

## Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa



### Introduction to AWEBSA

In joining this Association, you become part of a family of people who are united in their common interest in a delightful parakeet, the budgie or budgerigar. It's the love and passion for this little bird that made us start a new national association in South Africa: The South African Show Budgie Association on 7 September 2014.

During the first month of our existence we had numerous submissions from across the world requesting and urging us to look at our model, logo and name. After a vote of our members we decided to amend our name to: **ASSOCIATION FOR WILD-TYPE AND EXHIBITION BUDGIES OF SOUTH AFRICA**. In addition, one of our members, Matthew Lucas, designed a new logo for us to incorporate all aspects of our hobby: exhibition, wild-type and pet budgies and the South African National colours. We are proudly South African.

We believe our model is unique. Housing under one national umbrella hobbyists breeding exhibition and wild-type budgies (or mini budgies or budgies of colour as they are called in some countries) and making room for pet budgies is not common. In addition, we are accommodating many more colours and mutations on the show bench able to win prestigious awards. At the same show (I mean the same date and same venue) wild-type budgies will also be exhibited, judged and rewarded.

So what birds are we talking about?

## Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa

*The budgerigar, also known as common pet parakeet or shell parakeet and informally nicknamed the budgie, is a small, long-tailed, seed-eating parrot.*

<b>Scientific name:</b>	Melopsittacus undulatus
<b>Clutch size:</b>	4 – 6
<b>Mass:</b>	0.03 – 0.04 kg (Adult, In Wild)
<b>Length:</b>	18 cm on average (Adult, In Wild)
<b>Lifespan:</b>	5 – 8 y (Adult, in captivity)
<b>Native:</b>	Australia

**Join me in a trip or “bird’s eye view” of our wonderful feathered friends:**



Budgies in the wild. The reason for us sticking to the name: wild-type budgies for those kept and bred in captivity



Roosting. Note mainly green, well ok here in this photo 100% green



In flight: awesome!



Like locusts but impressive!

## Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa



In captivity and now note all the new colours. Without natural predators colours find it easier so survive



The next generation in the making



Mother and eggs: eggs hatch after 18 days



New born, what did you say? Trust it was: "How cute!"

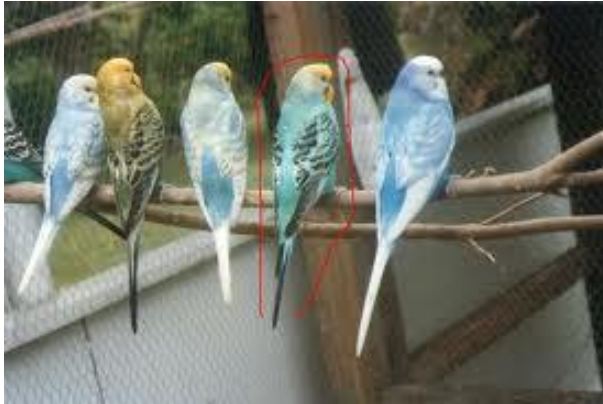


Well-fed baby



Babies hatch two days apart. Note one can already see that the front one will be a pied.

## Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa



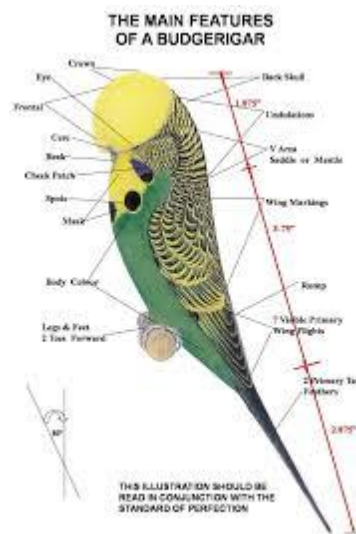
Mutations and stunning colours



Mutations in feather direction



Feathers composition and inheritance: very important in breeding mutations



Show standard for exhibition budgies: the vision

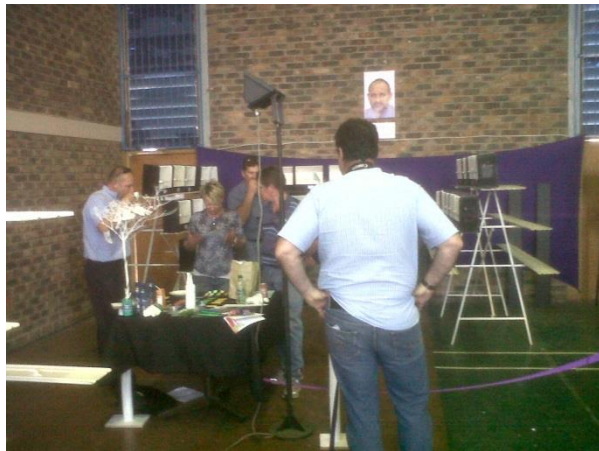


Judge doing his business



Budgies on show

## Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa



Show officials taking a break



Super specimen

We have many breeders across the world to thank for the development of many colours, mutations and quality of the exhibition budgerigar. They have also set a super ideal for us all to strive towards.

**We owe the budgie, these pioneers and thousands of breeders of budgies across Southern Africa a structure which is well-organized, honourable in its endeavours, and yet able to remain innovative in moving the hobby into the future.**

AWEBSA must have its roots in local clubs and the Association's main role is to provide a structure and the coordination of efforts and at the same time allows the freedom and space for us to pursue the fancy in whatever direction it takes us. Members must know and experience that they are an important part of the Association.

**“Our passion is budgies” but this passion will be stillborn without our members and their participation.**

We know and are acutely aware that our biggest challenge will be and remain to stay true to the objectives of AWEBSA, acting within our Code of Conduct, adhering to our

## **Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa**

constitution and rules and managing the expectations of our members. We are also reminding ourselves continuously that we would make mistakes but are committed to address them to the best of our ability.

**Allow us to take you with on a journey that would:**

- **Expand your knowledge of the fascinating budgie;**
- **Teach you about genetics and feeding;**
- **Meet some incredible people (and others);**
- **Enjoy competition and share some fun experiences; and**
- **De-stress (mostly) and grow!**

The budgerigar may be a small parakeet but it has made big men's knees weak! We therefore know that the budgie is bigger than any personal interest and we must jealously guard against becoming more important!

### **Benefits of AWEBSA Membership**

#### ➤ **Our Focus is on BUDGIES**

We are fully aware that there are many forms of budgie breeders across the country and indeed the world. Providing a home for the hobbyists breeding wild-type budgies and the massive pet trade together with the exhibitor budgerigars is our aim and goal.

It is after all almost a natural progression from a pet budgie in a cage to keeping some wild-type budgies in a colony breeding system and then attempting the exhibition budgerigars and the competition going along with that.

AWEBSA offers membership in each category of budgies. We also realize that when one starts with exhibition budgies a Beginner status is very important. It is

## **Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa**

here where members that just started in the exhibition part of the hobby can learn their trade before moving higher to Novice, then Intermediate and finally Champion statuses.

For those that would like to remain with the breeding of wild-type budgies that would be great as we also believe that in colony breeding one would stand the best opportunity to breed new colours or mutations. It would be fantastic if we could record, breed and develop a new mutation right here in sunny South Africa!

### **Our Next Focus is on Mutations**

We are full of new, fresh ideas and enthusiasm driving us to bring people together that share our passion and to **make the hobby affordable for many more to share the joy that we experience in breeding these wonderful little birds.**

Budgies have so many colours and we must actively pursue the breeding and enhancement of all these wonderful colours. This cannot be a second rated part of the hobby – it must be integrated with everything that we do.

**So if you have a budgie you are not sure what colour it is let us help to work out what it is! Post a photo on our Facebook page and let us help you discover what colour it is.**

Here we are all going to learn as for decades many of us, focused on the main line colours that could win Best on Show. Mutations became “Funny colours” and as a result just about disappeared. **We are actively going to pursue to achieve excellence of variety in mutations.**

**Allow me to share a true story with you. Many years ago I officiated as judged at a show in KZN during the annual Royal Show. At the conclusion**

## Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa

of the judging winners came from the usual “suspects” (grey green and cinnamon grey in this particular instance if I recall correctly) won best bird and best opposite sex, respectively.

During the show time we have many visitors and on the Saturday I was called aside by a very concerned elderly lady. She enquired as to the mental capacity of the person or persons that selected the best bird on show. Far too intimidated to disclose to her that it was me, I allowed her to show me her best bird on show and yes you may be guessing what it was, a funny colour, it was a Yellowface Violet Recessive Pied. Now this bird, I was told, should have won the show.

Despite that earnest lesson in judging I was taught that day it took me more than a decade to realize that we were responsible for slowly strangling the life out of the pleasure of breeding budgies. Instead of encouraging the breeding of mutations, for example, we lumped them all together in “Any other Colour” perhaps secretly because we could not be bothered to really learn what mutations are all about and how to identify them.

It was time to change and hence AWEBSA was founded.

### Rings

Breeding exhibition budgies means that the identification and bloodlines are important. Most budgie breeders like to put closed rings on their birds, as a means of identity. Such rings are large and yet light enough to cause the bird no kind of discomfort, but small enough to have to be placed on the bird's leg at only a few days old.



## **Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa**

On first joining the Association each member is “allocated” a ring number, usually beginning with the first initial of your surname, followed by up to 4 numbers. This code must be unique – issued only to one person (or partnership).

**At AWEBSA you can pick a code, free of charge, and if not already in use it will be allocated to you.**

Rings are consecutively numbered and the year is also printed thereon – so every bird bred has a unique number. We also have different colours of rings which help us to quickly determine birds of a particular age group. During shows we would like to ensure breeders show birds bred by them. The closed coded ring also serves that purpose.

Members breeding wild-type budgies would also find huge benefit from ringing their birds as it helps finding the parenthood of that interesting coloured bird. In addition, it would be providing buyers the assurance of the bird’s age for example. Wild-type members’ birds must be rung to qualify to be shown at the National Championship Show of the Association.

**The plastic ring that you are allowed to use is extremely affordable when compared with the price of the metal rings. AWEBSA has taken the initiative to actively pursue this alternative to the metal rings otherwise it would remain a discussion point for the next decade. Our members tested the rings under life conditions by actually ringing birds with them.**

### **Patronages**

Exhibiting your budgies and the results of your efforts must be part of your experience and enjoyment. Apart from the individual pleasure derived in the healthy competing with one’s birds against those of other enthusiasts, rubbing shoulders with “friends” from across the country is priceless.

## **Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa**

AWEBSA would encourage the promotion of such events, large and small, by supplying them with patronage, where possible – a package of prizes, rosettes, etc. for competition among its members at those shows.

We feel that one must guard against the possibility that participation at shows is mainly because of the size of the prize money. Our view is that the recognition must be sufficient reward.

### **Judges Panel**

AWEBSA judges will be trained under a vigorous program and would be required to judge to the procedures and standards of perfection laid down for exhibits by the Association.

**Clearly fairness and consistency promotes the confidence of our exhibitors in supporting our shows throughout the country.**

Our judges are going to be challenged continuously by mutation identification and this is going to add to challenges. We have made a conscious decision to do this and we will not be afraid to admit it when we get it wrong!

### **Social Media**

Our Facebook page provides you with news and other interesting information as well as plenty of photos from across the world of budgies of top quality and the most amazing colours. You have to join and enjoy the journey.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1549250465297629/>

[www.awebsa.com](http://www.awebsa.com)

## **Association for Wild-Type and Exhibition Budgies of South Africa**

On the page there are ample opportunity to post your comments and queries and we will be only too glad to provide you with a response. We would love to hear from you. Start a conversation re a mutation, feeding, aviary construction and the like.

### **Webpage**

My guess is that you are reading this document on our Webpage. On this site you will find inter alia:

- Membership application forms;
- Tariff of fees;
- Ring order forms;
- The AWEBSA Constitution;
- Rules including our Code of Conduct;
- Many other interested articles continuously being supplemented with more; and
- Member profiles (this is a new feature that we believe would provide you with valuable insights into the life of our members).

Finally, the best way to engage is to become part of the Club and if there is no club in your area to start the process of forming a club.

How is that for a challenge?

Send us an email to: [awebsasec@gmail.com](mailto:awebsasec@gmail.com)