**Simple Bird Show Etiquette vs Rules**

BAA was built on a foundation of local control. The BAA board is committed to facilitating a hobby that reflects what the members want. One of our guiding principles is to NOT make a rule if it can be avoided. Our first question as a board is always “Is it good for the hobby?” followed by “Is it good for our members?” We strive to be a member driven organization rather than a top down (board) driven one.

Recently some of the members asked the board to consider making a rule regarding activity behind the bench during the show. Some members were removing their birds which had been shown and did not bench before the show was over. Since BAA strives to keep LOCAL CONTROL and does not want to make rules whenever possible, the discussion did not make it to motion, but the intent is most valid. A club can absolutely have a rule about activity behind the bench before the show is over, but it remains a local control rule, not a BAA requirement. BAA prefers to suggest the guidelines or show etiquette below rather than make “top down” rules.

1. Our cages are numbered to keep ownership of show birds anonymous. Do not disclose ownership during the show, owners of the winners will be revealed after the show.
2. Never discuss the flaws or faults you see (and perhaps think the judge does not see) in hearing range of the judge.
3. Cheering or jeering during the show is totally unacceptable.

You may be asked to leave the show hall if you do. Save your applause until the show is over and the owners revealed.

1. Birds should never be removed from the staging area behind the show bench during the show. Also, staging tables and equipment should remain in place until the end. Some clubs even prohibit anyone behind the bench before judging is complete.
2. It is noisy enough with just the bird noise. Please keep your voices down when the judge or show manager are speaking.
3. If you are showing, be sure to arrive early! Your birds need to be prepped, caged, tagged and ready to be checked in and staged well before the start of the show.

This is a hobby, and we want everyone to have a good time. The friendships you make and the information shared will be invaluable. Follow a few simple guidelines and we can all enjoy the experience.