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# Beaks and Feathers

NEWSLETTER 4TH QUARTER 2011 JANUARY 1, 2012

## This Quarter's Adoptions

Florida Parrot Rescue had a huge number of adoptions for 2011, 170 as of December 31st! With close to 160 birds in rescue at this time (the most we have EVER had!), 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 12 birds on the waiting list needing to come into rescue at the moment, and we have recently had to close intake due to slowing adoptions and limited room in foster h o m e s .

Remember that our foster/adoption application is available on our website ([www.floridaparrotrescue.com](http://www.floridaparrotrescue.com)) and can be e-mailed after completion to [flparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto: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, dogs must be on heartworm prevention, all birds owned must have been seen by a vet within the past year with a minimum of an exam and gram stain (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 October, November

and December of 2011: Angie & Rocko (Black Capped Opaline Conure & Green Cheek Conure Bonded Pair); Bobo (Yellow Naped Amazon); Clover (Indian Ringneck); George & Grace (Pair of bonded cockatiels); Jewels (Cockatiel); Jumanji (Umbrella Cockatoo); Lee & Kit (Pair of bonded Doves); Lester (Quaker Parrot); Larry, Curly & Moe (Trio of bonded Fischers Lovebirds); Max (African Grey); Morgan & Ginger (Pair of bonded Greenwings); Neeko (Catalina Macaw); Punky (Mustache parakeet); Squeaker (African Grey); Squeaker (Green Cheek Conure); Squeakers (Cockatiel); Sunny (Green Cheek Conure); Trouble (Meyers Parrot); Tulip (Blue & Gold Macaw); Yoshi (Blue & Gold Macaw); and Weezy (Lovebird).



Rocko & Angie  
Conures



Neeko  
Catalina Macaw



Squeakers  
African Grey



Weezy  
Lovebird



Clover  
Indian Ringneck



Squeakers  
Greencheek Conure

# Letter From The Director



**Jennifer Underwood James—Co-founder, Director and President of Florida Parrot Rescue, Inc.**

Dear friends and supporters,

Happy New Year to you all! Can you believe another year has passed? I hope you all had a wonderful 2011. We at Florida Parrot Rescue are looking forward to a fantastic year with lots of adoptions. I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your support over the last year. It has been a long year, we have had several rescues from emotionally draining hoarding situations, many other intakes, a record number of adoptions and many community events. Our coordinators, fosters and volunteers are what makes it possible to continue saving the lives of our feathered friends. As always, we really need foster homes and volunteers to add to our team as we have a long waiting list of birds waiting to come in to rescue. Our goal in 2012 is to increase the number of adopted birds, in addition we will be working towards our goal of purchasing land for a sanctuary.

Yours,

Jennifer U. James

## Volunteers of the Month

### OCTOBER

We have chosen honorary FPR member, Charlene Bebko, as our volunteer of the month for October. This wonderful lady adopted Neal (Rojo), a special needs green-wing macaw that came into rescue from the Orlando Hoarding situation. She cared for him for the last precious months of his life and let him know what true and deep love was when he had not had it for a very long time. It takes a very special person to adopt a bird with the types of special needs he displayed and to provide him with a lifetime of love and care in a very short amount of time, but she did it successfully and he knew joy in his last moments on earth. RIP Rojo. You will be missed.

### NOVEMBER

Jen & Mike Sliwa have been with FPR for quite some time and have not lost any of their enthusiasm. For years now, Jen and Mike have been available and happy to help with events, fostering, transportation, helping rescue escaped birds, and even keeping up with Petfinder and just about any other task we toss their way. Too often we forget to thank those that are always ready and willing and it is past time to send out a great big "Thank You" to Jen and Mike for their dedication, their endless efforts to help birds in need, and their overall compassion and consistency. We hope to see your smiling faces as part of the FPR family for many more years to come :)

### DECEMBER

Lorry and Chris Burgr have once again made our volunteer of the month list! Lorry and Chris have continually and extraordinarily donated time, effort, blood, sweat and tears to this rescue and the birds we care for and we can't thank them enough. They are always on some trip or another bringing birds into rescue or educating the public at events and they care for a myriad of fosters as well. Lorry has even recently stepped up to take on the position of Adoption Coordinator! Welcome aboard Lorry and thank you both for your continued efforts for the birds!



Charlene Bebko with Rojo



Mike Sliwa



Jen Sliwa



Lorry Burgr



Chris Burgr

## Reprint Article of the Quarter

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# What's Wrong with the Step Up Command?

By Barbara Heidenreich  
[www.GoodBirdInc.com](http://www.GoodBirdInc.com)

It has been reiterated for years in the companion parrot literature...your parrot must obey the step up command! Obey and command. For me these words carry strong implications. I visualize a parrot with no desire to step up onto the hand being forced to comply. This usually involves maneuvers such as a hand pushing into a bird's chest, quickly scooping a bird onto the hand, or peeling toes off of a perch. For a positive reinforcement trainer such as myself this is very unpleasant to picture. Why one might ask? Certainly the mentioned strategies can create the desired resulting behavior of a bird on the hand. However the process of training through force involves strategies that rely on aversive experiences. Pushing a hand into a bird's chest, scooping or peeling toes are uncomfortable experiences for a parrot, no matter how minimal the aversive is.

### Fallout from Force

There can be serious repercussions with lasting effects from using aversives to gain cooperation. One of the most common results is a parrot that learns to bite in response to the presence of a hand. The important word in that sentence is "learns". Parrots are not hatched with an inherent aggressive response to hands. This behavior is learned through repeated exposure to unpleasant interactions involving hands. Often as a last resort, a parrot bites in an effort to deter the persistent pushy hand. Should the bite produce the desired results; the bird can learn in that one encounter that biting works! And it will be likely to use it next time a hand invades its space.

This is not to say one should ignore a bite to dissuade the aggressive behavior. A more trust building approach is to heed the parrot's body language prior to biting. Typically a parrot will present other body language that indicates discomfort well before a bite is landed. By carefully observing body language and making adjustments so that the bird appears as comfortable as possible, a sensitive avian caregiver is more likely to gain cooperation without aggressive behavior.

The same can be said for fear responses. Many likely have met a parrot who will step onto an arm, or shoulder, but will do everything in its power to avoid a hand. Again it would be an odd adaptation for a parrot to come into this world with an innate fear of hands. More realistic is the explanation that the bird's experience with hands taught it to display fear responses.

### Side Bar

*Fallout that has occurred from forcing parrots to step up*

*How many birds now bite due to forced step up behavior?*

*How many birds are given up due to biting problems?*

*How many birds are afraid of hands and flee to the back of their cages?*

*How many birds are relegated to cages with little attention or enrichment because they learned to bite or are afraid?*

*How many birds suffer fates worse than this because they responded to force with understandable aggressive behavior and/or fear responses?*

### Positive Reinforcement Offers Hopes

Unfortunately it can be challenging to retrain a parrot to step up onto a hand for positive reinforcement after it has learned aggressive behavior (and/or fear responses) towards hands. But the good news is it can be done. This is particularly important to note as so many birds are often given up, left with little or no attention, or suffer fates worse than that due to being labeled a biter or no fun, through no fault of their own. It is always a sad moment for me to encounter a parrot that has learned aggressive behavior. It is sad mainly because it never had to be if the people in its life had been given the opportunity to learn about positive reinforcement.

Having worked in free flighted educational bird programs for years it was quite a shock when I first discovered the thousands of parrots that had fear responses or showed aggressive behavior towards hands in the companion parrot community. This observation lead me to conclude that the difference is information. The community training flighted parrots for shows has been raised on a positive reinforcement approach to training. Flighted parrots can easily choose to leave should a trainer resort to negative reinforcement to force a bird to step up onto the hand. Therefore negative reinforcement and its drawbacks are usually not a part of the training strategy.

The companion parrot community, on the other hand, has traditionally been fed advice that heavily promotes the use of negative reinforcement. This in turn has lead to a plethora of troubled birds. This means an important opportunity lays waiting for companion parrot caregivers. With positive reinforcement training finally making its way to many avian caregivers, parrots and their owners

now have hope. No longer do parrots have to obey, instead they can learn stepping up results in desired consequences. They can learn to look forward to stepping up!

## **Positive Reinforcement Vs Negative Reinforcement**

Change can be difficult. And those accustomed to using negative reinforcement to create behavior often present solid evidence as to why there is no need to consider other strategies. These arguments include the statement that negative reinforcement works! This is true. Negative reinforcement does work. However effectiveness is not always the measure one needs to consider as a conscientious caregiver. The reason is that the process of learning through negative reinforcement is not a pleasant one. Negative reinforcement is also sometimes called escape or harassment training. The animal complies to avoid the aversive experience. Not exactly a trust building process. In addition negative reinforcement training strategies create a bare minimum required response. Animals only do what is necessary to avoid the aversive experience.

There is also the misconception that negative reinforcement will create faster more reliable responses. While results can be immediate, it should be noted that quick, efficient, reliable, repeatable responses can also be attained with positive reinforcement.

Some argue that in an emergency the bird must step up quickly. In a true emergency, such as the house is on fire, it is understood that one may do whatever is required to ensure his or her parrot is safe. However sometimes the lines get fuzzy on what constitutes an emergency. Being late for work is not an emergency enough for this trainer to abandon her positive reinforcement training strategies. In the long run I will get more reliable performance of the behavior if I take the time to commit to using positive reinforcement even when it is slightly inconvenient to me. In my experience there is no real justification for the use of negative reinforcement for the behavior of step up in most cases.

## **Tips on Training Step Up with Positive Reinforcement**

A key component of training with positive reinforcement is giving the bird choice. Rather than forcing oneself on the parrot, the goal is to teach the parrot choosing to come to the caregiver results in desired consequences. These consequences can be food treats, head scratches, toys, attention, etc. Identify what the bird likes and use this to reinforce approximations towards the desired goal behavior of stepping up onto the hand.

An easy way to teach a parrot to move in a desired direction is to train the bird to orient its beak towards a target. The target can be any chosen object. The target can then be gradually positioned closer and closer to the hand identified for the step up behavior. The identified hand should remain stationary and in a position that facilitates an easy step onto the hand for the bird. The goal is not to move the hand towards the bird, but for the bird to voluntarily move to the hand by following the target.

A bird that has had an unpleasant history with hands may show signs of apprehension or aggressive behavior as it ventures closer to the hand. Reinforce generously the frightened bird that dares to move in closer. If the parrot shows aggressive behavior, gently remove the hand as well as any positive reinforcers being made available to the bird for just a few seconds. This not only demonstrates to the bird that its body language was understood and acknowledged, but it also removes the opportunity to gain positive reinforcers. When this strategy is paired with reinforcement of the desired behavior, the bird can quickly learn to increase calm behavior and decrease aggressive behavior without the use of training strategies that rely on aversives.

Eventually the parrot can learn to voluntarily step up onto the hand to earn positive reinforcers. While the bird is learning to step up, the targeting behavior can be used to help direct the parrot where to go if needed for basic husbandry duties. This helps avoid caregivers resorting back to negative reinforcement training strategies to move birds during the re-training process.

## **Conclusion**

A positive reinforcement approach embraces giving animals choices to participate. Caregivers can try to make it easy for parrots to choose to present the desired behavior, such as step up, followed by ample rewards. The result is a companion parrot that eagerly anticipates interacting with its caregivers. One of the joys of sharing ones life with a companion parrot is the relationship that can be forged between the caregiver and the bird. Positive reinforcement fosters trust and that incredibly rewarding relationship. If there is one thing you change in your handling strategy, make it this. Move over step up command..... here comes the step up request.

*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](http://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 Loro 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.IAATE.org](http://www.IAATE.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.*

# Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

*Everything Birds at Oldsmar Flea Market, Sunday 1/14-15 from 10-4, receive free wing & nail trims for your birds for a donation to FPR all weekend long.*

Adoption event at Petco in Tampa Sunday 2/18 at the Carolwood location 13127 N. Dale Mabry Highway from 10-4.

*Everything Birds at Oldsmar Flea Market, Sunday 2/18-19 from 10-4, receive free wing & nail trims for your birds for a donation to FPR all weekend long.*

Everything Birds at Oldsmar Flea Market, Sunday 3/17-18 from 10-4, receive free wing & nail trims for your birds for a donation to FPR all weekend long.

*S u n d a y 3 / 2 5 Parrot Expo from 10-4 (informational table only) Wimauma Convention Center 5408 State Road 674*

Adoption event at Petco in Tampa Saturday 4/21 at the Carolwood location 13127 N. Dale Mabry Highway 10-4.

*Fashion, feather and Fur Fundraiser, April 28 from 6-10pm at the Keel & Curley Winery in Plant City. To benefit Florida Parrot Rescue, Florida Boxer Rescue, Pit Stop Bully's Rescue and the Humane Society of Tampa Bay.*

**A big THANK YOU to Lorry Burggr for donating items for the upcoming Fashion, Feathers and Fur Fundraiser! Also a HUGE thank you goes to Petco for their food donations for our foster homes and to Roudybush and Harri- sons for their food donations!**

Thank you Sherry Leybovich with cruisesforu.com for donating a cruise to the Bahamas that will be auctioned off to raise money at the upcoming Fashion, Feathers and Fur Fundraiser!

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Thank you!!

Thank you Sherrie Mullineaux of Samantha's Treasure Chest for selling FPR's t-shirts on ebay and for donating items to the upcoming Fashion, Feathers and Fur Fundraiser!!



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As always, thank you to the veterinary 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.

# Healthy Food Choices for your Parrot: A HOLIDAY FEAST FOR YOUR FIDS!

by: Michelle Magnon

Michelle is from Tucson, Arizona and has shared her home with parrots for over twenty years. She enjoys coming up with new healthy recipe ideas for her flock of six pampered parrots: Aztec the Blue and Gold Macaw, Apollo the Umbrella Cockatoo, Einstein the African Grey, and the three conures; Paulie, Tiki and Marigold. Michelle has recently agreed to be our columnist for "Healthy Food Choices for your Parrot" and we are very excited! We can't wait to see what she will cook up next!

## Quinoa and Squash Mash

- 1 cup cooked Black, White and Red Quinoa
- 1 cup cooked chopped Brussels Sprouts
- 1 cup cubed and cooked Squash (or Pumpkin)
- 1 each of Red, Yellow and Orange Bell Pepper
- ½ cup raw unsweetened Coconut
- ¼ cup Sesame Seeds
- ¼ cup Chia Seeds
- ¼ cup Cranberries
- ¼ cups chopped raw Cashews
- ¼ cup chopped raw Pecans
- ¼ cup chopped raw Walnuts
- ¼ cup chopped raw Almonds
- handful of fresh chopped Parsley
- generous sprinkling of Red Pepper Flakes



Simmer 1 cup of well rinsed quinoa in 1 ½ cups of water until liquid is absorbed (about 15 minutes). Cook brussell sprouts and peeled cubed squash until slightly tender. Let it all cool while you start preparing the rest. The rest of the list of ingredients are just raw, finely chopped, and mixed in. I vary the ingredients and measurements each time I prepare it



## Festive Scrambled Eggs

- 3 scrambled eggs
- 1 cup cooked whole wheat couscous
- 1 each of bell pepper (red, yellow and orange)
- 1 each of red, yellow and orange sweet peppers
- 1 cup chopped broccoli
- ½ cup cranberries
- ½ cup chopped raw walnuts
- ½ cup chopped raw coconut
- handful of fresh chopped cilantro or parsley

The only cooking is the scrambled eggs and the couscous. Use three large eggs and coconut oil to cook. For the couscous, use the whole wheat kind. Boil 1 ½ cups water then quickly stir in 1 cup of couscous and remove from heat while continuing to stir. Mix eggs with couscous and start chopping or get your food processor out. The rest of the ingredients are just raw, finely chopped and mixed in. Sometimes I add cooked pumpkin or squash to their eggs too, which is always a big hit.



## Pumpkin Spice Fruit and Nut Birdie Treats

- 1 ¼ cups whole wheat flour
- ½ cup wheat germ
- ½ cup rolled oats
- 2 eggs
- 3 tbs coconut oil
- 2 cups pumpkin puree (fresh or canned)
- 1 large graded carrot
- 1 chopped apple
- 1 chopped pear
- ¼ cup ground flax seeds
- ½ cup chopped nuts; pine, walnut, pecan, cashew, almond
- 1 tbs of each cloves, ginger, cinnamon
- 1 tbs baking powder
- handful of cranberries
- dash of red chili pepper flakes
- generous sprinklings of millet, chia and sesame seeds
- splash of unsweetened apple sauce or milk if it gets dry

Mix up two big bowls, one for the dry ingredients and one for the wet, then mix them both together. Spread into a large coconut oiled baking pan, I use a glass rectangle pan. Top with extra of the seeds and chopped nuts. Bake at 375 for about 40 minutes or until the top looks golden brown. Let it cool and cut it up into little squares. This bread is like aromatherapy, your whole house will smell so good while it's baking!



## Pumpkin Spice Pancakes Mini's

- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 tbs wheat germ
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 tbs flax seed
- 1 tbs ground cinnamon
- 1 tbs ground ginger
- 1 tbs ground cloves
- 1 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 1 tbs coconut oil
- ½ cup pumpkin puree

Drop small spoonfuls onto griddle or frying pan with some coconut oil. Lightly brown on each side. The birds love to be able to each have their own little pancake to hold and eat.



# PARROT APPROVED!

*For the holidays or just for fun, stuff any of these mixes into whole bell peppers, mini squash bowls or mini pumpkins. Be sure to make extra's for the humans though, cause they usually want to try these too!*



Stuffed Bell Peppers



Stuffed Sweet Peppers



Stuffed Squash

# Permanent Fosters & Special Needs Adoptables

by: Chris Burgr



Gator



Grandpa



Belle  
O'Hara



Jacob



Yoyo



Quasimoto



Pretty  
Bird

Parrot rescue to some may seem simply like an effort to sell used birds. I've heard people comment as such when they are not able to get a rescued parrot for free. It's true that Florida Parrot Rescue, Inc. is committed to finding exceptional forever homes for unwanted parrots, but there is much more to being a rescue. Education and rehabilitation are a couple of such examples. What I am about to discuss is the unseen side of rescue that involves some of our more special residents, those in permanent foster care and those received into the rescue with severe life threatening conditions.

First, let's introduce the permanent fosters. These are birds that are not fit for adoption or life in a sanctuary setting typically due to health concerns that will be staying with FPR for the rest of their lives.

1. Grandpa - 60 plus year old blue and gold macaw. He is mostly blind, frail and doesn't move as well as he used to. However, in spite of his limitations, he still enjoys life and is not in pain. He will live his remaining years in foster care with a flock of other macaws. He may not be able to physically intermingle, but he loves letting out a morning scream and nighttime call to roost as the elder bird in the flock.

2. Gator - 17 year old cockatiel. He has severe foot pain and after a thorough and costly examination by the veterinarian, it was determined he suffers from arthritis. Now with a daily dose of metacam,

his pain is under control and though not as spry as he was years ago, he enjoys playing with toys and loves to chat with his foster family.

3. Yo Yo - He is another blue and gold macaw and came into FPR two years ago as a plucker. As time went on he developed a seizure disorder and behavioral issues. He is well loved though by his foster parent and is as spoiled as any parrot should be.

Now let's introduce those with health conditions that FPR hopes will one day be adoptable.

1. Jacob - Male umbrella cockatoo. He experienced a prolapse and has undergone surgery for its repair. He is now doing very well and receiving much love and attention from his foster family until a special permanent home can be found. He can only be adopted by a family that understands he may prolapse again, and in which case he will need immediate treatment.

2. Quasimoto - Red lored Amazon. He is a retired breeder who recently lost his mate. His health is compromised by a ruptured air sac that requires continuing vet visits.

3. Belle O'Hara - Female scarlet macaw. She has been diagnosed with a possible case of aspergillosis and has been receiving very expensive and long treatments. She seems to be responding well and our vets are hopeful that she too may one day be adopted by a very special family. Our hopes are

high for this special girl as she is bold, funny and sweet with humans deemed worthy of her affection.

4. Sydney - 17 year old Hahn Macaw. Sydney came into rescue because her owner was coming home to hospice and was passing on from this life and she needed a place where she would be safe and cared for. Upon coming into rescue, it was discovered she had medical issues herself. She has chronic breathing issues which require frequent vet visits and breathing treatments. Although not in pain, she is a spry little bird who is very social, but she gets nervous easily and needs to be adopted into a quiet home without a lot of loud activity.

5. Pretty Bird - 30 year old Double Yellow Head Amazon. Pretty Bird came out of the hoarding situation in Orlando in August of 2011 (read our last newsletter if you would like more information on that topic). He has previous fractures in his leg that were never treated resulting in balancing issues while perching and also suffers from a heart murmur. He will also need a quiet and loving home where he can spend the rest of his years.

All of these birds require ongoing veterinary care in part supported by adoption fees and by our very kind and generous donors. As these examples show there is a lot more to being a rescue than just selling a "used" bird. Its truly making a better life for as many parrots as our resources will allow.

# 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 over \$36,000 for the year 2011 running the rescue (an 80% higher cost than 2010) with approximately 81%, or more than \$29,000 of those funds, going directly to vet bills and associated care. Every bird that comes into the rescue is vetted before being placed up for adoption, on down to the last little parakeet, and therefore this is and will remain in the future, our largest expenditure. The rest of the expenses were used for administrative costs (phone bills, web costs and associated

expenses) and fundraising expenses (community and adoption events and related supplies).

We are currently in need of additional funds as a result. If you can help, please donate by sending items for raffles and fundraisers, 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.

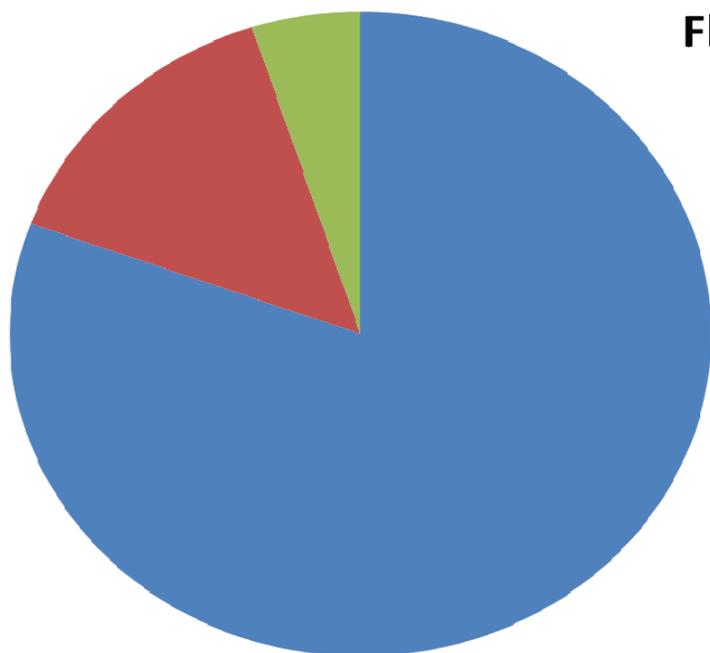
Here at FPR, our ultimate goal is to one day have a property where we can have a permanent aviary for birds who may not be suited for companion life, so that they may live out their lives in as natural a setting as possible. We also envision a small education center and store to help support the rescue selling nutritious bird food, perches, toys. This dream has partially been fulfilled with our ability to sell items on-line from our website at [www.floridaparrotrescue.com](http://www.floridaparrotrescue.com), click on the

“Purchase Avian Products” tab and scroll down to see our catalog. 100% of profits go directly to the rescue.

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 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!

2011  
Intakes: 229  
Adoptions: 170

## Florida Parrot Rescue Operating Expenses \$36,000 for 2011 (\*approximate\*)



- Program expenses
- Administration expenses
- Fundraising expenses

*Program expenses* = vet costs and associated care

*Administration expenses* = phone and web costs (with associated supplies) and liability insurance

*Fundraising expenses* = supplies for adoption and community events (banners, business cards, flyers, t-shirt purchase for re-sell at events and on-line)

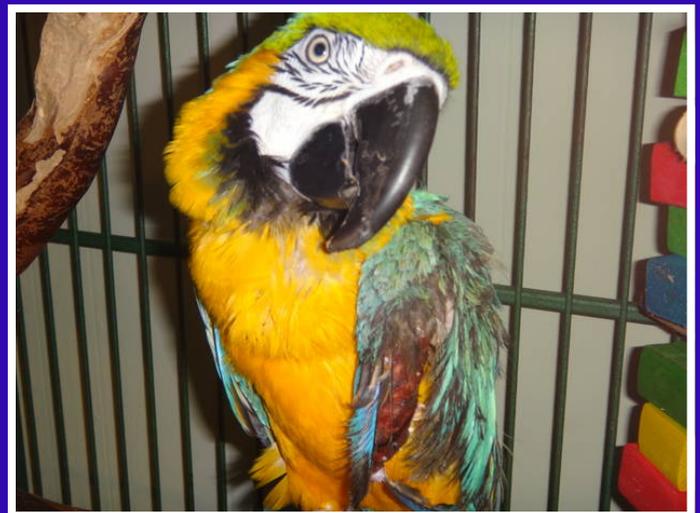
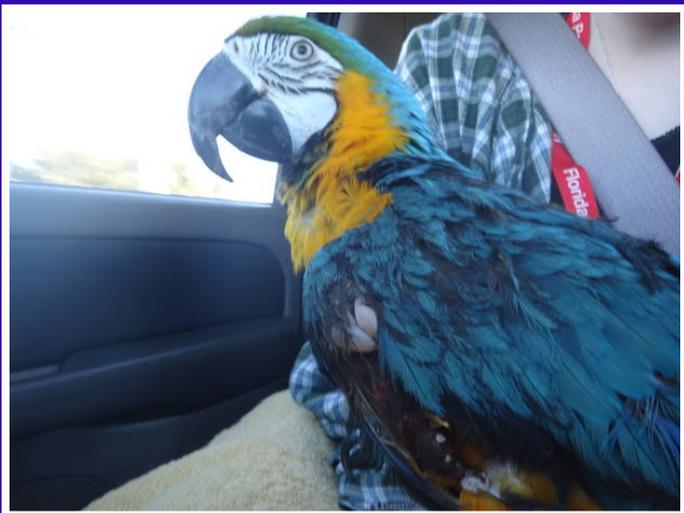
# EMERGENCY INTAKE DECEMBER 31ST, 2011: GOLIATH

Meet Goliath. He is a 13 year old Blue and Gold Macaw. Goliath had been taken to the veterinarian by his owner about a year ago for what was assumed to be a wing injury. His white cell blood counts (WBC) at that time were over 120,000 which indicated a severe infection. Goliath was treated with medication and when the owner returned it was found the WBC counts were down to 40,000. Although still quite high for WBC's, due to personal circumstance, funds did not allow the owner to be able to return for further treatment. Almost a year went by and the owner fell on even harder times and decided he needed to relinquish the bird and contacted Florida Parrot Rescue.

Florida Parrot Rescue received the phone call a few days before the New Year. We were told by Goliath's owner that he had no funds to care for Goliath and was losing his home. We knew we had to bring Goliath in on an emergency basis and we quickly found him a foster home, however, by that time the owners phone number was disconnected and we could not get in touch with him. FPR volunteers scrambled to get in touch with the owner another way and finally managed to do so on December 31st, 2011. The fosters who volunteered to take Goliath immediately drove to pick up him up and what they found was a very injured little soul. They immediately took the bird to Florida Parrot Rescue's veterinarian in Jacksonville. It turned out that FPR's veterinarian is the same as the vet previously used by the owner, so we did have some history on the bird. Unfortunately, the infection had now spread into the bone of the left wing and the veterinarian determined that day that amputation surgery would be needed as soon as possible. The vet also determined that Goliath was in extreme pain and had been for some time.

Goliath has now been placed on pain medication and antibiotics and is resting safely and comfortably in his foster home. He will undergo surgery on Tuesday January 2, 2012 and the surgery is estimated to cost between \$800-\$1200. If you can donate to this cause, please go to the ChipIn link provided below for Goliath's surgery or donate directly through paypal to flparrotrescue@aol.com. Every dollar helps, so please donate anything you can. As always, thank you everyone for your generous support and keep your fingers crossed that Goliath pulls through the surgery with flying colors.

ChipIn link: <http://floridaparrotrescue.chipin.com/blue-and-gold-macaw-needs-surgery-asap>



Check for updates concerning Goliath on our facebook page at  
<http://www.facebook.com/FLParrotRescue>



Finding  
Forever  
Homes  
for Our  
Feathered  
Friends!

## 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: 813-516-1759

**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 forever homes with loving and responsible families.**



## Adoptable Bird of the Quarter:

# KIKI

***“BALD IS BEAUTIFUL BABY!!”***

**BLUE AND GOLD MACAW**



Hello all, Kiki here! I am a very nice, handsome fellow. I know many ways to say hello and my name, have several different laughs and am learning some Spanish (hola) and French (bonjour). I love to talk to you and I love to eat, what macaw doesn't? When I first got here, I was eating a seed diet, but now I have pellets, fruit, veggies, nuts and sometimes a bit of yogurt or scrambled egg. As you can see, I don't have all my feathers. Some of them have started to grow back in, the ones on my chest are just lovely. I am about 25 years old and still have many good years ahead of me. Head scratching is one of my favorite things! I get a little anxious out of my cage but I do like to explore, so once I can wander around a bit, I am good to go! I am not a screamer and do love to interact with you once I have made your acquaintance. I have been working on step up and am good at taking food from your hand. I have a lovely wooden toy that I have been redesigning (it needed some work) and a couple of new perches. If you think I could be your forever bird, I would really love a LARGE cage with toys and perches, time with you and also some time outside in the sun. I have been thinking I should try a harness, then I could go for walks and bike rides and all sorts of other fun adventures, but I'll think about that some more while you decide if we could be forever friends!