

**Submission  
No 192**

**INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY IN NEW  
SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mrs Michelle Conley

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Hi my name is Michelle Conley. I would like to see a new law or legislation to be brought in. It is to do with buying birds at pet shops or breeders. It has happened to me 4 times that I thought the bird looked healthy from the outside but wasn't on the inside. Its more common in birds that are kept in a crowded environment or stressed. Wild birds can also get it. It is very contagious to other birds. *Macrorhabdus Ornithogaster* is a deadly fungal yeast organism which subsides in the stomach, causes lesions to swell and hemorrhage if not caught in time. It is also called a wasting away disease, meaning they end up not eating. This chronic disease is mainly common in Budgerigars, Canaries, Finches, Chickens, Lovebirds and Cockatiels. Luckily when I bought my birds I took them straight to the vet and that's when they were diagnosed and then they were treated in time. Antibiotics wont work if the birds disease is advanced. If left untreated a birds life span is shortened to just months.

I was at the pet shop and I saw a sick budgie sharing a cage with all the other birds. I called the attendant. The bird was given antibiotics with all the other birds, but the sad part was that they were all for sale even though all of them had the disease. If one budgie was to be sold and the purchaser not told about the bird being sick, the poor bird would eventually die, if not continuing on the antibiotics for 2 weeks and seeing an Avian vet to see if the fungal disease had disappeared. It is my recommendation that a legislation or a law should be brought in making it compulsory that any breeder selling birds to a pet shop or private should have an Avian check certificate that all birds are healthy. As this happened to me there was no notification that the bird was sick. I notified the people that had sold the other birds to me. I know the business has to make money and clear their stock quickly. But it is bad practice to sell sick birds. I think customers would rather pay a bit extra knowing they are getting a healthy animal, vet certified.

In conclusion this disease in these birds is a common disease and I think the new law or legislation would help control this.