

**FLORIDA PARROT
RESCUE**

**SPECIAL POINTS
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VOLUME 1 ISSUE 2 NEWSLETTER 2ND QUARTER 2011

Beaks and Feathers

This Quarters Adoptions

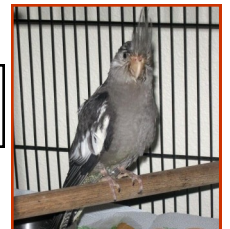
Florida Parrot Rescue has already begun this year with a huge number of adoptions, 100 as of June 30th! With close to 130 birds in rescue at this time, we need to keep up this momentum and continue to spread the word to our families, friends, co-workers and anyone else you can think of. Keep in mind we always need new fosters as well, We have approximately 14 birds on the waiting list needing to come into rescue at the moment. Remember that our foster/adoption application is available on our website (www.floridaparrotrescue.com) and can be e-mailed after completion to flparrotrescue@aol.com. We begin processing applications as soon as we receive them electronically. Requirements for adoption or foster are as follows: all dogs and cats owned must be up to date on vaccinations and dogs on heartworm prevention, all birds owned must have been seen by a vet within the past year with certain testing in place (not just wing and nail trims). If the vet reference passes, there will be a home interview by an FPR member. Please e-mail if you have any questions!

The following birds were adopted in April, May and June of 2011: Boo Boo (Eclectus); Boomer (Cherry Head Conure); Bubbie (Quaker Parrot); Calypso (African Grey); Checkers (African Grey); Clancy (Sulfur Crested Cockatoo); Clyde (Quaker Parrot); Clyde

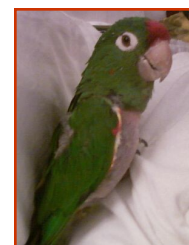
(Mexican Red Head Amazon); Congo (African Grey); Cuddles (Sulfur Crested Cockatoo); Gorgeous (B&G Macaw); Ivy (Cockatiel); Jasper (Sun Conure); Jessie (Nanday Conure); Kiche (Lovebird); Lalia (Cockatiel); Merlin (Greenwing Macaw); Moose (Patagonian Conure); Nickie (Senegal); Oljee (Lovebird); Ollie (Cockatiel); Patches (Sun Conure); Paulette (Blue Crown Conure); Precious (Quaker Parrot); Puahina (African Grey); Rasta (Umbrella Cockatoo); Rozzini (Blue Crown Conure); Rusty (aka Rosey, Rosey Bourke Parakeet); Sam (Blue & Gold Macaw); Scarlett (Scarlet Macaw); Skywalker (African Grey); Squeekers (Indian Ringneck); Snowball (Goffin Cockatoo); Sumo (aka Sky King, Cockatiel); Sunny (Sun Conure); Tequila (Sun Conure); Tuwa (Lovebird); Waggie (Quaker).



Bubbie Quaker



Ivy Cockatiel



Boomer Cherry Head Conure



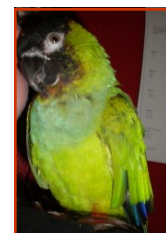
Clancy Sulfur Crested Cockatoo



Scarlett Scarlet Macaw

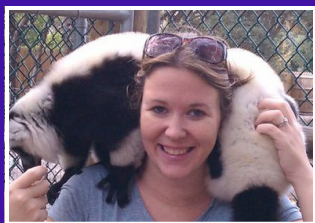


Patches Sun Conure



Jessie Nanday Conure

Letter From The Director



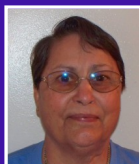
Jennifer Underwood James—co-founder, Director and President of Florida Parrot Rescue, INC.



Sherrie Mullineaux



Renee Tomas



Ann Tomas



Brenda Dunn



Lorry Burgr



Chris Burgr

Dear friends and supporters, I can't believe it's newsletter time already!! I hope you are all having a wonderful summer. We would love to see some summer pictures of you and your feathered friends! We may even feature you in the next newsletter. E-mail your pictures to me at flparrotrescue@aol.com.

This issue I want to address the growing number of birds entering rescues. The number of intakes we receive each year rises significantly from the previous year. In fact, starting in 2010, most of the time we have a waiting list of birds that need to come into foster care. This is why having fosters and volunteers is so

very important. If we don't have space to take birds in, the owners find other solutions. Many times people turn to kill shelters, breeders, and sometimes they even turn the birds out into the wild. These are things that we try to avoid by having a large group of fosters and volunteers.

I honestly believe from the numbers that we continue to see that eventually there will be as many birds in rescues as there are dogs and cats. When we first started out, we were getting calls for intakes every few weeks. Now, we get them on a daily basis! This can be attributed to several things. There are a lot of foreclosures, and people who are forced to give up their birds, there are those birds where owners have

passed on, and those that call us to surrender for behavioral reasons. There are even several rescues across the state that have closed sending more people our way. The only intake we really have control over is behavioral. Everything else, almost always is surrendered.

We are proud to be able to help save the large amounts of birds that have come in to the rescue. We can only hope to grow and continue to save as many as we can in the future. If you know anyone that is not receiving this newsletter, feel free to forward it to your friends. We need all the help we can get!

Yours, Jennifer U, James

Volunteers of the Month

APRIL

Our April Co-Volunteers of the month are Sherrie Mullineaux and Renee and Ann Tomas. These gals not only foster emergencies at a moments notice, but also participate in many area events, including planning and working the Talking Animals Festival at Lowry Park Zoo In April and participating in the Fashion, Feathers and Fur Fundraiser that same month. Thank you ladies, you are all awesome! We couldn't do it without you!

MAY

Our volunteer of the month for May is Brenda Dunn, the Central East Florida Foster Coordinator for FPR! Despite having suffered a heart attack, Brenda lay in her hospital bed still directing her coordinator area! Despite our attempts to get her to rest, she went straight from the hospital and back to work for the birds as soon as she returned home, answering e-mails and making sure all the birds were accounted for! She is truly one dedicated lady and so compassionate about the birds! You are AWESOME Brenda and we love you!

JUNE

Our co-volunteers of the month for June are Lorry & Chris Burgr! This dedicated couple not only foster for the rescue, but they always make themselves available for emergencies and transports, day or night, for any bird in need! They also love to educate the public about avian husbandry and care and have performed education events in the community to help raise money for FPR and awareness to the plight of abandoned and abused companion parrots. Way to go Lorry & Chris!

Reprint Article of the Quarter

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Wow. That Bird Sure can Scream!

By Barbara Heidenreich
www.GoodBirdInc.com

“Screaming. Somebody reinforced the heck out of that behavior.” I said to myself. Misty, a double yellow headed Amazon parrot, lived with me for only a few weeks. She was there so that I could put some of her vocal behaviors on cue. However it quickly became apparent she had a few other behaviors that needed to be addressed first. Before her stay with me she resided with Jill Bell for six years. Prior to that time her history is pretty fuzzy. She is estimated to be 19 years old. This meant screaming could have been reinforced for at least 13 years. It must have been, because it was STRONG. Misty was relentless. I'd leave the room; she'd scream and scream and scream.

She had been a good reminder of what companion parrot owners experience when faced with a very annoying and challenging problem. It can be very frustrating. Oddly enough, when I walk into someone else's home and hear screaming birds I am usually not effected. But when a bird is screaming specifically, in what feels like a demanding way, to get my attention, it strikes a nerve. How does one find the patience to be a good trainer in those situations? It is not easy, but definitely necessary.

My mantra with Misty was “I am solving the problem. Getting angry or letting that knot in my gut sway my strategy will not give me the desired results. I am confident what I am doing will work. It has worked before with other birds I have trained. Hang in there!”

And it is true, my blue fronted Amazon parrot Tarah also learned to scream for attention. Completely through my own ignorance I reinforced screaming. I acquired Tarah, as many people do, when he was offered to me for free. At the time I was working in a veterinary hospital. One of my co-workers also worked part time in a pet store. Someone had walked in off of the street and sold her the bird for \$100. Was the bird stolen, smuggled or desperately unwanted? I don't know. My co-worker found she was overwhelmed with too many animals in her home and asked if I would be interested in watching the bird for awhile. (That “while” has turned in 18 years.)

Once in my apartment I was thrilled when Tarah offered a “hello” at the sight of me snacking on a piece of bread. However the enchantment wore off as Tarah began to scream anytime I was out of sight. Unaware of how to stop this undesired behavior, I did as many do, I ran back into the room each time Tarah screamed and told him to “Be quiet.” Did it work to stop the screaming? No, and at the same time I found I very much disliked my attempts at punishing reactions to the undesired behavior. I so enjoy having animals respond positively to my presence and did not want to become an unpleasant experience in my bird's life in order to stop the screaming behavior.

While in the middle of dealing with this problem, I was introduced to the book “Don't Shoot the Dog” by Karen Pryor. (Also known as the bible of animal trainers) As I read the book, I latched onto two important principles that could help me address the screaming problem. Extinction and differential reinforcement. Extinction is described as the process of discontinuing reinforcing a behavior that has been previously reinforced. In other words part of my strategy should include discontinuing offering reinforcers for screaming. This meant I should no longer run back into the room, or yell at Tarah. The book did not describe the exact situation I was experiencing with my bird. Rather it described the principles and how to apply them to a variety of examples, human and animal. In reading the words, I made the connection that the concepts could apply to any behavior I no longer wanted to continue. Paired with the principle of extinction was the strategy of differential reinforcement of an alternate behavior. In other words, if screaming would no longer work to get a response from me, what would? For Tarah this turned out to be a whistle. In the middle of a session of screaming and me doing my best to ignore this undesired behavior, Tarah offered a “whistle”. I immediately reinforced this by responding with the word “good”. Tarah replied with a scream. This was because at this point he only had one repetition of whistling being positively reinforced and an entire year of screaming being reinforced. However I remained consistent with my strategies and within two weeks time Tarah learned to whistle instead of scream when he wanted a response from me. 17 years later Tarah whistles when he wants to know where I am, when he desires a toy or treat, when I come home, and when he simply seems to be “happy”. The undesired screaming behavior was extinguished and replaced with a whistling sound.

Misty seemed to throw a kink in our now peaceful, well behaved and relatively quiet household. I “knew” from my past experience that I could repeat the process I had implemented with Tarah. However this time proved to be a bit more challenging. Because I was working out of the home at the time, it meant no breaks from dealing with the behavior problem. Every time I left the room I was challenged with having to be focused on training this bird. I was finding this to be very demanding. In addition there were times in the day when mentally I was just not prepared to train. Rather than feeling inspired to train and ready to resolve the behavior problem, I found myself dreading having to leave a room and work with Misty. I decided I needed to better set myself up for success. In getting to know Misty, who other than the screaming behavior, I found to be a delight, I learned that in the past she was accustomed to being covered at night. I took advantage of this and decided to leave Misty covered during the time in the morning I needed to shower and prepare breakfast and bird diets in the kitchen. This allowed me time to peacefully attend to necessary tasks in the morning. After this, I found I was less stressed and more prepared to begin a training session with Misty.

Throughout the day I would treat each time I left the room for whatever reason as a learning opportunity for Misty. I practiced my strategy of extinguishing screaming by not responding to it, followed by reinforcing a desired behavior. In Misty's case the desired behavior was not a specific sound. Instead I chose to reinforce silence. My plan was to reinforce small increments of time of silence and gradually increase the duration Misty was silent before I would reinforce her with my presence or attention. If I was in the kitchen I would wait just outside of her view while she screamed. At first if she offered a pause in screaming that seemed the slightest second longer than what she had presented in between screams in the past, I would quickly appear and offer generous amounts of attention. I wanted quiet to receive a greater amount of positive reinforcement than screaming if I could. Overtime I gradually increased the amount of time she remained quiet before I would respond. And it worked!

However this was not without challenges. There were times throughout the day when a training session was not convenient for me when I needed to leave the room. Rather than cover Misty I opted for engaging her in other acceptable activity. For example, I often offered Misty a small cardboard box, a rolled up ball of newspaper, a new toy, or a portion of her diet just prior to leaving the room. This gave Misty another activity to focus on instead of screaming. But it also was not an opportunity for Misty to learn that screaming would not gain my attention and quiet would. It was still important to include training sessions throughout the day. The other activity was meant only to offer a break from training for me. This may have also lengthened the amount of time it took overall to teach Misty that screaming no longer would work.

Another challenge in training Misty was that Tarah was in the same room as Misty. Tarah would whistle at times when I left the room. While I wanted to respond to his whistle, I did not want to also then accidentally reinforce Misty's screaming. My strategy had to be to only reinforce Tarah's whistle if Misty was not screaming. If I was focused on the training session, I also found I could position myself so that Tarah could see me, but Misty could not. This allowed me to reinforce Tarah's "good" behavior and wait for Misty to offer silence before responding to her.

Misty's screaming also appeared to stimulate an occasional screaming behavior in Tarah as well. Fortunately because he had a strong reinforcement history for a whistle, I simply waited for him to offer a whistle before I would respond. Tarah quickly returned to offering a whistle and once again extinguished screaming.

Misty also would on occasion scream for my attention while I was in the room. When this occurred, I simply left the room. Again my thought process was to teach her that screaming now created the opposite response. Instead of people coming to her, people go away. It was also important to reinforce her with attention at times for being quiet while I was in the room as well.

Overall training Misty to present silence to gain my attention took about 6 weeks to train. Obviously this was longer than it took to change Tarah's behavior. This could have been a result of the strength of the behavior in each bird based on their individual positive reinforcement histories. It could have also been a result of the fewer training sessions applied to Misty during the given amount of time. It could also be a factor of the birds as individual learners. In any case the end result was a bird that successfully learned to present desired behavior for attention as opposed to the undesired behavior of screaming.

I went through the emotional gamut that many companion parrot owners face when addressing screaming problems. However by focusing on good training strategy and allowing myself opportunities to relieve myself of the stress associated with addressing the problem I was able to attain my desired training goal. Screaming for attention is a behavior problem with a solution. Set yourself up for success and invest the time to train the desired behavior. The end result can be a lifetime of good behavior.

Tips to address screaming for attention

- Extinguish screaming.
- Reinforce any other behavior besides screaming.
- Remember the extinction burst is a good sign! The end might be insight. Change your feeling from frustrated to hopeful when your bird really goes for it.
- If you need to leave the room, but can't focus on training, offer another positively reinforcing activity prior to leaving the room. This may buy you a short window of time to move freely between rooms without screaming behavior. However you will still need to include training sessions at some point.
- Get some earplugs to help you cope with the screaming during the extinction burst.
- Plan to wait in the other room. Prepare in advance a quiet activity you can do when trying to deal with a screaming session.
- Leave the room immediately when your bird screams for your attention.
- Manage your activities to help set yourself up for success. For example keep the lights off or your bird covered for a few extra minutes in the morning until you are prepared to deal with the screaming with good training strategies.
- Get support. If neighbors are having a problem with your screaming parrot, explain to your neighbors that you are working on training your bird not to scream.
- Count seconds in intervals of silence and increase if possible.
- Focus on fixing the problem instead of your frustration.
- Believe you will get there. This strategy does work.
- Keep notes if necessary to determine how and when this behavior maybe getting reinforced. Eliminate any reinforcers for screaming.
- Offer even more reinforcers for the desired behavior than the undesired behavior would normally receive in the past.

Barbara has been a professional in the field of animal training since 1990. She owns and operates a company, Good Bird, Inc. (www.GoodBirdInc.com) that provides behavior and training products to the companion parrot community. These products include Good Bird Magazine, books, videos, and training/behavior workshops. Barbara has provided behavior workshops and/or animal training presentations at the Association of Avian Veterinarians conference, The American Federation of Aviculture conference, The International Parrot Conference at Lara Parque, Parrot Festival, The International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators conference, American Association of Zoo Keepers conference, Association of Zoos and Aquariums conference, The Parrot Society of Australia conference and many more. She is a past president of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (www.IAAATE.org) and served on the Board of Directors from 1997-2009. Her expertise has been utilized by the US Dept. of Agriculture, Fish and Wildlife Service and numerous international professional organizations.

She is the author of "Good Bird! A Guide to Solving Behavior Problems in Companion Parrots" by Avian Publications and also "The Parrot Problem Solver: Finding Solutions to Aggressive Behavior" by TFH Publications. She is also the producer of the Good Bird Parrot Behavior and Training DVD series.

Barbara's experience also includes consulting on animal training in zoos and other animal related facilities. She has been a part of the development and production of more than 15 different free flight education programs. Barbara continues to provide consulting services to zoos, nature centers and other animal facilities through her other company Animal Training and Consulting Services. In her career she has trained animals, trained staff, and/or presented shows at facilities around the world.

The Vet Chirps In!

Dr. Readdy is a veterinarian at Country Chase Animal Clinic in Tampa where she treats all of the birds that come into FPR in the Tampa Bay area.



Dear Fosters,

Let's talk this time about the initial encounter with a new bird & how you as a FPR volunteer can help. Please protect the birds you have in your own homes by caring for them first each morning then caring for any new bird that should be kept in a separate room at least through the first veterinary visit. Quarantine requires separate air handling systems on each room or 30 feet minimum distance apart outside - this is a luxury I am sure most of you don't have so please use care in the order you do things to protect all the animals in your homes.

When you go to pick up these birds PLEASE insist that they be given up with their cage(s), toys & regular diet that they have been receiving. Even though the cage may be disgusting - take it anyway - we do not want it to be easy for individuals who surrender birds to turn around & get a new bird because they already have everything they need. They as pet owners may be unaware that what they doing is not how you properly care for a bird - they should need to start over!

A short note explaining some of the birds' favorite foods, toys, behaviors & sayings is always encouraged & appreciated and you may have to write down what the owner says. Any problem behaviors should be openly discussed (please don't be too judgmental ...the owner is giving the bird to FPR to try to help it). This allows us to really appreciate if the birds have been kept in poor conditions that expose them for other illnesses as well as helping for better placement for the future. Please bring that background info with you on the first veterinary visit so that pertinent history can be placed in the medical record for future use.

If possible the bird should be kept in its own cage in the new home as long as it does not endanger the bird. So many birds are fearful of change and we have to allow them to have some adjustment time. Definitely clean the cage but pay attention to the color, shape & texture of food & water bowls - try to keep that the same if possible also.

Even if the bird has been on a crummy diet do not change it initially - you can add new foods but allow the bird to get comfortable in the new home first. This also allows you, as the foster to evaluate how much the bird eats & defecates in a day - this is critical info to help convert the birds' diet later on.

If you haven't been taught by your veterinarian how to evaluate the general health of each bird by the amount of musculature on the keel please ask to be shown this simple way to check your birds health (or buy a gram scale & weigh the bird every other morning or so). Also know that each bird's wing trim is matched to each individual bird at its physical exam. We will be happy to show you what you can do safely at home but please no more than 4 feathers off each tip - we are seeing some birds coming in with dangerous trims and would rather have you wait for us to show you what you can do at home or wait for the exam appointment & we will do it for you.

Please know that these birds did not get in the condition they are in overnight & it will take time for them to reach acceptable health. BE PATIENT! Thanks for all the work all of you do all so well!

Terri Readdy, D.V.M.

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Petco Partner Adoption Event on Sunday 7/2 from 10-4. 13127 North Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa.

Everything Birds at Oldsmar Flea Market, Sunday 7/17 from 10-4, receive free wing & nail trims for your birds for a donation to FPR all weekend long..

Bird Show, Sunday 8/7 in Largo from 9-4, Minnreg Bldg at 6340 126th Ave. N. Adison \$4, children free.

Parrot Body Language Workshop 8/11 Thursday from 12-5. \$20 fee without bird, \$25 fee with bird (3 spaces available). Located at the Humane Society

of Tampa Bay at 3607 N. Armenia Ave in Tampa. By Caitlin Nagy.

Bird Show, Sunday 8/14 in Orlando at the Central Florida Fairgrounds from 9-4. Admission \$4, children free.

Everything Birds at the Oldsmar Flea Market, Sunday 8/21 from 10-4, receive free wing & nail trims for your birds for a donation to FPR all weekend long.

Bird show on Sunday 09/11 in Sarasota from 9-4 at the Shiners Convention Hall on Beneva Rd. Admission \$4, children free.

Everything Birds at the Oldsmar Flea Market, Sunday 9/18 from 10-4, receive free wing & nail trims for your birds for a donation to FPR all weekend long.

Petco Partner Adoption Event on Sunday 9/17 from 10-4. 13127 North Dale Mabry Highway in Tampa.

A special thank you to Lynda, the owner of Everything Birds at the Oldsmar Flea Market, for allowing us to participate in the stores 10th Anniversary celebration in May 2011, which raised over \$150 for the rescue! Thank you Lynda and the staff at Everything Birds!

A big THANK YOU to Nicole & Jake Bennett for donating several items for the bird show raffles as well as to Nanette Szumski for giving FPR free tables at those events & encouraging vendors to donate to the raffles! We still need items for the upcoming bird shows for raffle, so please let us know if you can help! Also a special thank you to Caitlin Nagy who is volunteering her time to speak with kids about parrots at the Humane Society in Tampa every Wednesday during their summer critter camp!

THE MEANING OF RESCUE



The Meaning of Rescue! (Unknown Author) Pictured : Baby Girl, a Blue & Gold Macaw adopted from FPR.

Now that I'm home, bathed, settled and fed, all nicely tucked in my warm new bed, I'd like to open my baggage, lest I forgot, there is so much to carry, so much to regret, mmmm yes, there it is, right on top. Let's unpack loneliness, heartache, and loss, and there by the perch hides my fear and shame, as I look on... these things I tried so hard to leave. I still have to unpack my baggage called pain. I loved them, the others, the ones who left me, but I wasn't good enough - for they didn't want me. Will you add to my baggage?

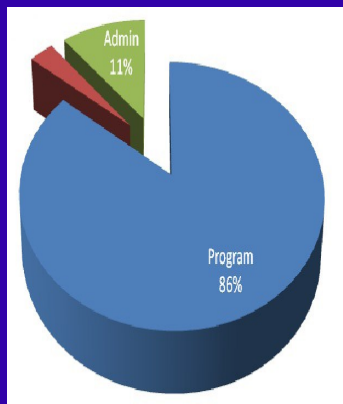
Will you help me unpack? Or will you just look at the things and take me right back? Do you have the time to help me unpack? To put away my baggage, to never repack? I pray that you do - I'm so tired you see, but I do come with baggage. Will you still want me?

Unknown author

Florida Parrot Rescue receives birds for a variety of reasons, some come from loving homes where the owner may

have no choice but to give up their bird, but we definitely get our share of unwanted, neglected and abused birds. This is just a reminder to try and see the situation from the view of the bird and that birds behave the way they do for a reason, usually because of something a human has done, so remember to be patient with your new adoptive baby, and she will come around once she realizes how patient and loving you are!

“FPR spent nearly \$20,000 last year running the rescue with 86% of those funds going directly to vet bills”



2010:
Intakes: 261
Adoptions: 173

THE HIGH COST OF RUNNING A RESCUE

Florida Parrot Rescue has only been around for a short period of time when you consider how long a parrot can actually live, but we have more goals than you may realize and it takes more work than some may understand.

Running a non-profit 501C3 rescue can be expensive, even for a rescue run solely by volunteers, including all officers, such as FPR.

FPR spent nearly \$20,000 last year running the rescue with 86%, more than \$17,000, of those funds going directly to vet bills. Every bird that comes into the rescue is vetted before being placed up for adoption. The rest of the funds were used for administrative expenses (phone bills, web costs) and public relations (community events). Over the past quarter in particular, FPR has had several birds who have needed

expensive surgeries and treatments, including Belle O'Hara the Scarlet Macaw, Jacob the Umbrella Cockatoo, Taco the Scarlet Macaw, Memo the Sun Conure, Sydney the Hahns Macaw, and Tweety the cockatiel, who unfortunately passed within 24 hours of coming into rescue.

We are currently in desperate need of additional funds as a result. If you can help, please donate by sending items for raffles, food and toys to help our fosters (who pay for these items out of their own pocket), or monetary donations through paypal to flparrotrescue@aol.com.

Here at FPR, our ultimate goal is to one day have a property where we can have a permanent aviary for birds who may not be suited for companion life, so that they may live out their lives in as

natural a setting as possible. We also envision a small education center and store to help support the rescue (selling nutritious bird food, perches, toys, etc..). While FPR has been growing by leaps and bounds, we are still a ways off from our goals. However, we are currently looking for a land donator and in time, a grant writer that may be able to help FPR achieve our dreams of further helping these special birds and continuing our goal of public education regarding avian care. Right now, we are looking for a volunteer to head up our Fundraising Committee, whose main goal will be to facilitate this project. If you are interested in that position or interested in joining the committee, please e-mail the director of the rescue. Thank you all for your continued support!

It is common knowledge that we do not accept every application that we receive here at FPR. There are many reasons for this.

We are often asked questions like “What does vetting my dog and cat have to do with adopting a bird?”. The simple answer is this: if you don’t vet your dogs and cats on a regular basis and/or cannot afford to, then you most likely won’t take care of an adoptive bird properly and you definitely can’t afford its vetting costs, much less food, toys, etc... This is not meant to be harsh, it is just the truth!

There also are other reasons we may not accept an application. Many times people come to us and want a large macaw or cockatoo. Please understand that large macaws and cockatoos in particular, are not like owning a cockatiel or budgie and we do not adopt out these species of birds to people who do not have previous medium to large bird experience. These are emotional creatures who will not be happy living in a home with someone who works full time

and will not be happy confined to a cage the majority of the day. These birds can also be “pushy” and will test you at every turn. They are akin to having a 2 year old human child for the next 40-75 years (how old are you now?) and like children, they take a lot of time and dedication. They will respond to any intimidation you may show, whether you know you are showing it or not. If they see hesitation even once, suddenly you won’t be able to handle that bird anymore. Not to mention the fact that they can and will bite. Even the cuddliest of cockatoos still has a beak, anything with a beak will bite eventually, even if you raised the bird from a baby! If you put in an application to FPR and are approved to adopt but are told that the first choice you specified is not the bird for you, please listen to your adoption counselor. All of our adoption counselors have A LOT of experience with placing birds in homes that will truly be that bird’s forever home. We also have in depth knowledge of each of the birds in the rescue and their behaviors and temperaments. Please be patient with us and know that we are

not telling you “no” because we are trying to be mean, but because our first responsibility is to protect the birds that have been placed in our care and to make sure that your home and family are the right fit for that bird.

If you are looking to eventually adopt a larger bird, consider fostering for FPR. We will start you with something small and over time, shift you into some of the larger birds and this can help you decide what kind of bird is right for you and your family, plus you will be helping some wonderful birds in the process!

As always, if considering adopting a cockatoo, please visit the following website and make sure you turn the volume on your computer up as loud as it will go! www.mytoos.com

Thank you for your patience and understanding through our adoption process, it really is for the good of the birds and to help make sure you and your family are happy with your decision!



Tiki the Moluccan Cockatoo is a prime example of what can happen to a bird whose owner was not prepared for large bird ownership! Screaming and plucking are some of the main issues we see with large birds who were not cared for properly or were with owners who did not understand normal bird behavior.

“What does vetting my dog and cat have to do with adopting a bird?”

FPR COLLABORATES WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

Dr. Kelleher from Broward Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital has been a tremendous asset to FPR in South Florida. Dr. Kelleher’s focus at the clinic is fresh air, sunshine, good food and foraging.

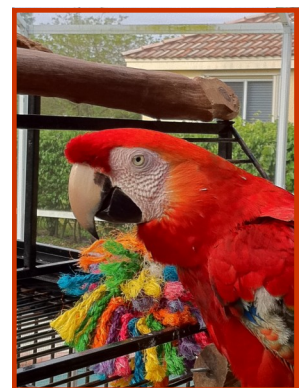
She began working with birds at Buffalo Zoo when she was 18. She fell in love with her first Blue & Gold macaw while volunteering at the zoo and currently owns an English Budgie, Nathaniel, a Blue and Gold Macaw, Xander, and a chicken named Abby.

One of the many FPR birds currently being treated by Dr. Kelleher is a Scarlet Macaw named Belle O’Hara. Belle came into the rescue physically covered in mold and exhibiting breathing issues. It

was determined by Dr. Kelleher that Belle suffers from *Aspergillus*. Symptoms of Asper can be varied and serious, including fungus in and on the lungs that can sometimes only be discovered by x-ray and/or blood tests and can cause severe bleeding as well as cough, fever, chest pain, and difficulty breathing. With Dr. Kelleher’s extensive knowledge and care, Belle is on the way to recovering from this debilitating disease. The University of Miami’s Avian and Wildlife Laboratory has partnered with Dr. Kelleher to provide Belle’s testing, including multiple blood tests, x-rays and a recent surgery. Thanks to Dr. K, UM and the dedication of Belle’s

foster Mom, Colleen, Belle is feeling much better, but still has a long way to go before she can be cleared for adoption. Belle surely would have perished had she not come into rescue with FPR and found so many wonderful people who are willing to help with her treatment. Even with the discounts we receive from Dr. Kelleher’s office and the help from UM, her vet bills have still been extensive and FPR does need help. If you are able to donate towards the costs of her treatment, FPR can receive donations through paypal at fiparrotrescue@aol.com.

Thank you all for your support!



Belle O’ Hara the Scarlet Macaw benefits from a partnership with the University of Miami.

Fashion, Feathers & Fur! April 2011

In April of 2011, Florida Parrot Rescue participated in the first ever Fashion, Feathers & Fur Fundraiser to benefit not only FPR, but also the Boxer Rescue, Pit Stop Pit Bull Rescue and Cat Call. Dr. Christy Layton, owner of Timberlane Veterinary Hospital in Plant City, not only thought up the idea, but along with her wonderful and dedicated staff, planned it and pulled it off without a hitch! The fun filled night included a live fashion show, a wonderful dinner and dessert buffet, a silent auction and a live auction, the great company of animal lovers from all over the Tampa Bay area and of course all types of animals (even a boxer named Bon Jovi)! The event managed to raise more than \$2,000 for each rescue, woo hoo! FPR would like to thank Dr. Layton and her staff for all of their hard work on this fundraiser and their continued, every day dedication to rescues and the animals they help! Florida Parrot Rescue is looking forward to participating in this event every year!

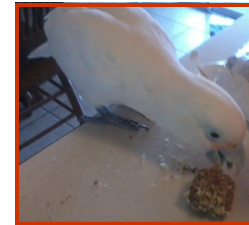
Healthy Food Choices for your Parrot:

SWEET POTATO PUFFS

- 1) Cook two large sweet potatoes in the microwave on high for 8 to 10 minutes or until very soft. Split the skin, and scoop out the flesh. Mash it up well in a large bowl.
 - 2) Add 1 ripe banana, being sure not to use any part of the banana that has brown spots.
 - 3) Add one jar of any baby food fruit and one jar of any baby food vegetable.
 - 4) Add one cup of frozen peas or corn (or substitute with frozen mixed vegetables which you can purchase at Publix by the bag).
 - 5) Add 1/3 or 1/4 cup of a natural almond butter.
 - 6) Add 1/2 tablespoon of cinnamon.
 - 7) Add 1 cup of ground pellets
- Mix it up well, place in the refrigerator for one hour until firm and then roll into balls. Roll each ball in a mix of crumbled nuts (walnuts, almonds) and then freeze.

Defrost for use as needed.

The beauty of this recipe is that you can change it around, add anything that your birds really like. You can add crumbs of Nutri Berries or you can add fresh, finely chopped veggies, or any kind of baby food, or chopped up nuts. Just use your imagination and your birds' favorite treats and they will really go for it! And with the sweet potato being the main ingredient, they are also getting Vitamin A. Experiment and enjoy!



A note about summer: Birds need natural sunlight a minimum of 3 hours each week, but remember that birds, just like dogs and cats, can get overheated while outside. Birds should not be left in the direct sunlight or outside in temperatures more than 5 degrees over what they are used to sleeping in overnight (and a maximum of 95 degrees with proper ventilation). While outside, birds should always have food, water, shelter and of course YOU supervising them! Please do not leave birds outside unsupervised unless they are in a structurally sound, predator proof aviary!

Don't forget to ask us about our adoption specials by e-mailing us at flparrotrescue@aol.com! Currently half off of adoption fees for birds that have been in rescue for over a year and 25% off of all other birds currently in rescue for any applications that are received before July 5th 2011 and subsequently approved!

Thank you Zupreem for your donation!

Make Nutritious Nuggets

80%

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Veterinarians recommend feeding 80% high-quality nuggets so your bird gets the right balance of vitamins and minerals he needs every day.

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Finding
Forever
Homes
for Our
Feathered
Friends!

Florida Parrot Rescue is dedicated to the rescue and rehabilitation of companion parrots. We strive to educate parrot owners on proper handling and care of parrots. Should someone be unable to keep their bird(s) for ANY reason, we want them to know there is a place to turn, and that they are not alone. It is our goal to provide a safe haven for birds that cannot stay with their owners or birds in need, and then to find those birds permanent forever homes with loving and responsible families.

FLORIDA PARROT RESCUE, INC

<http://www.floridaparrotrescue.com>

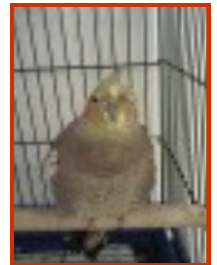
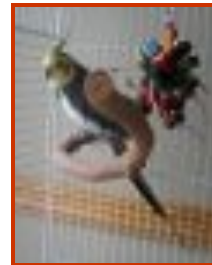
<http://www.facebook.com/FLParrotRescue>

A 501C3 Non-profit, all volunteer run organization, serving all of Florida!

Phone: 813-546-1759

Adoptable Birds of the Quarter: Chico & Calypso

Chico and Calypso love each other very much, you can tell by the way Chico will play with Calypso's mohawk and Calypso will groom Chico from head to toe! They both prefer to be in their cage, as Calypso is not very good at flying. They do come out from time to time, and take midday strolls on the floor, cooing at each other like "lovebirds" should. When they are ready for bed, they snuggle up on a 2 inch long perch so they can be as close as they can. Chico and Calypso have a special adoption fee this month of only \$37.50 with their cage (which reflects the half off special), so won't you consider a couple of great friends to liven up your home!



Don't forget about your birds while you prepare for hurricane season. Make sure you have travel cages for each animal you own in case of the need to evacuate, as well as at least a weeks supply of food.

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please e-mail us at flparrotrescue@aol.com
Thank you!!

As always, thank you to the veterinarian offices that work with FPR for their generous discounts and support: Country Chase Veterinary Clinic in Tampa, Timberlane Animal Hospital in Plant City, East Orlando Animal Hospital, The Exotic Bird Hospital in Jacksonville, the Lake Howell Animal Hospital, Animal Hospital of Pensacola, the Weston Road Animal Hospital, Broward Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital, Blue Pearl Veterinary Specialists and Ark & Bark Animal Clinic in Palm Bay.