

Borgstein Birds & Zoofood Trading (The Netherlands)

Borgstein Birds & Zoofood Trading has been active in the bird industry for over 20 years. Until the import stop in 2005, the company specialised in the import and export of fruit-eating and insectivorous birds and the foods for these birds, including TOVO Low-Iron Universal Feed.

After the import stop, Borgstein Birds & Zoofood Trading changed its business operations following a re-orientation. The company started focusing on the import and export of small mammals, the export of birds bred in captivity, the sale of bird and pet foods, the breeding of birds and the construction of aviaries. In order to facilitate these activities, it has a European-approved quarantine station and also obtained a trader certification for live animals.

Import and export

The import of small mammals primarily involves squirrels from Indonesia, China and Peru. Customers buying these animals include national and foreign wholesalers, but also private hobbyists.

For the most part, the export of bred birds involves canaries, finches and parakeets. In addition, waterfowl, pheasants, ibises, rabbits, hamsters, mice and other animals are exported. Borgstein exports to Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Feeds

In addition to the import and export of small mammals, Borgstein is also active in the sale of TOVO Low-Iron Universal Feed, bird and pet foods from Kasper Faunafood, vitamin and mineral supplements from Hope Farms and special bird products from Avian Birdfood Products. In addition, Borgstein is also active in the development,

improvement, sale and export of various other foods. These are foods for exotic animals such as antelopes, common cranes, flamingoes and hokkos. Borgstein Birds & Zoofood Trading is a recognised trader in pet foods. The basis for this success lies in a line of top products and high-quality product support.

Bird breeding

In breeding its birds, the company focuses primarily on red ibises, African spoonbills, pigeons, ducks and fruit-eating and insectivorous birds. This last group involves minas, tri-colour glossy starlings, lesser blue-eared glossy starlings, wattled starlings, great kiskadees, rusty blackbirds, yellow-headed blackbirds, thrushes, black-smith plovers, etc.

The range of bred birds is always quickly available for sale. The birds have a large (2500 cubic metres) free-flight aviary at their disposal with a pond and flowing water. Three different sections are also used which include ponds, two of which have large natural ponds.

Aviary construction

The most recent activity is the construction of customised aviaries. The company makes aviaries and cages to order for all sorts of birds, but it also develops pens for other small animals such as rodents and cats. Borgstein's customer base is extremely varied and consists of hobbyists, green schools, government institutions, zoos, kennels and animal rescue shelters. Bird cages and aviaries will have to satisfy new regulations in the coming years due to animal wellness requirements in which functionality aspects will prevail above aesthetics. Cages are often too small and not functional. This is certainly a frequently seen problem with large bird species such as macaws, cockatoos and parrots, accompanied by all of the problems one would expect.

Future vision

In spite of the obstacles the company was facing as a result of the import stop, after a re-orientation, it has successfully turned its business around. In the future, the industry will see an increase in the number of certified bird and pet traders. The trade will have to become more transparent and guarantee animal welfare even more. This development will lead to completely different types of facilities for birds and other pets. Due to the economic recession, the industry will, in all likelihood, have many tough years ahead of it. However, by focusing more on quality and good education, Borgstein is able to view the future with confidence.

For further information:
www.borgstein-birdstrading.nl

