

The Illegal Parrot Trade in Mexico: A Comprehensive Assessment



Determining if Your Parrot Is Legal Before You Buy

Defenders of Wildlife urges U.S. consumers not to purchase parrots that lack proper documentation so as not to inadvertently support the illegal parrot trade. Be sure to obtain documentation on the parrot before making a purchase. This will tell you if it was imported or captive bred here in the U.S. Legal documentation of imported parrots includes two forms—a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) declaration form and a CITES permit that prove the bird has legally been brought into the United States. The FWS declaration form will include the scientific and common name of the parrot, the date of import, the port of import, the parrot's permit number, country of origin, breeder, value and, most importantly, clearance from FWS. In addition to this important documentation, consumers should check the parrot for closed bands around its legs. Without a leg band to identify the bird, an export permit could be used to smuggle illegally captured parrots. Pet stores may or may not have this information on hand, so take the time to research breeders and suppliers before purchasing a parrot.

There are no blanket forms or documentation for parrots that U.S. breeders are required to use, but if a breeder claims that a parrot has been bred in the United States there are a few things you should request. Reputable breeders will keep records of their parrot stock, successful breedings, specific information on the clutches of eggs and dates of birth for their birds. Again, consumers should check the parrot for closed bands around its legs. These are rings that can only be put on the bird when it is a chick and that have the information of the breeding facility.



Military Macaw
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