

Falconry and Raptor Propagation Facility and Equipment Inspection Form

Applicant's Name: _____ Date: _____

Facilities Address: _____ City: _____

Photographs of all facilities, equipment, and raptors should be submitted with this form.

YES/NO If the address of the facilities is different from the home address, are the facilities 30 miles or less from the home address?

Check all locations where the raptor(s) are held at some time during the year (each area should be inspected and photographed):

- Free standing structure(s)
- Structure(s) that are part of an existing structure—garage/shed
- Room in home

Additional information about minimum requirements and raptor health can be found in Appendices A and B attached to this form and in the Facilities Handbook.

Federal and State Requirements

A: MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL STRUCTURES THAT HOUSE RAPTORS

Primary enclosures shall be a mews and weathering area or a combination of characteristics of both that provide the following:

- YES/NO** 1. All structures provide a healthy environment for raptors while inside.
- YES/NO** 2. All structures protect the raptors from predators and domestic animals.
- YES/NO** 3. All structures minimize undue disturbance to the raptors (heavy vehicle or pedestrian traffic, etc.).
- YES/NO** 4. All structures are large enough to allow easy access for care and maintenance.
- YES/NO** 5. All structures have a secure door, which can be easily closed (alone or in combination with the weathering area when attached).
- YES/NO** 6. All structures have at least one opening or window to allow sunlight which would be visible to each raptor.
- YES/NO** 7. All structures have suitable perches for each raptor.
- YES/NO** **For raptors that are tethered:** Perches are designed so the bird cannot get hung up or become tangled (see Appendix A for information on tethered perches).
- YES/NO** 8. All structures have an area large enough to allow each raptor to fly if it is untethered or, if tethered, to fully extend its wings and bate (flap wings while tethered) without damaging its feathers or contacting other raptors.
- YES/NO** **For raptors that are not tethered:** In all structures, the risk of raptor injury due to collision with interior or perimeter construction materials and equipment, such as support poles, windows, netting, perches, or lights must be minimized.
- YES/NO** 9. All structures allow for access to a pan of clean water for each raptor unless weather conditions, the perch type used, or some other factor makes access to a water pan unsafe for the raptor (see Appendix B).

B: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEWS (INDOOR FACILITIES)

In addition to the requirements in part A, mews must also meet the following requirements:

- YES/NO 1. The structure is soundly constructed and entirely enclosed (walls/bars/windows/ceiling/etc.).
- YES/NO 2. The floor is dry or well drained and can easily be cleaned (see Appendix A).
- YES/NO 3. Each window must have vertical bars/rods on the inside that are narrower than the width of the body of the smallest raptor housed in the structure unless the raptor is tethered in a home or on shelf perches.
- YES/NO 4. The structure allows for sufficient ventilation in the summer (alone or in combination with the weathering area).
- YES/NO 5. The structure alone or in combination with in home facilities (garage/home/other structure) provides protection for the raptors from extreme weather (high winds, storms, and extreme cold temperatures).
- YES/NO **For raptors moved to in home facilities:** The room in the home has at least one window and suitable perches for **each** raptor (raptors in homes must be tethered, but the window does not need bars).
- YES/NO 6. When the windows/doors are closed to protect the raptors from extreme weather, the structure must still have at least one opening that allows sunlight to enter which would be visible to **each** raptor (see Appendix A).

C: ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR WEATHERING AREAS (OUTDOOR FACILITIES)

In addition to the requirements in part A, weathering areas must also meet the following requirements:

- YES/NO 1. The structure is soundly constructed and entirely enclosed (bars/wire/walls/roof).
- YES/NO 2. The base of the structure is protected from ground predators (the structure does not need a floor, but the walls should touch the ground and if the structure does not have a hard floor, extend approximately 1' underground or 1' out to form an L to exclude burrowing predators).
- YES/NO 3. The top of the facility is covered with wire, roofing, or other material sufficient to exclude predators.
- YES/NO 4. There is at least one **covered** perch, of an acceptable design, for **each** raptor that provides protection from sun and rain (if the weathering area and mew are attached and the bird is untethered so it may go into the mew at will, an additional covered area in the weathering area is not necessary).
- YES/NO 5. **For raptors that are not tethered:** All walls that are not solid are protected on the inside with vertical bars/rods narrower than the width of the body of the smallest raptor housed in the structure (see Appendix A).

D: Equipment

See Appendix A for photographs and descriptions of each piece of required equipment.

- YES/NO 1. The permittee has one pair of Aylmeri (style) jesses for **each** raptor (or the materials to make them).
- YES/NO 2. The permittee has one swivel of an acceptable design for **each** raptor.
- YES/NO 3. The permittee has one leash of quality leather or synthetic material for **each** raptor.
- YES/NO 4. The permittee has a reliable weighing scale or balance graduated in increments of not more than ½ ounce (15 grams)?

Certification (circle one)

APPROVED: Facilities and equipment meet federal and state standards.

PROVISIONAL APPROVAL: Except as described below, facilities and equipment meet federal and state standards. Applicant agrees to correct all deficiencies within 30 days.

_____ Re-inspection will be required

_____ Photographs submitted to the Falconry Coordinator will be sufficient

NOT APPROVED: Facilities and equipment fail to meet federal and state standards. Please describe the deficiencies that you observed below.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS: _____

Applicant: I agree to correct all deficiencies indicated within 30 days and to maintain facilities and equipment at or above federal and state standards for the duration of my permit.

Applicant Signature: _____

RAPTOR ISSUES: All raptors possessed by the permittee must be housed and cared for in safe, humane, and healthy conditions to assure their well-being. Are there any potential health or maintenance concerns with the raptor(s) currently in the permittee’s possession? If so, please describe the concerns that you observed below (please include photographs).

COMMENTS/CONCERNS: _____

Certifying Officer

Name: _____

Title/Badge # (for CO’s): _____

Phone number: _____

Signature: _____

REINSPECTION DATE: _____

All deficiencies (HAVE / HAVE NOT) been met.

COMMENTS/CONCERNS: _____

Appendix A: Facilities quick reference

Generally both a mews and weathering area are required, but new types of housing facilities and/or husbandry practices may be used if they satisfy the requirements and are approved by the Falconry Coordinator.

Please see the Facilities Handbook for more information on each item on the checklist.

All facilities: Falconry facilities come in a wide variety of designs to meet the type of raptor, husbandry, budget, and space limitations of the individual falconer. Raptors are often housed in several different types of structures depending on the time of year, for example in the summer the raptor may be kept predominantly in the weathering area, during the coldest parts of the winter the raptor may be kept in a room in the house, and for all other times of the year the raptor may be housed in the mew. Whether permanent or temporary, all structures must provide the birds with (1) a healthy environment, (2) protection from predators and domestic animals, and (3) minimum disturbance. The structures must (4) be large enough for easy access for care and maintenance, and they must also have:

(5) A secure door



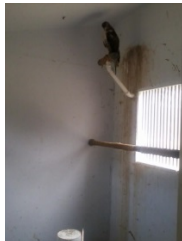
(6) At least one opening to allow sunlight visible to **each** raptor.



(7) A suitable perch for each raptor, and if the raptor is tethered the perch should be low to the ground or on shelves so that if the bird hops to the ground, the bird does not get hung up, and the perches should include some mechanism to ensure that the bird cannot go under or around the perch and become tangled.



(8) An area large enough to allow **each** raptor to fly if it is untethered or, if tethered, to fully extend its wings and bate. When raptors are not tethered, the risk of injury due to collision with support poles, lights, etc. must be reduced.



(9) pan of clean water no deeper than 2-6", but large enough for the raptor to bathe in for **each** raptor (weather and perch type permitting)



Required equipment: Falconers often have a lot of equipment; however, only the following additional items are required: swivels and leash (dog leash/fishing snap-swivels with soft copper/aluminum rivets are rarely acceptable, except for use on kestrels), Aylmeri style jesses or materials to make them (an Aylmeri jess consists of an anklet, grommet, and a removable strap for attaching the anklet and grommet to the swivel), and a scale



Swivels & leash



Aylmeri style jesses (and leash) or material



Scale

Additional Considerations for mews and weathering areas:

Mews: The purpose of the mews is to provide the raptor with a safe, secure "home" where it is protected from predators, domestic animals, and the environment. Falconry facilities should be dedicated to falconry; not shared with pets or livestock. Examples of Mews:



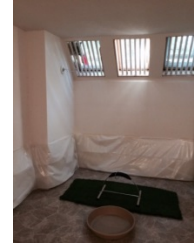
Free standing structure



Structure in garage



Shelf perch



Room in home

(1) The structure should be soundly constructed and entirely enclosed, and (2) the floor should be dry or well drained and easily cleaned. Typically floors are composed of either pea gravel or AstroTurf-type carpet over concrete or wood—sand, sawdust, straw, or hay are not recommended as they can cause harm to the bird. Sand may sometimes be used in the “litterbox” of shelf perches (note the raptor should still stand on only AstroTurf-type carpet).



Outdoor carpet



Pea gravel



Sand in shelf perches

(3) Each window must have vertical bars narrower than the width of the body of the smallest raptor. Bars are not necessary inside a home or structure with tethered birds on shelf perches. (4) The structure must allow for sufficient ventilation in the summer through windows, roof vents and/or access to the weathering area; however, (5) the structure must keep the raptor relatively free from drafts during extreme weather. Windows and doors are usually closed to keep the bird free from drafts during extreme weather; however, the structure must still have at least one opening that allows sunlight to enter which would be visible to **each** raptor. Glass, plexiglass, or some other clear material to the outside of the bars could cover the opening to allow for sunlight but still protect from the elements.



Weathering area: The weathering area is a fenced "yard" for the raptor that allows it to safely be outdoors. (1) Outdoor facilities must be totally enclosed to protect the bird from predators, which means it should have solid or barred walls, (2) have a floor or fencing to protect against burrowing predators, and (3) a solid or fenced roof. (4) If weathering area is not attached to the mews and the roof is fencing, at least one perch for **each** raptor must be covered with roof, tarp, etc. to protect from the sun and rain. Weathering areas may be made of heavy-gauge wire, heavy duty plastic mesh, slats, pipe, wood, or other suitable material. Depending on the construction materials (wire, mesh, chain-link, etc.) the raptor may need to be tethered. Chicken wire is not recommended as it is weak and may not keep predators out. Examples of weathering areas:



Appendix B: Indicators of raptor health or maintenance issues

All raptors possessed by the permittee must be housed and cared for in safe, humane, and healthy conditions to assure their well-being at all times.

There are several visible signs that may indicate health or maintenance issues. This list is not exhaustive, nor is every sign by itself an indicator of neglect. A mitigating factor for some of the health issues may be whether the raptor is being seen by a vet for that issue. Please document on the inspection form any health or maintenance concerns that you may have and attach photographs of the issues that you observe. If the issues cited merit further review, the falconer will be contacted for follow-up action. Some visible signs of possible concern include:

- **Visible sores or indications of trauma**—untreated sores or trauma may indicate health or maintenance issues.
- **Feathers**—Some broken or missing feathers are normal and can occur during hunting activities. The summer months are generally considered the molting season for raptors, so some missing feathers during that time is normal. However, numerous broken or missing tail or flight feathers or a very unkempt appearance may indicate health, maintenance or poor housing issues.
- **Feet**—Obvious swelling of the feet, discoloration (black toes may indicate frostbite), or scabby-looking lesions (may be indicative of a pox virus) are indications that there may be health or maintenance issues.
- **Cere** (fleshy part above the beak)—There may be signs of damage during the hunting season from scrapes while chasing prey, this is normal; however, damage may also occur if the bird flies against wire or bars when untethered. Check the mews and weathering area for potentially dangerous bars, beams, or other obstacles that could interrupt the flight pattern and pose a danger to the bird.
- **Beak**—Like human fingernails, a bird's beak continues to grow. Raptors in captivity may need their beak trimmed (coped) to ensure proper alignment. Visibly overgrown beaks may indicate a maintenance issue.
- **Eyes**—Healthy raptors normally have bright, alert eyes. If a raptor's eyes appear dull and listlessness, there may be health or maintenance issues.
- **Spoiled food**—Carcasses or uneaten meat that has obviously spoiled in the mews/weathering area may indicate a maintenance issue. This is especially true in warm weather, when the rotting meat would attract predators, flies, and disease.
- **Weight**—Raptors must be weighed regularly to ensure they maintain the proper weight appropriate for the time of year and their activity level. Keeping a log of the raptor's weight is recommended. Falconry raptors are kept at a low body weight to encourage hunting (raptors are less likely to want to hunt when they are full); however, the smaller the bird, the narrower the range for what is an acceptable falconry weight versus what would be considered a starving bird. Scales should be in an easily accessible place, and used regularly.
- **Waste**—Some mutes (waste) is normal in the mews/weathering area, especially under a preferred perch (particularly in winter); however, an especially large build-up of mutes that appears longstanding could indicate a maintenance issue.
- **Fresh water**—The bird should have fresh bathwater (some mutes (waste) may be present, but there should not be obvious, stagnant water). Each raptor should have access to clean water unless weather conditions, the perch type used, or some other factor makes access to a water pan unsafe for the raptor. Raptors drink very little. They get much of their hydration from their food, so a secondary water source may not always be necessary. Often falconers have a squirt bottle available to provide the raptors with a little extra hydration. In cold weather, raptors may get hypothermia or frostbite on their feet by walking through water, so a water pan is usually not provided during the winter months.