

Eastern Districts Budgerigar Club Beginners Guide Part 1

Welcome to the Eastern District Budgerigar Society

This document is a compilation of general information, tips, and forms to help you get started in the Budgerigar Hobby.

Please do not hesitate to ask anyone for extra information, explanations or help and hints to keep going. As you get started you will find that there is always something new to learn and some processes can be quite confusing, even to long term hobbyists.

We have members from across the Eastern and South Eastern suburbs who will be willing to help you along the way.

More information and up-to-date forms can be found at

Eastern District Budgerigar Society: <http://www.easterndistrictbudgie.com/>

Budgerigar Council of Victoria: <http://www.bcv.asn.au/>

Our Club

The Eastern District Budgerigar Society (EDBS) membership includes Judges and Champion, Open, Intermediate and Beginner enthusiasts. The club is involved in many activities during the year.

The EDBS offers free club membership for the first twelve months to any new Beginners in the hobby. The Budgerigar Council of Victoria (BCV) offers ½ price membership to new Beginners and then you will receive their quarterly magazine and able to order registered leg rings to enable you to show your birds as a Beginner.

You are encouraged to complete the Club membership form and order BCV rings when you decide you want to join the hobby.

Monthly Meetings

EDBS holds a monthly meeting from 7:30 on the 4th Wednesday of most months (check the syllabus for details) at the Forest Hills Community Hall, Corner of Canterbury and Springvale Roads Forest Hill. Our meeting has an open-door policy and all visitors are welcome any time.

Upon arrival, show benches are set up for benching any birds brought on the night. At the end of the night, we do ask members to help clean up the hall as the seed gets everywhere!

A short informal meeting is held during which advice and ideas are shared. Sometimes there will be a video or a guest speaker invited. Supper is provided.

A free informal competition is run with a small prize and Club points awarded for the winners of the chosen varieties for the night (listed on the syllabus). All varieties are invited to be judged, and everyone is invited to bring along birds for general discussion and advice. Winners of our monthly competitions accumulate club aggregate points, which contribute to the Annual Club award presented at the annual general meeting in the following year.

One night a year, the club runs a Young Bird Interclub Competition with other invited clubs. Competition is fierce but friendly. Up to 250 birds may be on show, and this is a good learning experience for beginners.

Our December meeting is held as a Christmas social function with no birds involved. Our annual general meeting is held in March.

A calendar of events (the syllabus) can be found on our website.

Major Club Events

Club Championship (Diploma show)

Many clubs run these shows and all members of our club are invited to attend them.

The EDBS Championship, held in October, usually attracts between 300-400 birds in most sections and classes. Our Show has all age groups represented (See "State and National Shows" below) There are opportunities for everyone to be involved on the day from stewarding, accepting and benching birds as well as set up and clean up.

Club Auction

The EDBS conducts an annual Club Auction with over 200 budgerigars from breeders Australia wide on offer, giving everybody an opportunity to pick up some top breeding stock.

As the auction is our major club fundraiser, we ask members to help out on the day especially in helping to set up and clean up after the event. The funds are used to pay for our hall hire, show trophies and prizes, various other equipment we may need and subsidises a few social events along the way.

State and National Shows

The Budgerigar Council of Victoria (BCV) organises three major championship shows

1. The Young Bird State Championship, for birds wearing the previous year's rings.
2. The Adult Bird State Championship, for birds older than Young birds
3. The Unbroken Cap (UBC) State Championship, for birds that have not started their first moult to about age 12 weeks.

To be selected to participate in a State Championship, members are invited to present their birds at the show selection day held about a week before the championship (dates on the syllabus). Three birds from each class are selected to represent the Club at the show. However, Beginner and Intermediate Section members may also enter as many birds as they wish into the show to enable their comparison with the best birds in the state. This is a great learning experience for those new to the hobby.

The Australian Budgerigar Council organises a National show (the National) held in May to which each State is invited to send a team. The State team is selected from birds shown at the State Young Bird Championships.

Rules and Policy

Each State has its own governing body, overseen by the Australian National Budgerigar Council (<https://anbc.iinet.net.au/>). (There is also an International Budgerigar Organisation!)

All clubs must abide by the State and National governing body of rules.

The BCV website, (<http://www.bcv.asn.au/>), is a useful source of information and includes detailed information about:

- Running and participating in shows and auctions,
- The Budgerigar standard (the look of our birds and to what we are all aspiring),
- Animal welfare laws, specifically how they apply to keeping caged birds,
- Breeding guides,

- Other club activities including their show and auction dates.