

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES & EXHIBITORS

# LONG FLIGHTS / LONG TAILS



- 1 2 birds showing the long tail characteristics
- 2 Skyblue with a long tail and Grey with normal tail length
- 3 Skyblue with a long tail and Grey Green with normal tail length
- 4 A bird with excessive long tail
- 5 A bird with excessive long tail

It is important to remind members that if a bird(s) of any exhibitor who is suspected of committing any offence under the existing show rules, the bird may be impounded by any show official of the show promoting society for such time as it may be necessary to establish by tests or otherwise whether an offence has been committed. Photographic evidence taken of the bird at the show in front of witnesses can, in certain circumstances, be sufficient.

The objective is for common sense and good sportsmanship to prevail on the show bench this and future seasons so if you think you have a Longflight/ Longtail bird then please do not exhibit it.

- \* When examining an Exhibit you MUST follow the guidelines set out in BS Show Rule 8 (Page 9) including recording the Ring Number in front of two witnesses; Bird Description & Cage Number.
- \*\* When Photographing an Exhibit you MUST supply photographs of the bird in its Cage showing the Cage number; the bird showing its ring number and the bird showing the alleged offence.
- \*\*\* When Impounding an Exhibit you MUST follow the guidelines set out in BS Show Rule 8 (Page 9)

## END OF NORMAL TAIL



## DOCTORED TAILS



and no matter how long the bird is, the tail should remain in that **proportion**.  
**Note:** For example, if a bird is 8 and half (216mm) to 9 and half (241mm) inches long, the visual tail length should be 2 and seven eighths of an inch (73mm) to 3 and three eighths (86mm) inches. Anything significantly longer than this is to be assessed as potentially being Longflight. The tail should follow the backline of the bird at 30 degrees from the vertical when measured through the eye to the tip of the tail.

### DISQUALIFICATION OF EXHIBITS

Where any doubt exists with regard to potential Longflights/Longtails then

disqualification should only be carried out by the Judge following consultation with fellow judges. It is not acceptable to just place the bird second or last in the class or to ignore it.

### SHOW OFFENCES

It has been reported that some exhibitors may have been benching birds with tails that have been cut, trimmed or even burned to reduce the length. Please note that current BS rules do not allow for the trimming of wings, tails or other parts of the bird apart from the spots. Also it is an offence to prepare a bird so as to alter its natural appearance apart from trimming the spots.

**F**urther to the interim Guidelines that appeared in the July/August 2014 issue of The Budgerigar only one member wrote about the subject. The B.S. General Council are implementing the official Guidelines as listed below which will come into operation from the 2015 show season onwards.

**LENGTH** – The ideal length is minimum 216mm (eight and a half inches) from the crown of the head to the tip of the tail. However, the budgerigar is essentially a bird of **balance and style** and this should **always** be taken into consideration.

**LONGFLIGHTS** - a bird carrying long-flighted characteristics with flights extending beyond the rump feathers. These flights may be crossed or hanging below the cushion of the tail/rump. These birds must be treated as Longflights and **MUST** be disqualified. **(DIRECTIVE)**

The ideal length of the wing should be 45% of the ideal length of the budgerigar measured from the wing butt to the tip of the longest primary flight. The wing must contain seven **visible** primary flight feathers fully grown and carried just above the cushion of the tail and not crossed

**LONGTAILS** - a bird with an excessive length of one or both of the two primary tail feathers taking account of the overall length of the budgerigar. It is important to consider size, shape, balance and deportment of the whole bird when looking at the tail and not just looking at the tail in isolation and measuring the tail from the perch to floor of the show cage. These birds are also to be treated as Longflights and **MUST** be disqualified. **(DIRECTIVE)**

**TAIL** – To be straight and tight with two primary tail feathers. The ideal tail represents approximately 35% of the bird's overall length from tip of wings to tip of tail

## PAIRS & TEAMS

As from the 2015 show season there will be classes for Pairs (cock and hen in one show cage) and there are CCs (nil points) for the Best Pair as well as the Best Team. However, the same qualification for awarding a CC still applies for both the Pair & Team CCs as it does for a colour. (see Rule Book 2013, page 10, Patronage Condition 22(viii)(b)). This means that you need to have either 2 exhibitors (not partners) benching correct birds (2 Teams or 2 Pairs) or 7 entries from one exhibitor (4 pairs or 2 teams to make it over 7 birds). Also the Pairs & Teams need to be of one colour and variety and in the case of the Teams they can be either all of one sex or 50% of each sex. The points allocated for both Pairs & Teams are general colour & variety 50 points and uniformity 50 points.