



*QUOD TOTUM PROCEDIT EX AMORE*

### **The Position, on Hybrid Raptors in Falconry, of the International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey**

The International Association for Falconry and Conservation of Birds of Prey (IAF) has examined in depth the practical and theoretical considerations that arise from the production of hybrid raptors. After a review of the available data and taking expert advice, we consider it unlikely that a problem for wildlife conservation will arise from the breeding of hybrid raptors if their loss to the wild is rare. We recommend, as a minimum, that:

1. hybrids be fostered if possible by a parent that does not occur locally in the wild;
2. hybrids only be hatched in large conditioning pens;
3. hybrids only be flown with reliable telemetry equipment;
4. maximum efforts be made to recover any hybrid that is lost;
5. hybrids should never be deliberately released.

We ask IAF member clubs to bring these considerations to the attention of falconers world-wide. We accept that individual clubs may feel obliged to endorse stricter measures. However, we strongly believe that self-regulation is preferable to regulatory supervision. In that spirit, we appreciate a growing tendency of falconers in some countries to fly pure-bred falcons rather than hybrids. We are keeping this issue under review and will remain actively involved in the political consultation processes at all levels of regulation.

**Adopted by the delegates of the member states at Amarillo, Texas, on 21 November 2000.**