



Mobile Bird of Prey Displays – What You Need to Know

Birds of prey have never been more popular as an added attraction to venues and maybe you have thought of bringing in a mobile bird of prey team to entertain your visitors or been approached by one of these organisations? Sadly, birds of prey have never been easier to obtain by anyone meaning the standards of a large proportion of organisations who carry out visits have seen a big increase. Raptor Aid are very concerned about what we have seen in various locations around the UK over recent years so we have developed this advice sheet to help you decide whether it is the right thing for your venue. Although these are only advisory, we would hope that as a professional venue you seriously think about the need to host a mobile bird of prey display team. Raptor Aid will be pushing very hard in the future for amendments to current legislation but in the mean time we rely on venues like yours working with us.

What the Mobile Display Must Have in Place

- Public Liability & Employers Liability Insurance with relevant risk assessments
- Animal Activities Licence - Obtained from the Local Authority
- Animal Transport Licence – Obtained from Animal Health
- Only captive birds can be used some will require Article 10's for public display
- Stand-off barrier and fresh water for each bird must be provided

Note: Whilst there is very little specific legislation covering bird of prey mobile displays, they are covered by the Animal Welfare Act and NEW Animal Activities Licence 2018 which is a very powerful piece of legislation

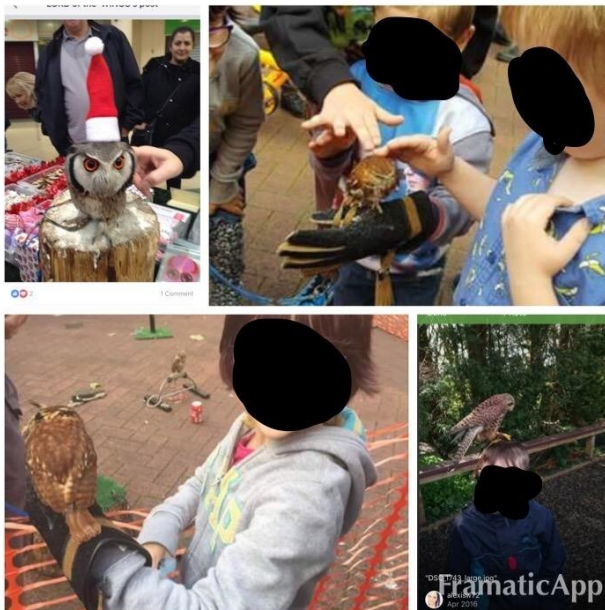
5 Points to Consider About Your Venue

1. Is it suitable to host animals? – If you're a shopping mall/centre, town centre, super market, or any other large urban attraction then we would advise against hosting a team of birds of prey.
2. Large visitor numbers – This might seem counterintuitive because the aim of hosting the birds of prey is to increase visitors. If it is to entertain your customers or for the organisation with the birds to use your venue as a shop window, then please think again about allowing this. Although captive birds are often conditioned to different scenarios the use of animals for public entertainment has never been under more scrutiny.



3. Handling and photography – Many organisations offer this as a way of making money from people visiting. Considering point 2 and the chance the venue has a large volume of visitors handling the birds is not advised, the welfare of the birds should be paramount and reputable organisation would not even consider passing their birds around potentially 40 + people in a day. Handling also encourages the stroking of the birds which has inherent risks both for the birds and the public.
4. Donations – We have put this separate because a lot of organisations visiting venues use the front of being a rescue or sanctuary. It often amazes us how these organisations are not registered as a charity or a Not for profit organisation so the cash they take is difficult to trace. Again, the best rescue centres we know never use captive birds to get money for their hard work. Please check where the donations are going – do they go towards birds of prey?
5. Education & conservation – It might seem like another plausible reason to show the wider public birds of prey up close but when you scratch the surface you will find that very little if any conservation work is carried out by organisations looking to use your venue. Raptor Aid recommends that the above venues really don't offer the right environment to learn about birds of prey.

Pictures Speak a Thousand Words...



Multiple handling and stroking of birds, props being placed on birds and birds being placed on children's heads show poor welfare standards



RAPTOR Aid

RAISING AWARENESS OF BIRDS OF PREY AROUND THE WORLD

Coxwood Farm, Parkside, Cox Lane, Rossett, Wrexham, Clywd, LL12 0BG



Birds in poor feather condition should not be used and poor handling from staff and volunteers cuddling owls or sitting them on their shoulders is bad practice.



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