

Checklist for Falconry Mews

- _____ 1. The mews may be a separate building or a room within a building.
- _____ 2. Interior of mews is severely plain with no beams or ledges to tempt the hawk to fly to a higher perch. Sharp objects and materials with jagged edges should be avoided when constructing the inside of the mews.
- _____ 3. Windows should be protected on the inside to prevent injury, whether or not birds are kept tethered in the mews. Vertical bars using doweling or other material spaced smaller than the bird's width are recommended.
- _____ 4. No loose wires, screen, or other such materials should be used inside of windows; any such materials should be outside to assure the housed bird does not become entangled.
- _____ 5. Mews doors should be secured (by lock, if necessary) and should have some sort of hook or spring so that the falconer can keep the door safely closed while inside.
- _____ 6. Doors of any mews that open directly out-of-doors should be closed by an additional protective covering, inside or out, to prevent escape of a bird that is free in the mews as the door is opened. Such protective covering can be achieved by a second door or by hanging a cloth or plastic sheet. If placed at an angle inside the mews it provides the falconer a small enclosed alcove to close the outer door before entering the mews.
- _____ 7. The floor of the mews should be easy to clean (e.g., pea gravel or replaceable material such as paper).
- _____ 8. The preferred material for low elevation mews construction is wood as it has a low conduction for heat needed to defend against hot summer days.
- _____ 9. Mews dimensions for Harris' hawks and red-tails should be at least 6 ft wide by 6 ft long by 6 ft tall inside (8 ft x 8 ft x 6 ft is preferred). Kestrels may have 4 ft x 4 ft x 4ft.
- _____ 10. For any questions or for more detailed mews specifications, illustrations or literature please contact your regional coordinator and visit online falconry resources.