

Changes to international trade controls for African grey parrots

In order to further protect African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) from continued over-harvest resulting from an increasing commercial demand, Canada has updated the *Wild Animal and Plant Trade Regulations (WAPTR)* to increase restrictions on the international trade of this species in keeping with decisions made by the 17th Conference of the Parties (CoP17) to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

ABOUT THE AFRICAN GREY PARROT

African grey parrots are native to equatorial Africa, where they are found in and around dense forest habitats. This species has long been highly prized as pets, largely due to their attractive appearance and their ability to mimic human speech. Given their long-standing popularity as pets and the relative ease with which they can be captured, large numbers of African greys have been taken from the wild. This large-scale capture coupled with significant habitat loss and the species' low reproductive rate has led to a collapse and fragmentation of the wild populations throughout the species historic range, with declines exceeding 90% in some countries.

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTING INCREASED TRADE CONTROLS FOR THIS SPECIES?

At CoP17, the African grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*) was transferred from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I as a result of the precarious situation of the species' wild populations. Specifically, at CoP17, it was determined that widespread unsustainable trade practices and habitat loss threatened the survival of wild populations of the species and that the African grey parrot, therefore, met the requirements for inclusion in Appendix I.

WHEN DO INCREASED TRADE CONTROLS COME INTO EFFECT?

The revised CITES Appendices (i.e. revised after CoP17) came into effect on January 2, 2017. These amendments have now been implemented in Canada through amendments to WAPTR.

UNDER WHAT AUTHORITY ARE THE INCREASED TRADE CONTROLS BEING IMPLEMENTED?

The increased restrictions are being implemented by regulatory amendments to Schedule I of WAPTR which is made under the *Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (WAPPRITA)*.

WHAT PERMITS DO I NEED TO IMPORT OR EXPORT AN AFRICAN GREY?

As a result of the changes made to the CITES Appendices, international commercial trade of African greys is now generally prohibited, subject to certain exceptions, between Canada and other countries that are a Party to the Convention. When leaving Canada with an African grey, in addition to the CITES export permit issued by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) that was previously required to under the Appendix II listing, an import permit (issued by the country to



which you are travelling) must now also be obtained prior to leaving Canada. When entering Canada with an African grey, in addition to the CITES export permit (issued by the foreign country of export) a CITES import permit issued by ECCC must be obtained prior to leaving the country of export.

For Canadian pet owners who wish to travel internationally with a pet African grey, an application for a Certificate of Ownership can be made. This certificate allows owners of pet species that are listed in the CITES Appendices to frequently cross international borders with their pet without needing to apply for multiple permits.

DO THE INCREASED TRADE CONTROLS APPLY TO ALL SPECIMENS OF AFRICAN GREY PARROTS?

Yes.

HOW CAN I OBTAIN A PERMIT TO IMPORT/EXPORT AN AFRICAN GREY PARROT?

You can find application forms for Canadian CITES permits at the following site: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=05BFDC16-1>

Please contact the relevant CITES Management Authority of any country you intend to travel to for information on their permitting requirements. A list of all countries that are a Party to CITES and contact information for each country's Management Authority can be found at the following site: <https://cites.org/eng/cms/index.php/component/cp>

WHAT INFORMATION DO I NEED TO PROVIDE WHEN APPLYING FOR A CITES PERMIT?

You will be asked to provide your name, mailing address, as well as information about the wildlife species you intend to import or export including:

- Scientific name (genus and species) and common-name of each species contained in the shipment and within each product within the shipment ;
- Country of origin ;
- Description of item(s) ;
(e.g., live specimen, feathers, blood sample etc.) ;
- Evidence of lawful acquisition ;
- Evidence of lawful import if relevant
(e.g. previously issued CITES permit) ;
- Current location of specimens
(including address and country).

CAN A SINGLE PERMIT BE USED TO AUTHORIZE THE IMPORT OR EXPORT OF MULTIPLE AFRICAN GREYS?

Yes, CITES permits are issued per shipment. Shipments can contain one or more specimens of CITES-listed species. Shipments can also contain multiple different CITES-listed species within the same shipment as long as the specimens (or the items containing the specimens) are clearly differentiated from one another.

IF I AM RE-EXPORTING AN AFRICAN GREY THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY IMPORTED TO CANADA, WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO PROVIDE?

When applying for a CITES re-export certificate ECCC will require a copy of the CITES document that was used to import the African Grey into Canada in order to issue a re-export certificate. In addition, additional documentation showing "chain of custody" (invoices from any transactions that led to a transfer of ownership) subsequent to the parrot's import to Canada may be requested.

WHERE DO I SEND MY COMPLETED APPLICATION?

Please send your completed application to the Canadian CITES Management Authority at ECCC. Contact information is provided below.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO PROCESS MY APPLICATION?

ECCC strives to process permit applications as quickly as possible and has established service standards (i.e. a public commitment to a measurable level of performance that applicants can expect under normal circumstances) to ensure quality and predictability of service for applicants. Your application may take up to 35 days to process, depending on the complexity of the application and assuming all necessary information and supporting documents have been provided at the time the application is made.





Additional information relating to ECCC's service standards for CITES permits and past performance can be found at the following site: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=B02A39A6-1>

HOW MUCH DO PERMITS COST?

All CITES permits issued in Canada by Environment and Climate Change Canada are free of charge. The cost of CITES permits issued by other countries that are a Party to CITES varies from country to country.

HOW LONG WILL MY PERMIT REMAIN VALID?

Export permits and re-export certificates are valid for 6 months. Import permits are valid for 12 months.

IF I PREVIOUSLY OBTAINED AN EXPORT PERMIT WHEN THE AFRICAN GREY PARROT WAS LISTED IN CITES APPENDIX II, IS THE PERMIT STILL VALID?

No, the export permit you received is no longer valid because the status of the African grey parrot changed on January 2, 2017 as a result of the CoP17 amendments made to the CITES Appendices. You will need to apply for a new export permit (issued by the country you are exporting the African grey from) as well as an import permit (issued by the country you are importing the African grey to).

It should also be noted that if you received a certificate of ownership for your African grey prior to January 2, 2017 (while the African grey was still listed on CITES Appendix II), you will need to reapply for an Appendix I Certificate of ownership.

MAY I TRANSFER MY PERMIT TO ANOTHER PERSON IF I AM NO LONGER ABLE TO TRAVEL?

No, CITES permits are non-transferable and may only be used by the person whose name and information is indicated on the permit.

ARE THERE EXEMPTIONS FROM THE NEED TO OBTAIN A PERMIT?

Depending on your situation, you may be able to benefit from the following exemptions:

Personal Household Effects Exemption: for specimens OTHER THAN live specimens that are personally owned and legally acquired, and worn, carried or included in personal accompanying baggage or part of a household move do not required a CITES permit. *Please note that not all Parties implement this exemption.*

Certificate of Ownership: if you frequently travel outside of Canada with your African grey parrot, you may apply for a certificate that acts like a passport for your parrot. As long as the certificate remains valid, you do not need to apply for new permits each time you and your parrot travel across international borders. *Please note that not all Parties to CITES implement this exemption.*

WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH THE IMPORT AND EXPORT RESTRICTIONS FOR AFRICAN GREYS?

On July 12, 2017, amendments to the fine regime and the sentencing provisions of WAPPRITA came into force to help ensure that court-imposed fines reflect the seriousness of environmental offences. The amendments do not introduce any new legal obligations, create new prohibitions, or impose new administrative or compliance costs.

The new fine regime will be applied by courts following a conviction for an offence under WAPPRITA.

• In the case of individuals:

- **summary conviction** may result in fines of up to \$25,000; in the case of designated serious offences, conviction will result in fines between \$5,000 and \$300,000, and may result in imprisonment for a term of up to six months, or both.
- **Conviction on indictment** may result in fines of up to \$100,000; in the case of designated serious offences, conviction will result in fines between \$15,000 and \$1,000,000, and may result in imprisonment for a term of up to five years, or both.

• In the case of small revenue corporations (gross revenue not more than \$5,000,000 in the 12 months preceding the offence):

- **summary conviction** may result in fines of up to \$50,000; in the case of designated serious offences, conviction will result in fines between \$25,000 and \$2,000,000.
- **Conviction on indictment** may result in fines of up to \$250,000; in the case of designated serious offences, conviction will result in fines between \$75,000 and \$4,000,000



• **In the case of other entities** (e.g. corporations):

- **summary conviction** may result in fines of up to \$250,000; in the case of designated serious offences, conviction will result in fines between \$100,000 and \$4,000,000.
- **Conviction on indictment** may result in fines of up to \$500,000; in the case of designated serious offences, conviction will result in fines between \$500,000 and \$6,000,000.

All maximum fine amounts and ranges are doubled for second and subsequent offences. Also of note, under WAPPRIITA, the fine for an offence involving more than one specimen may be calculated as though each one had been the subject of a separate charge.

The choice of enforcement measure, which may also include tickets under the *Contraventions Act* or administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) under the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* and the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Act*, will be determined by the enforcement officer according to the principles in ECCC's Compliance and Enforcement Policies.

**WHAT ARE ADMINISTRATIVE MONETARY PENALTIES?
HOW MUCH CAN I BE FINED?**

AMPs are penalties designed to create a financial disincentive to non-compliance; AMPs cannot lead to imprisonment. Enforcement officers can issue notices of violation setting out an AMP directly to regulatees when they are found to be in non-compliance with designated violations of WAPPRIITA or WAPTR. The amount of an AMP is calculated based on the type of violator (e.g. individual, corporation, ship or vessel), the seriousness of the violation and the presence of any aggravating factors (history of non-compliance, environmental harm and economic gain). At present, in the case of violations to WAPPRIITA or WAPTR, the amount of a single AMP cannot exceed \$2,600 in the case of an individual, or \$13,000 in the case of a business, ship or vessel. However, it should be noted that, for each day on which the violation is committed or continues, a separate violation is deemed to have occurred.

For more information on AMPs and the new fine regime, please visit <http://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=2AAFD90B-1>.

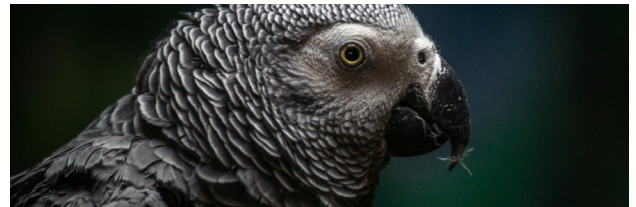
WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

You can help protect African grey parrots by ensuring that your transactions do not contribute to the illegal removal from the wild and the trafficking of this species. **If you want to buy an African grey parrot as a pet**, it is recommended to purchase a parrot that was bred in Canada, or if buying a parrot that was imported into Canada from another country, to confirm that it was imported legally into Canada. Purchases of African grey parrots from outside of Canada may not be possible as the transaction must be authorized by both foreign and Canadian authorities before the export to Canada can take place. **If you want to export or import an African grey parrot** (including travelling with a pet), you must first obtain the necessary CITES permits and present them to the Canada Border Services Agency upon entry to and exit from Canada.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

You can contact Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) CITES Management Authority by:

- **email at ec.cites.ec@canada.ca ; or**
- **phone at 1-855-869-8670**



You can also find additional information about CITES and its implementation in Canada on ECCC's website: <http://ec.gc.ca/cites/default.asp?lang=En&n=1BC82E16-1>

Cat. No.: CW66-561/2017E-PDF
ISBN: 978-0-660-09034-4

For information regarding reproduction rights, please contact Environment and Climate Change Canada's Public Inquiries Centre at 1-800-668-6767 (in Canada only) or 819-997-2800 or email to ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca.

Photos: © Environment and Climate Change Canada

© Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, represented by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, 2017

Aussi disponible en français



Environment and
Climate Change Canada

Environnement et
Changement climatique Canada

Canada

