconers License" be based on completion of an apprenticeship and a falconer's exam and this may be included within Hunting legislation.

Freedoms for animal welfare

1 - Freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor.

2 - Freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.

3 - Freedom from pain, injury or disease: by prevention through rapid diagnosis and treatment .

4 - Freedom to express normal behavior: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities.

5 - Freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

6 - Correct handling of the bird - Good weight management and equipment that fits well

7 - Display Birds: Handle properly to avoid and minimize stress. Good manning skills making the raptor get used to many stimuli

8 - Travelling with the bird - To protect the birds from stress, hoods can be used or, alternatively, travel boxes are suitable.

9 - Training of the hawk - The aim of training is to shape the bird into perfect physical performance and to teach them how to catch prey successfully.

10 - Hunting with the bird - While hunting, the safety of the bird and preventing unnecessary suffering of the prey have the highest priority

full text: <http://www.iaf.org/.../Guidelines%20for%20the%20General%20Wel...>