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# Beaks and Feathers

NEWSLETTER 4TH QUARTER 2012

JANUARY 1, 2013

## This Quarter's Adoptions

Florida Parrot Rescue has adopted 207 animals for 2012 as of December 31! With over 100 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 15 birds on the waiting list needing to come into rescue at the moment, and we have recently had to close intake due to limited room in foster homes.

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 2012: Audrey & Augie (Caique & Hahns Macaw Bonded Pair); Barney (Blue Front Amazon); Barney & Navin

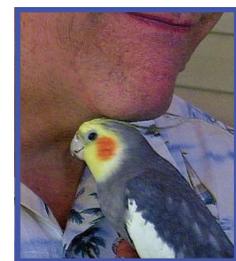
(Orange Winged Amazon & Yellow Naped Amazon Bonded Pair); Boo Boo (Lesser Sulfur Crested Cockatoo); Captain (Quaker Parrot); Captain Jack (Nanday Conure); Charlay (Green Cheek Conure); Chewey (Quaker Parrot); Coco (African Grey); Cody (Goffins Cockatoo); Corey (B&G Macaw); Corona (B&G Macaw); Danny (Eclectus); Destiny (Moluccan Cockatoo); Emmitt (Shihtzu); Fluffy (Umbrella Cockatoo); Gator (Cockatiel); Gizmo & Mango (Yellow Naped Amazon and Sun Conure bonded pair); Harley (Umbrella Cockatoo); Jasper (Black Headed Caique); Katie (Eclectus); Louey (Parakeet); Lucy (B&G Macaw); Lucy (Quaker Parrot); Meeka & Georgia (Cockatiel Pair); Merlin (Quaker Parrot); Mila (Feline); Neb (Quaker Parrot); Nickel & Sterling (Cockatiel Pair); Oscar (African Grey); Paz (African Grey); Petey (Parakeet); Rainbow (Catalina macaw); Reebok (Orange Winged Amazon); Ricky (Cockatiel); Ricky (Senegal); Rico (B&G Macaw); Roka (Umbrella Cockatoo); Ron Jon (B&G Macaw); Sarah & Sam (Cockatiel Pair); Sam (Yellow Front Amazon); Scooter (Panama Amazon); Shady (Cockatiel); Skipper (African Grey); Skye (Quaker Parrot); Sol & Rojo (Sun Conure Pair); Spencer (Cockatiel); Sprinkles (Cockatiel); Squizgar (Parakeet); Stella (Bare Eyed Cockatoo); Stormy (Cockatiel); String Bean (Quaker Parrot); Summer (Cockatiel); Sunshine (Cockatiel) and Tiki (Moluccan Cockatoo).



Gizmo & Mango - Sun Conure & Yellow Naped Amazon bonded pair



Lucy Blue & Gold Macaw



Spencer - Cockatiel



Katie - Eclectus Parrot

# Letter From The Director



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



**Erin Faltin**



**Lorry & Chris Burgr**



**Karen Atwood**



**Terry & Jack McFarland**



**Kirsten Crame & Shawn Dreier**

Dear friends and supporters,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. It has been a long, wonderful year for us here at Florida Parrot Rescue. In 2012, our hope was to increase the number of adoptions, which we did! Through fosters, volunteers and all our other supporters, we were also able to handle our ever increasing veterinary bills. We also hoped to start saving funds for a sanctuary, which we have been doing as well; although we are still a long way off from being able to purchase land. Of course, even with land, our model will always remain that of utilizing stable and loving foster homes for our adoptable birds, which we believe to be the best transition environment for our birds.

But now more than ever, we need your support! Several times this year we had to close intake because our waiting list became so long. So please spread the word where you can about fostering and adoption. Your support is so important to us; we are so very appreciative for all of you, and don't say it near enough. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! We look forward to the upcoming year with all of you behind us!

Yours,

Jennifer U. James

## Volunteers of the Month

### OCTOBER

Erin Faltin, Lorry Burgr, Chris Burgr and Karen Atwood are our volunteers of the month for October. These four volunteers came together with very little notice to undertake a huge trip to North Carolina to bring into rescue 30 birds whose owner had passed away. They spent an entire weekend driving to North Carolina, handling each individual bird to check for health issues and to clip wings and nails, and then loaded each bird into travel cages for the trip. Stopping at Miss Vicki's Parrot Village in Georgia along the way, 6 birds were left in her care and the trip continued south! Once in Florida, each car stopped at several locations along the way, leaving birds in foster homes throughout the state, with the last car finally arriving home after nearly 42 hours of traveling and driving over 2600 miles total! Thank you to these wonderful volunteers who dropped everything to care for these birds in need and to all of those volunteers who drive countless miles each year to help the birds of Florida Parrot Rescue!

### NOVEMBER

Congratulations to Terry and Jack McFarland for being our volunteers of the month for November! Terry and Jack have only recently joined Florida Parrot Rescue, yet have been very strong members of the group! They have taken in many foster birds and have excelled in caring for these birds. Terry, a nurse with a keen understanding of nurturing the sick and disabled birdies, has been a huge asset in caring for many special needs fosters as well! Terry and Jack have also recently begun working with their local Petco, a company with which FPR is partners, to showcase FPR and spread the word on what our rescue does and to educate people on the proper care of parrots. Attending events there several weekends every month, their efforts have directly resulted in many adoptions thus far. Keep up the great work Terry and Jack! We can't do this without you! Thank you!!

### DECEMBER

Kirsten Crame and Shawn Dreier are our volunteers of the month for December. This power couple not only care for multiple birds of their own, but they have also fostered many birds in need and performed countless transports of birds needing to come into rescue. Kirsten and Shawn also spend every summer educating children at the Humane Society in Tampa on the proper care and needs of companion parrots. They also work with their local Petco to perform adoption and educational events up to 6-7 times per year! They also attend many other adoption events around the Tampa Bay area and even help with home interviews on potential adopters and fosters. Kirsten and Shawn are always one of the first to step up when we need a volunteer! Thank you Kirsten and Shawn, you two are truly an asset to Florida Parrot Rescue and to the birds!

# Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

**Saturday January 26, 2013**

Pookies Rescue fest 10am-4pm

Lake Lily Park

701 Lake Lily Dr. Maitland, FL

<https://www.facebook.com/>

[PookiesRescueFest](https://www.facebook.com/PookiesRescueFest)

**Saturday March 23, 2012**

Tampa Bay Pet Expo 10am – 6pm

Florida State Fairgrounds in Tampa

<https://www.facebook.com/tampabaypetexpo>

**Sunday April 13, 2013**

Seminole Heights Sunday Morning Market

9am-2pm at 5000 N. Central Avenue

Tampa, FL

[http://www.tampabaymarkets.com/seminole-](http://www.tampabaymarkets.com/seminole-heights-sunday-morning-market)

[heights-sunday-morning-market](http://www.tampabaymarkets.com/seminole-heights-sunday-morning-market)

**Saturday May 11, 2013**

Miami pet Expo 10am-6pm

Miami Airport Convention Center

<http://www.miamipetexpo.com/>

**Sunday May 12, 2013**

Seminole Heights Sunday Morning Market

9am-2pm at 5000 N. Central Avenue

Tampa, FL

[http://www.tampabaymarkets.com/seminole-](http://www.tampabaymarkets.com/seminole-heights-sunday-morning-market)

[heights-sunday-morning-market](http://www.tampabaymarkets.com/seminole-heights-sunday-morning-market)

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please e-mail us [flparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto:flparrotrescue@aol.com)

Thank you!!

**Thank you Zupreem  
for your  
donation!**



We have tons of fun at events, so please considering volunteering with us. Event season is fall and spring and we need a lot of volunteers to work our booths and talk to people about proper care and diet of companion birds as well as adoption and fostering!

Purchase a Florida Parrot Rescue T-shirt from LaCroixTees through the following [link](#). \$5 from each t-shirt sold will go directly to Florida Parrot Rescue! There are varying sizes and styles to choose from and several different designs. Thank you to [Rescued Is My Favorite Breed!](#)



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# FEATURED FLORIDA PARROT RESCUE VETERINARIAN CLINIC OF THE QUARTER: LAKE HOWELL ANIMAL CLINIC

The avian/exotic medicine service at Lake Howell Animal Clinic specializes in the medical and surgical management of companion birds, ferrets, rabbits, small rodents, reptiles and other exotics. Our goal is to provide state of the art comprehensive care for our patients and stay on the cutting edge of current practices and technology in avian/exotic medicine. We welcome other exotic species including, but not limited to, monkeys, potbelly pigs, wallabies, hedgehogs, sugar gliders, skunks, fish, and amphibians. We accept referral cases from veterinarians throughout Florida.

Lake Howell Animal Clinic is located at 856 Lake Howell Road in Maitland, Florida. Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday 7 a.m. – 6 p.m., Wednesday 7 a.m. – 2 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. and closed on Sunday. The phone number is 407-628-8000. You can go to their website here: <http://www.lakehowellanimalclinic.com>

As always, thank you to ALL of the veterinary offices that work with Florida Parrot Rescue, providing us with generous discounts and constant support: CountryChase Veterinary Clinic in Tampa, Timberlane Animal Hospital in Plant City, East Orlando Animal Hospital, The Exotic Bird Hospital in Jacksonville, the Avian & Exotic Clinic of Palm City, the Animal Clinic in Port Charlotte, the Lake Howell Animal Clinic, the Animal Hospital of Pensacola, the Weston Road Animal Hospital of Weston, the Broward Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital of Deerfield Beach, Blue Pearl Veterinary Specialists in Tampa and the Ark & Bark Animal Clinic in Palm Bay.

And a HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all of our fosters and volunteers, without which, Florida Parrot Rescue would NOT exist! THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!!

**VOLUNTEERS AREN'T PAID, NOT BECAUSE THEY  
ARE WORTHLESS - BUT BECAUSE THEY ARE  
PRICELESS!**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BIRDS AND  
VOLUNTEERS AT FLORIDA PARROT RESCUE**

And remember.....**DON'T SHOP.....ADOPT**

**FLORIDA PARROT RESCUE, INC.**

[www.floridaparrotrescue.com](http://www.floridaparrotrescue.com)

[www.facebook.com/FLParrotRescue.com](https://www.facebook.com/FLParrotRescue.com)

# THE VET CHIRPS IN.....



**Dr. Orlando Diaz-Figueroa** is a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (Avian Specialty) currently practicing at the Lake Howell Animal Clinic in Maitland, Florida. His special interests are in avian obstetrics and reptilian gastrointestinal diseases. Other areas of interest include avian endoscopy, rabbit infectious diseases, and exotic animal orthopedics. Dr. Diaz has authored articles and chapters in professional texts and journals. Dr. Diaz provides primary, surgical, dental, and specialty care for birds, reptiles, small mammals, and other exotic animal companion.

## EGG LAYING PROBLEMS

Reproductive problems are a common occurrence in many of the smaller avian species—particularly cockatiels, budgerigars (parakeets), lovebirds, finches, and canaries. A female can produce eggs without a male being present, but the egg will be sterile without a male being present.

**Abnormal eggs**--Causes include abnormalities of the reproductive tract, nutritional problems, and environmental causes. When fertile, these eggs can still hatch but the chances to do so are decreased. Further testing or treatments may be warranted.

**Egg-binding**—Causes include malnutrition, excessive egg production, malformed eggs, first time laying eggs, obesity, lack of exercise, stress, old age, breeding out of season, activity in both oviducts (their equivalent to the uterus in humans) and reproductive disease. An avian veterinarian should see a bird with this problem right away if it shows signs of depression, poor appetite, a wide-based stance, abdominal straining, tail wagging, leg paralysis, and/or wing drooping. Further testing or treatments may be warranted.

**Egg Yolk Peritonitis**—Egg yolk peritonitis is the bird equivalent of ectopic pregnancy. This condition occurs when the egg surrounded by yolk leaves the ovary, misses the oviduct, and is deposited in the free abdomen. Yolk is very irritating and the body responds with inflammation. Also, yolk is an excellent material for bacterial growth, so infection can sometimes occur. Clinical signs to watch for indicating a problem needing to be seen by the veterinarian right away include: weight loss, depression, difficulty breathing, anorexia, and swelling of the abdomen. Further testing or treatments may be warranted.

**Chronic Egg Laying**—Overproduction of eggs is a major concern in small parrots like budgerigars, cockatiels, and lovebirds. Chronic egg laying can lead to calcium deficiency, loss of general body condition, weakening of the bones, egg binding, and abnormal egg formation. Causes include genetics, malnutrition, sexual stimulation, and excessive light. Birds are often exposed to the same light schedule as we are (6am-12am), which may give them 18 hours+ of light. This signals the body that conditions are ideal for egg laying, and thus the cycle begins and maintains.

Treatment revolves around environmental changes and potential medical treatments. At home, leave eggs in the cage for up to 18 days after being laid (unless they are broken or ruptured). Separate the hen from cage mates, remove all nest box/nesting materials and any toys with which the bird interacts in a sexual manner. **Reduce light exposure to only 6 hours of light and 18 hours of total darkness for at least 30 days.** If extra light exposure occurs during this time, such as through a window or under a door crack, halting of egg laying will not occur. House the hen in a **windowless** room during “night”. Medical treatments may include calcium supplementation, hormone injections, hormone implants, and in some instances a “spay” (salpingohysterectomy) is sometimes necessary, but this surgical procedure carries a high level of risk.

References upon request.

# Healthy Food Choices for your Parrot: HOLIDAY TREATS 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!

Parrots get so excited around the holidays, with all the fuss, cooking, baking, decorations and guests. They enjoy getting special meals just like we do. One cute idea is to use mini cookie cutters after baking one of your favorite birdie bread recipes. Check out our [last newsletter](#) for nutritious birdie bread recipes.



Another simple, yet fun and healthy presentation for your birds: Cucumbers bowls stuffed with pumpkin squash and chop!



Want to learn how to make chop? It's fun, versatile and pretty easy! It is also very healthy for your birds. Check out the Florida Parrot Rescue facebook page albums for some great ideas! Just click on each individual picture in those albums to read directions on how we did it! You can also see our previous [newsletter](#) on how to make chop.



For another fun, healthy parrot treat for the holiday season, try this recipe:

- 2 cups of cooked mashed pumpkin (or sweet potato)
- 2 cups of leafy greens (chop finely, or just put through the food processor)
- 1 cup dry old fashioned oats
- 1 cup millet (I used puffed this time, but you can use dry millet too)
- a couple spoonfuls of raw pumpkin seed
- sprinkle of chia seed
- sprinkle of finely chopped goji berries
- dash of ceylon cinnamon



Mix cooked mashed pumpkin, cinnamon, chia, pumpkin seeds, minced goji berries and minced greens. Then mix in the dry oats and millet. Roll teaspoon sized balls, food prep gloves will come in handy for this part. You can chill them in the refrigerator for a few minutes to set their shape. Greens for this batch included collard, mustard, turnip, dandelion, kale and endive.

\* Added some parsley too.

\* You can get the dry or puffed millet from health food stores.

\* I've also substituted cooked quinoa instead of using the dry oats.

\* Would be great substituting the chopped goji berries for chopped cranberries too.



Quinoa, veggie and cranberry stuffed mini pumpkins.



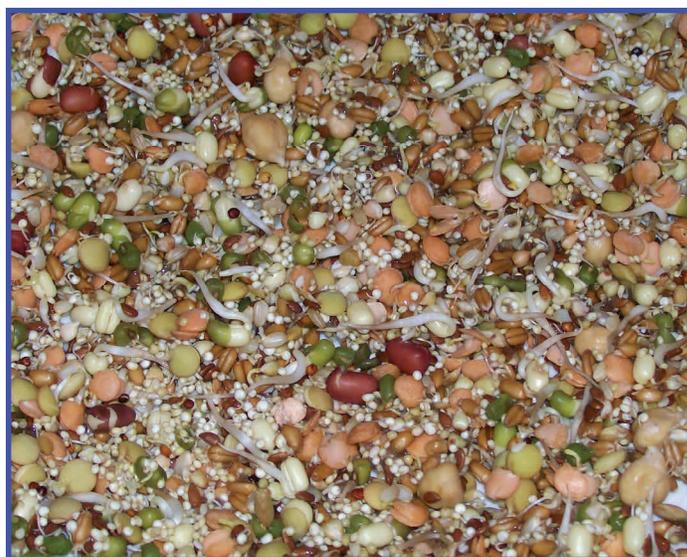
A Fall Feast!

## FLOWERS & SPROUTS, ANYONE?

Most parrots love flowers and do eat them in the wild. For more information on safe and healthy flowers to feed your fids, see this article by Laura Ford: <http://abirdsbestlife.wordpress.com/2012/04/28/flowers-for-ariel-and-her-flock/>



Leafy Greens: Kale, Collard, Mustard, Dandelion and Cilantro and Petunias



Sprouts are also a healthy, live food that you can feed your birds - you can combine it with flowers and other greens for a nutritious meal: Quinoa (black, white and red), Mung, Garbanzo, Adzuki, Red Lentils, Green Lentils, Fenugreek, Wheat Berries, Millet, Buckwheat, Short Grain Brown Rice, Sesame, Chia, Flax and Almonds.

For more information on do it yourself sprouting, see our previous [newsletter](#).

# DEAR DR. JON.....

Dr. Jon Rubinstein attended veterinary school at Tufts University. Following several years in practice he undertook a dual residency in Avian and Reptile/Amphibian medicine, culminating in board-certification in avian medicine.

When Jen and Karen asked me to do this column I was really excited. The opportunity to try and help and learn from a community of bird people is hard to pass up. What could go wrong? Then I remembered when I was practicing in Lithuania, Georgia, and the local paper would occasionally call me on the phone to ask about some topic or other. Hanta virus, one time. I always tried to research my topic and give a clear, concise answer. And every time the article seemed to be almost completely unrelated to anything I ever thought, much less said. And my name was always misspelled. Once, they misspelled it two different ways in the same article. True story. So I concluded it would be a good idea to make things a little more structured this time, set some goals and terms. What this column will and will not be.

First, the one thing it won't be. This won't be a column where I attempt to diagnose or treat any illnesses or issues in individual birds. Diagnosis in avian patients is hard enough with the bird in your face, much less over a computer. And the most important tool by far in veterinary medicine is a knowledgeable physical exam, which clearly cannot happen here. If you have any of these types of questions, please see your vet immediately. If you do not have one, there is a list of avian specialists available on the Association of Avian Veterinarians website.

What I hope this forum will be is a venue where we can exchange information and viewpoints and can learn from each other. What we talk about will be whatever the most people seem to be writing in about, and I'll make an effort to spread the topics around a bit, to cover everyone's interests. We can discuss more than parrots, too, if any of you have backyard chickens or are into falconry. I'll be honest about those topics I have less exposure to, and do my best to invite to get some good information from someone who does. I hope this forum will be helpful, and popular, and that we can spread some important information together. Please email your questions to [askthetvetatfloridaparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto:askthetvetatfloridaparrotrescue@aol.com).

## **Dear Dr. Jon: What infectious disease is currently the most commonly seen and poses the greatest risk to companion birds? Also, how do we keep our flocks safe from it?**

Despite overall decreases in their frequency (mostly due to the cessation of wild bird imports and better testing protocols) infectious agents, particularly viruses, remain an important cause of sickness in pet birds. While it is hard to say what the most common disease is, there are several that bird owners need to be aware of. Today we will discuss three diseases that are very important in our companion birds: circovirus (beak and feather disease) infection, polyoma virus infection, and avian borna virus infection.

**Psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD)** is a virally induced disease that only affects Old-World birds, meaning those from Africa, Australia and Asia. The New World parrots such as macaws and Amazons, while rarely reported to have the disease, are generally considered safe from infection. PBFD is a disease of young birds, with the vast majority of cases occurring in birds less than 3 years old. Like many infectious diseases PBFD is most dangerous to nestling parrots, with high losses in the younger birds.

The way in which the disease manifests depends on age and species of bird. For the larger parrots (cockatoos, African grey parrots) sudden death of nestlings is very common. Some slightly older birds may live long enough to develop feather lesions, and other birds may survive this stage but are still chronically infected, immunocompromised, and acting as shedders contaminating the environment. These birds will usually die within a few years due to secondary infections. The virus is more common in the smaller parrots. Lovebirds and budgies are frequently infected and may or may not show signs; they can however secrete large amounts of infectious virus. This is one reason that bird owners are not encouraged to have both small and large parrots housed together.

Any bird that shows clinical signs has a poor prognosis and is almost certainly acting as a source of infection for other birds; likewise some birds can be asymptotically infected and also be secreting large amounts of virus. There is no direct treatment except supportive care and possibly interferon therapy. There are several tests available but the most useful is a PCR that can be performed on a variety of tissues—it is essential that ALL new birds be tested for PBFD before being introduced to the flock. Positive birds can be maintained in quarantine and retested in 4-6 weeks to see if they have cleared the infection.

**Polyoma Virus disease** is another virally induced disease that predominately infects nestling birds. Unlike PBF, all psittacines are susceptible to polyoma virus infection. Many birds, and almost all infected adult birds, will clear the infection though some birds will secrete large amounts of infectious virus into the environment. It is these birds, often in breeding facilities, that are the source of new infections. Many young birds die acutely so it is important to have a necropsy done on any nestlings that die, especially if they die rapidly without any warning signs of disease. Like PBF, polyoma can infect smaller birds such as lovebirds and budgies and these birds act as a source of infection for other birds; these birds may not show any signs though both polyoma and PBF are causes of the “French Molt” occasionally seen in budgerigars.

It is highly recommended that all new birds be tested for polyoma virus infection; usually this is done through PCR testing of both blood and swabs of the choana and cloaca. Positive birds should remain in quarantine and the bird retested 4-6 weeks later as many birds are capable of clearing the infection.

**Avian Borna Virus Infection** is another virally induced disease that should be of concern to bird owners. Only in the past few years have veterinarians determined that this virus is the cause of proventricular dilation disease (PDD), also known as macaw wasting syndrome. What we are continuing to discover is that we know all too little about this virus. It was once assumed that this was a very rare, very deadly disease, but the picture that is starting to emerge is quite different; it appears infection is actually fairly common but that the manifestations of the disease, both in terms of clinical signs AND severity, is really quite variable. Some birds can carry the virus, shed the virus, and never seem to get sick. Other birds get sick and die rapidly. The most common clinical signs relate to the GI and nervous systems, and may include the passage of undigested food in the feces, weight loss despite good appetite, vomiting/regurgitation, recurrent GI infections, and neurologic syndromes ranging from dullness to blindness to seizures to tremors. Other disease presentations are possible, and some are even looking into a potential link between self-mutilation and ABV infection! The biggest problem right now is that 1. We do not know what the disease may look like in any given bird, especially in the early stages of infection when signs are subtle or even non-existent and 2. There is no single “best test” right now; remember that it was only a few years ago that we discovered the virus. Right now active research is ongoing into determine the means of transmission (though it seems feces, respiratory secretions such as mucus and saliva, and feather dust are all likely to be infectious) as well as determining which tests are best for diagnosis. It seems likely that a combination of tests, including PCR of blood, feathers and possible oral swabs will be the best, but the research is ongoing.

The obvious next question is “how do I keep my birds safe from these infections?”. The best answer is quarantine. It is a really, really, really bad idea to obtain ANY bird, from any source, no matter how reputable, and immediately introduce it to the rest of your flock. Ideally, any new acquisition would, before being introduced to the resident birds, be housed separately for a minimum of 6-8 weeks. Immediately upon purchase the bird should have a vet visit, baseline bloodwork such as complete blood count (CBC) to look for general signs of disease, and specific testing for PBF, polyoma, ABV and possibly other diseases considered. If the bird passes all these tests, and seems healthy through the quarantine, then they can be introduced to the flock. The big caveat here is that at this time, all the testing in the world cannot guarantee and bird free from ABV infection. Nonetheless, these are the best measures to keep your flock safe!

Please e-mail your questions for Dr. Jon to [askthetvetatfloridaparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto:askthetvetatfloridaparrotrescue@aol.com) - your question may or may not appear in future issues of Dear Dr. Jon.

# To Adopt or to purchase?

## Hand Raising a Macaw vs. adoption

By: Christopher Burgr - Post Adoption & Educational Consultant for Florida Parrot Rescue

I am a lover of birds and parrot rescue is my particular passion. Within this passion, I find I am most fond of the macaws. I do love all parrots species - large and small - but for some reason I seem captivated by them. Maybe it's that goofy playfulness or that little bit of mischief in them that draws me in. Whatever it is, I am hooked.

So often I hear people talk about getting a baby or young bird so they can raise it to be the perfect bird and to be bonded to them. In macaws this seems to be an even more prevalent statement. My first macaw is also the one and only baby parrot we weaned and raised. He is now four years old and is definitely my boy. He's silly, loving and mischievous. In short, your typical blue and gold macaw.

His life in our home started at the tender age of 12 weeks. He was a fluffy bundle of feathers and loved being cuddled. This stage is so very short as even a large macaw grows very quickly. We could actually see him mature right before our eyes. Our cuddly bundle of feathers soon was 12 months old and filled with curiosity and tons of energy. About this time he entered the macaw terrible twos, an age when they test boundaries, much like a human child does. It's also at this time they realize they have a beak and are able to do "stuff". He was not able to keep from putting his beak on everything and everyone. Often it hurt and I would exclaim "ouch". Soon he learned to say "ouch" just before nipping me, but learning not to nip at all took a little longer.

Today, he is about as well behaved as a young macaw gets and is our treasured companion. He however, is not our only macaw. We in fact have two rescued blue and gold macaws. One is ten and the other 20. Both came in after our baby, but you would never know. All three are very bonded to us and none have a mean bone in them. Each one has their own personality with their own likes, dislikes and quirks. However, there is no difference in the strength of the bond these birds have with us. Truth be told the two rescued birds are better behaved, but that's a function of age not origin. Macaws really do mellow with age and it seems much of the mellowing happens after age ten.

In conclusion, I would like to impress upon people that raising a macaw is not necessarily the easiest path to a great companion bird. It's much like raising a large breed puppy, but the process lasts much longer. My personal experience of raising a baby was a good education, but not one I would repeat. First, I don't have energy to raise one again and second there are so many great macaws needing a home that my heart is in adoption first. Finally, adult macaws really are a treasure and most settle into their new homes very quickly, so if you're adding one to your home in your future, please consider adopting an adult macaw. You'll save a life and get a very loyal and loving clown as your new best buddy.

*Chris has always loved animals of all kinds having been raised with father who farmed as a hobby and later working as a volunteer for the Henry Doorly Zoo. Birds were always a special passion with parrots being especially captivating. After meeting his future wife, Lorry, he discovered she too had a special place in her heart for parrots and so began a journey into living with companion parrots. Not long after getting a parrot they were bombarded with people asking if they could take their bird. Eventually realizing there were rescues for parrots, a passion for parrots turned into a passion for rescue. He has particularly taken an interest in working with behavior problems in cockatoos and macaws. They are often misunderstood and their owners overwhelmed with the complexities of living with an animal that is at best, only a few generations removed from the wild. His goal is to get more people to keep their companions instead of feeling compelled to re-home the bird. Recently, Chris accepted the position of Post Adoption and Educational Consultant for Florida Parrot rescue and has already helped many people work through behavioral issues with their birds. If you have a questions for Chris or a problem with your parrot that you need help with, please e-mail us at [fparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto:fparrotrescue@aol.com).*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

We have had many touching cases move through Florida Parrot Rescue over the past year that many of you have helped us through, both monetarily and through moral support. Below, we remind you of only some of the memorable cases of 2012.



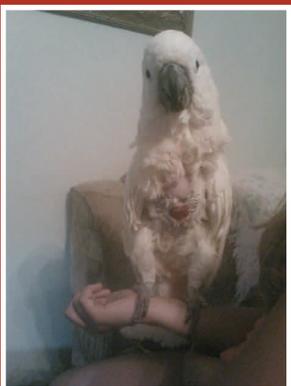
Anna is an 18-20 year old cockatiel who came to us in April of 2012 in very bad shape from neglect. She was close to death's doors, but through the efforts of her foster family and our awesome vets, she recovered after surgery and was adopted this past quarter!

Dora also came to us in April of 2012, she was found and brought to Hillsborough County Animal Services and FPR was called to pick her up. Although she ended up having to have a wing amputation due to serious injuries and suffered several setbacks from which we thought we may lose her, in the end she thrived and was adopted by a veterinarian technician!



Max the Severe Macaw came to us in May of 2012. Max suffered from very painful self mutilation on his chest due to neglect and poor diet. Over time and through some great vet care and lots of love and attention from his foster family, Max began to heal and was adopted last quarter!

Sue & Dempsey, a pair of bonded cockatiels, came to us towards the end of May 2012 from another rescue. Sue required extensive vet care and surgery. Through the efforts of their foster Mom and our wonderful vets, Sue and Dempsey are now available for adoption! Check them out on our website!



Destiny the Moluccan Cockatoo came to us in June of 2012, another precious parrot suffering from severe self inflicted wounds due to previous care and treatment. Destiny has received extensive medical care, thanks in no small part to the [Crazy Bird Ladies](#) who funded her care, and to her wonderful foster Mom who through persistent research, found the best ways to treat her condition. Destiny is still healing and learning not to pick, but her foster Mom decided she couldn't live without her and so recently adopted Destiny as a permanent member of her flock!



In September of 2012, we received a call from the owner of a property whose tenants had vacated and abandoned several birds and a dog. Our volunteers rushed over and found an awful site, included filthy, roach infested cages with no food and water and a maltese in desperate need of medical care. Not only did we bring into rescue 3 birds, but a sweet little dog that we just could not leave behind! Max the Maltese has since been adopted, but all three birds are still searching for their forever homes. Check out our website to see these beauties!

Scout, aka, Diega, came to us at the end of July. Patricia Sund, writer and chop guru extraordinaire, received a message from a fan on facebook about a bird who lived on a perch outside - regardless of day, night or bad weather. Patricia immediately contacted us and our volunteers went into action to bring Scout into rescue. Poor Scout was quite the mess, but through the love and care of our wonderful fosters and vets, Scout is a wonderfully happy bird and is currently searching for her forever home.



Seafoam and Maimey are a pair of lovebirds that came to us in June of 2012. Not only were they babies who needed hand feeding, but they both had splay leg and needed extensive medical care in an attempt to correct their medical issues. Despite the best efforts of their loving foster parents and the best of possible care from our vets, Maimey passed from what our vet feels were internal medical issues she was born with. Seafoam was later adopted by her foster parents and while she lives a full and comfortable life, she continues to struggle with some medical issues.

In October, we received a call from the wonderful Vicki of Miss Vicki's Parrot Village in Georgia asking for our help. She had received a call from a woman in North Carolina whose friend was dying and had 30 birds that needed a place to go. So in conjunction with Miss Vicki, FPR volunteers sprang into action. Within 2 weeks, all 30 birds had been retrieved from North Carolina and placed into loving foster homes between the two rescues. Many have already been adopted, but we still have more than a few that need loving forever homes! And thanks to the [Parrot Posse](#), most of the birds that came into FPR received brand new flight cages!



# A THANK YOU TO OUR BIRDIE SANTAS!

This year, we tried a new project and asked that all of you, our supporters, pick a bird currently available for adoption and supply that bird with toys for the holidays! Thank you, in no small part to our VP Lorry Burch who headed up this project, but also to all of you who took time out to purchase and mail toys to each of these birds. This project was a huge success and every bird in rescue received presents. Thank you all so much! Enjoy these pictures of these really happy fids receiving their gifts!

Our wonderful contributors:

Marietta R., Jessica S., Cheryl C., Bonnie C., Jennifer C., Carmel M., Janet H., Mimi G., Karen V., Beverly W., Louis F., Brandy B., Debi W., Ashley G., Adrienne R., Shannon M., Dana S., Jennye P., Heather H., Christy P., Michele R., Tiffany F., Pam C., Brittany P., Vanessa A., Adrienne R., Leslie B., Jennifer B., Melissa P., Lori L., Bonnie M., Deborah N., Cindy G., Michael L., Kari I., Rebecca G., Charlotte C., Deborah F., Kelly B., Sarah R., Michelle I., Cindy J., Gina D., Sarah R., Alana R., Mary Ann R., and Girl Scout Troop 600221, Girl Scouts Of West Central Florida.



# THE HIGH COST OF RUNNING A RESCUE - WHY ADOPTION IS NOT FREE

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.

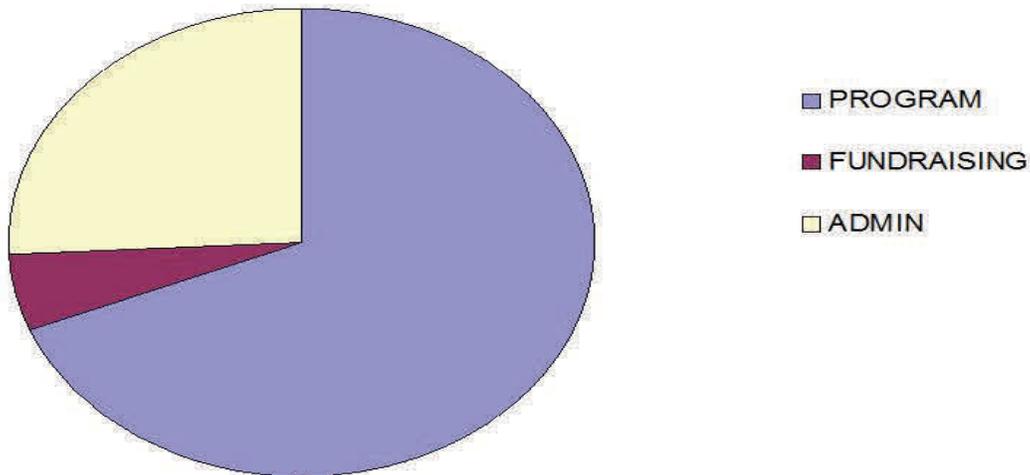
FPR spent over \$46,500 for the year 2012 running the rescue (a 30% higher cost than 2011) with more than \$32,000 of those funds going directly to vet bills, associated care and educational expenses. Every bird that comes into the rescue is vetted before being placed up for adoption, on down to the 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, merchant fees, transport costs and liability insurance) and fundraising expenses (event supplies and advertising). With 212 intakes for 2012 and 207 adoptions, that budget breaks down to a cost of approximately \$219 to accommodate EACH bird. Considering that each foster foots the bill for most food, toys and transports for their fosters, this cost is probably much higher, although impossible to measure. Often I get the question "If you are a non-profit, why isn't adoption free?". It is because of these costs, that adoption is not free. These costs are necessary for the health and well being of the birds in our care and must be funded through adoption fees and fundraisers.

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 [fiparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto:fiparrotrescue@aol.com). Don't forget to use the "gift" option so that we are not charged fees!

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 with 100% of profits going 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. If you are interested in joining the fundraising committee, please e-mail the director of the rescue. Thank you all for your continued support!

## Florida Parrot Rescue Operating Expenses \$46,500 for 2012 (\*approximate\*)



*Program expenses = vet costs and associated care, animal services pull fees, educational expenses, supplies  
Administration expenses = phone and web costs (with associated supplies), liability insurance, transport costs, merchant fees  
Fundraising expenses = chop expenses, advertising, cruise cost for raffle*



Finding  
Forever  
Homes for  
Our  
Feathered  
Friends!

## FLORIDA PARROT RESCUE, INC

[flparrotrescue@aol.com](mailto:flparrotrescue@aol.com)

<http://www.floridaparrotrescue.com>

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

<http://twitter.com/FLParrotrescue>

<http://floridaparrotrescue.com/blog>

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: Springer the Cockatiel



Springer is a 19 year old female cockatiel with special needs. She has arthritis and must be on daily medicine for the rest of her life (Metacam). Springer MUST be in a cage alone with no other birds and though she does not mind other birds being in the house, she does not want them on, in or around her cage – so she will only be adopted into a home where care will be taken with her placement and her needs. Prior to coming into FPR, she had been caged with another species of bird which traumatized and bullied her, causing injury. Springer is one of the most loving cockatiels anyone could ever ask for! She LOVES to have her head scratched (she can not lift her leg to do it herself) and she will melt your heart. She does not move quickly and can not climb birdie ladders because of her arthritis, but she loves to perch on your shoulder while you may be watching tv or reading a book. Springer's balance is a bit off so if you have her on your shoulder, she does best when you are sitting and still with her and giving her lots of loving. Springer is offered a variety of food including pellets, veggies, fruits and some seeds. Springer also has only specific toys she will play with. Springer is looking for a loving home with someone who will spend time giving her lots of love, head scratches, and will be very careful and dedicated in regards to her care and comfort!