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Beaks and Feathers

NEWSLETTER FALL - WINTER 2013

JANUARY 1, 2014

2013 ADOPTIONS

Florida Parrot Rescue has adopted out 122 animals in 2013! With 113 birds still in rescue at this time, we are working hard to get them into their forever homes. As always, if you could please continue to share our adoptables with your families, friends, co-workers and anyone else you can think of, it would help tremendously!

Keep in mind we always need new fosters as well. Our waiting list is growing and we have a lot of birds needing to come into rescue, in addition to the emergency calls we get on a fairly regular basis. We always need more foster homes!

Remember that our foster/adoption application is available on our website at www.floridaparrotrescue.com or you can e-mail us at fparrotrescue@aol.com. We try to process our applications as soon as possible, just be patient with us as we are all volunteers!

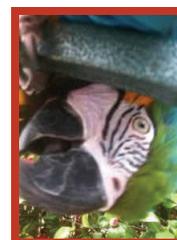
The following birds were adopted in 2013: Abby (Quaker); Abraham (Eclectus); April (Cockatiel); Baby (Quaker); Bailey (Quaker); Bandit (Umbrella); Bart (Canine); Basil (B&G); Beaky (Plumhead); Brutus (Parakeet); Buddy (Double Yellow Head); Bonzo (Yellow Nape); Buddy & Daisy (Dusky & Sun Conure); Charlie & Buzzard (Cockatiels); Chiku (African Grey); Cheep

(Lovebird); Chloe (Moluccan); Chester (Cockatiel); Chewy (Umbrella); Cindy (Green Cheek); Coco and Skylar (Lovebirds); Cracker (Yellow Head); Cyrano (Yellow Nape); Delilah (Cockatiel); Dexter (African Grey); Diega (B&G); Ditto (African Grey); Dusty (Nanday); Dusty (Green Cheek); Dweezle (African Grey); Ernestine (African Grey); Gatsby (White Front); George (African Grey); Georgie (Cockatiel); Gillian (Blue Front); Gizzy (Cockatiel); Harley & David (Cockatiels); Hoagie (Double Yellow Head); Jojo (Blue Front); Jolie (Umbrella); Kaipo (Eclectus); Kahn (B&G); KC, Sunshine & Sunshine (Cockatiels); Keiko (Quaker); Kenny (Cockatiel); Kiari (B&G); Kiana (Umbrella); Kirk (Green Cheek); Kiwi (African Grey); Kiwi (Green Cheek); Kirk (Green Cheek); Lily & Ollie (Budgies); Lola (Eclectus); Louie (Parakeet); Lucky (Feline); Lucy (Severe); Lucy (Senegal); Magoo (Umbrella); Mario & Luigi (Quakers); Max (Canine); Max (Quaker); Mickey (Indian Ringneck); Milo (African Grey); Mooch (Umbrella); Mr. Too (Moluccan); Nacho (Parrotlet); Nugget (Cockatiel); Olive (Cockatiel); Ori (Parakeet); Peaches (Lovebird); PeeWee (African Grey); PeeWee (Lovebird); Pepe (African Grey); Pepi (Parrotlet); Perry (Quaker); Pete & Joe (Cockatiels); Picachu (Cockatiel); Piper (Green Cheek); Piper (Moluccan); Poppy (Sun Conure); Prince (African Grey);

Remy (Orange Wing); Roxanne (Umbrella); Sage (Quaker); Seirra (Cockatiel); Sinbad (Senegal); Skyblue & Lemon Lime (Parakeets); Snuggie (African Grey); Sonny (Double Yellow Head); Spooky & Rainman (Cockatiels); Springer (Cockatiel); Sprout (Green Cheek); Stevie (African grey); Sunnie (Indian Ringneck); Sunny & Ariel (Cockatiels); Sunny (African Grey); Sunny, Sylvester & Tweety (Parakeets); Sunshine (Lesser Sulfur Crested); Taco (Yellow Nape); Tayla (Quaker); TC (Military Macaw); Violet, Blueberry & Loki (Lovebirds); Whizzer (African Grey); Willow (Cockatiel); Yoshi (Quaker); Zaney (African Grey); Zazoo (B&G Macaw).



Kiwi – Green Cheek



Kairi – Blue & Gold Macaw



Lucy – Severe Macaw

Letter From The Director & Vice President



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



Karen Atwood
Vice President
of Florida Parrot
Rescue, Inc.



Dear Friends, Volunteers and Supporters,

We wanted to take the time to say THANK YOU to everyone who supports Florida Parrot Rescue throughout the year. We had MANY special needs cases move through the rescue in 2013 and we would not have been able to care for them all properly without your help. Through direct donations to the rescue, donations made to our vet offices, and product donations through our Amazon wish list, you have made it all possible. And let's not forget our fosters and volunteers! Florida Parrot Rescue is a 501c3, non-profit, all volunteer run rescue - and that includes all of the officers. These volunteers spend almost every bit of free time they have caring for birds in their care, attending events to spread the word about the rescue, driving transports, writing educational articles, and working on the website and facebook page. Without those people, so many parrots would have gone without and we want to thank them from the bottom of our hearts for their time and effort. We appreciate every single one of you! Thank you all so much - we would truly not be where we are without all of you! With your help, we will place even more animals in their new homes in the coming year! Happy New Year!!

No Beak Left Behind!

Jennifer U. James, Director - President

Karen Atwood - Vice President

HOW CAN YOU HELP FLORIDA PARROT RESCUE?

By: FPR foster

The work that Florida Parrot Rescue does would not happen without you! In addition to volunteers, we rely on your contributions to make the work of finding forever homes for these gorgeous creatures possible. Fundraising sounds like such a big effort - and it certainly can be - but it's also a lot of small and creative efforts that really help the rescue. Some easy suggestions you can try include:

An FPR Donation Jar at your business, neighborhood barbeque, or family pool party
Recycle aluminum cans and donate the proceeds to FPR

Pizza Fundraiser

Car Wash

Garage Sale

Community Move Night

When shopping on Amazon, utilize our [Amazon wish list](#) and add one or two items to your order and those items will come directly to us for birds currently in rescue

Purchase your pet products (flea and heartworm medications for dogs and cats) at the non-profit organization [PetRescueRx](#) and choose Florida Parrot Rescue at checkout (proceeds will come to us)

Shop on-line stores which donate part of the proceeds to FPR - look to the left for some or see a full list here: <http://floridaparrotrescue.com/shopping-fundraisers/>

Like us on [Facebook](#) and share our posts and fundraisers

If you are planning a vacation, book through [Sherry Leybovich](#) who donates some proceeds to FPR when you mention our name!

What else can you think of? Every little bit helps, so whether you place a donation jar, visit a donation jar or recycle those aluminum cans, you really can make a difference and we thank you for your support!



Sherry Leybovich



Jennie Parry



Jennifer Sliwa



Owen Parry

Volunteers of the Month

July

Congratulations to one of our new fosters, Kip Cunningham. Right after Kip started with FPR she drove through MULTIPLE states to pick up an amazon to foster. That's dedication for sure! Kip has lots of bird experience and we are so excited to have her as a part of our organization. Fosters and volunteers are what drive us and are the reason we are able to help so many birds. Thank you Kip, we really are excited to have you and hope that you enjoy FPR as much as we do. Thank you for joining us and diving right in to help. We couldn't do it without you!

October

Congratulations to Faine Beckerman for being our volunteer of the month for October! Faine is a new foster who jumped right in by fostering not only birds, but also puppies that were found abandoned in a parking lot! Faine has also helped with several transports in her short time with us. We know she will continue to be an asset to our organization, as are all of our volunteers! Thank you so much Faine! We look forward to working with you for a long time to come!

August

Congratulations to Sherry Leybovich for being our volunteer of the month for August. Sherry is our Fundraising Coordinator and has been very busy this past year working on our online auction for Chopapalooza. She worked hard to organizing sponsors, vendors and to get everything up on the auction site. She also ran the raffles and auctions the day of Chopapalooza as well. Thank you Sherry for all that you do, we know that you dedicate a lot of time to FPR and we truly appreciate it!

November

Congratulations to Jennifer Sliwa on being awarded volunteer of the month for November! Jennifer is not a new member of FPR, in fact, she has been with us for a very long time, but her enthusiasm for the rescue and for helping all animals in need has not waned! Not only is she a foster coordinator, but she also manages our database AND continues to help with transports of animals into rescue. We would not have come as far as we have as a rescue without her help, and we look forward to many more years with her!

September

Congratulations to adoption coordinator, Jennie Parry. Not only does she work tirelessly placing animals with their new families, but she helped with multiple emergencies in September. She drove for 8 hours in order to pick up two birds whose owner passed away, she then transported those birds to other fosters across the state AND she bottle fed two puppies. In other words, Jenny ROCKS. We are so very appreciative of her and everything she does for the rescue. Thank you Jennie. You are valued and appreciated more than you know!!

December

Congratulations to Owen Parry on a WELL DESERVED nomination for volunteer of the month for December! Not only does Owen help his wife - our adoption Coordinator, Jennie - with events, but he has also helped us with our website. In December 2013, Owen had to have a life saving kidney transplant, and only a few weeks later, he was back on his feet helping to put cages together (see picture at left). He has shown such dedication to all animals in need and to our rescue - thank you so much, Owen! We love you, try to take it easy and heal well!

The High Cost of Running a Rescue: 2013

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 **\$65,000** for the year 2013 running the rescue (an almost **40%** higher cost than 2012) with more than **\$51,000** 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 118 intakes for 2013 and 122 adoptions with 113 birds still in rescue today, that budget breaks down to a cost of approximately **\$310** 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.

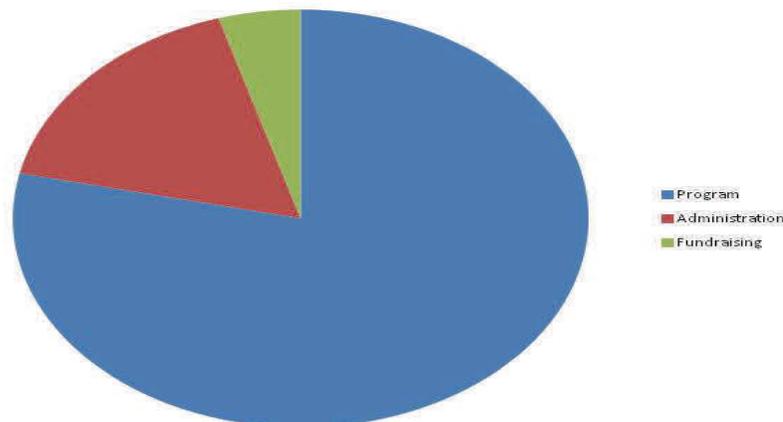
Often I get the question "If you are a non-profit, why isn't adoption free?" It is because of these costs, that adoption is not free. These costs are necessary for the health and well being of the birds in our care and must be funded through adoption fees and fundraisers. We are currently in need of additional funds as a result - we had some really tough, VERY EXPENSIVE cases this year. In fact, we only brought in (from fundraisers, adoption fees and direct product donations) approximately **\$53,000**, that is a \$12,000 difference from what it cost to run the rescue for the year, so we really need your help with fundraising and donations! 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. Don't forget to use the "gift" option so that we are not charged fees! You can also purchase products for direct donation through our Amazon wish list at <http://www.CLICK-HERE-To-Help.org/FloridaParrotRescue.htm>

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, and toys with 100% of profits going directly to the rescue. However, eventual adoption of the majority of the birds in our care as well as education, will always be our main goals.

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 FOR 2013 \$65,000

APPROXIMATE



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

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Opportunities

4th Saturday of each month all of
2014

Pet Supermarket 10am-2pm
1790 SE Port St. Lucie Blvd
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

Saturday January 25, 2014

Pookies RescueFest 10am-4pm
Lake Lily at the Maitland Civic Center
701 Lake Lily drive
Maitland, FL 32751

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

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

Saturday March 15, 2014

South Florida Pet Expo 10am-6pm
South Florida Expo Center
<https://www.facebook.com/southfloridapetexpo>

Saturday November 15, 2014

For Lauderdale Pet Expo 10am-6pm
Fort Lauderdale Convention
Center
<http://www.fortlauderdalepetexpo.com/>



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! Please e-mail us at ffparrotrescue@aol.com if you can volunteer or foster!

Purchase a Florida Parrot Rescue T-shirt from LaCroix Tees 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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Feeding Parrots Seasonally:

Autumn

by: Emily Smith

Hi Everyone! I'm a student at The Evergreen State College in Olympia WA, with a general passion for learning about all the awesomeness in this world. I'm extra enthusiastic about animals - birds in particular - nutrition, cooking from scratch, agriculture, and in general living a more fulfilling and conscientious life style. I write about all the things that interest me on my blog, [Life From Scratch](#). I hope you learn something and find some inspiration!

Feeding Parrots Seasonally: Autumn

It's fall again which means there are all sorts of great seasonal fruits and vegetables to feed our fids! Root vegetables, pomegranates, tree fruit, pumpkins, squash and huckleberries to name a few that are in season right now; meaning they are extra fresh, nutritious and flavorful in the fall.

Why Squash and Pumpkin should be on Your Birds Beak!



Both squash and pumpkins (I might refer to one or the other as we go along but everything applies to both) are especially great foods to offer your parrots. They are rich in a host of vitamins and minerals that are important for normal body function and repair as well as preventing cellular damage and inflammation. The majority of the calories from these cucurbitaceae family crops are in the form of healthy complex carbohydrates that may also help regulate blood sugar levels.

There are hundreds of different varieties: little, big, warty, smooth, green, orange, yellow, white; they are all equally great to feed! The super tiny ones are great since they are closer to a birdie serving size. Large pumpkins on the other hand, will give you lots of extra meat to freeze. Minis are often coated with wax or other thick synthetic coatings that make them unsafe to consume so make sure not to buy those ones! Look for uncoated minis in the produce section, at your farm-

ers market and from your local farmers.

How to Prepare?

You can offer squash raw or cooked. Baking, steaming and microwaving are all easy ways to prepare them for your birds. You can cut the squash up and remove the seeds or bake them whole with a few vent holes poked through the squash to the seed cavity.

The seeds are also a great treat. You can feed them raw, baked or dehydrated. If you dehydrate or bake you will have plenty to save for training treats, to add to foraging toys or sprinkle on their food. If you were wondering, yes, you can dehydrate squash too!

To save the seeds remove as much of the stringy pumpkin guts as you can and then wash them under warm water in a strainer or colander until they are free of pumpkin guts. You can bake them in a hot oven (400°F) for a crunchy snack that you will probably enjoy as much as your birds. Or, for a snack that has more of the benefits of the fats intact dry with your food dehydrator on the lowest setting. Line the dryer racks with parchment paper or fruit leather inserts so the seeds don't fall through.



Raw or very lightly cooked squash is perfect to offer as a foraging opportunity. You can chunk or half a washed squash and stick it through cage bars or onto stainless steel foraging skewers or untreated bamboo barbecuing skewers. If you have a foraging experienced bird you can even give them a whole washed pumpkin (do try to find a size appropriate one so they don't waste as much), it will make a huge mess but your birds will have a blast.

Cooking Ideas

Bake at around 375°F (either cut and guts/seeds removed or whole with vent holes) until the meat is tender enough that a butter knife can be easily inserted into the flesh. This is my preferred way to cook squash. I like to mix the meat in with chop and veggies and if it's a tiny squash I put everything back in the shell before serving. It gives the birds a fun foraging meal.

* You can also stuff the seed cavity of a raw one with chop for an equally fun and entertaining meal.*



Steam to your bird's preference. You will want to experiment with all the cooking method to see what texture your birds prefer, but especially with steaming since it can make squash slimy and mealy.

Microwave, also to your birds preference. For many folks this is their preferred way to cook squash especially the small ones. Just make sure to poke plenty of vent holes. I've been told a small pumpkin (the sort that fit in your hand) is tender in about 15 minutes but cooking time will vary depending on your microwave and squash.

Ways to Feed

Mix in with chop, dry food, greens or other bird-healthy foods
 Add to birdie bread, bon-bons, treat balls and birdie crackers
 Beat it into eggs before you cook them or in with boiled egg yolks.

Bird safe seasonings to add?

Adding bird safe seasoning is a great way to change up a meal and many spices actually have health benefits. Salt and preservative free chili and pepper powders, Ceylon cinnamon, cumin and ginger are all great lightly sprinkled on squash meat or seeds for your fids.



A Few Other Things to Remember...

If you bird has never seen a pumpkin before he might think it's a birdie bomb or even worse a bird eating monster!!! Go slow and act like you think the new food is the coolest, tastiest thing ever. Cook yourself some and eat it while your bird eats theirs. Birds are social creatures so when the rest of the flock (you) are eating they figure they should be eating, preferably the same thing, too. Serving it mixed in with their usual food in their usual dish is another great way to introduce them to squash. Remember variety is the key to a healthy diet! Serve your flock a wide range of different foods prepared in every bird safe way you can think of! Pumpkin is great but don't forget about all the other seasonal foods you can offer your birds.

Toxic Foods: by FPR Volunteer

We often have inquires as to what foods are toxic to parrots. Here is a good starting list of items to avoid in your birds menu. It is also very important to consult with your vet if you are in doubt about a food item if you are in doubt of it's safety for your feathered friends.

1. Avocado -contains a toxin called Persin which if ingested can cause respiratory distress and fluid retention around the heart, liver and lungs.
2. Apple Seeds along with other members of the stone fruit family, cherries, peaches, apricots and pears- contains trace elements of Cyanide in their seeds. The fruit is fine for your bird but please remove all seeds before feeding.
3. Alcohol -which depresses the organ systems of the bird and can be fatal.
4. Tomatoes- are wonderful and perfectly safe for your bird but make sure you remove the stems, vines and leaves
5. Salt- something every living being needs in moderation but in high levels it can cause dehydration, kidney dysfunction and death.
6. Caffiene- causes cardiac malfunction in birds and in extreme cases can cause cardiac arrest.
7. Beans- While cooked beans are a wonderful and healthy treat for your birds uncooked beans can be hazardous. They contain a poison called Hemaglutin which can be toxic so please cook all beans thoroughly
- 8 Chocolate- highly toxic to not only your bird but also many other household pets. Chocolate poisoning effects the digestive system, causing vomiting and diarrhea but in more extreme cases, it effects the nervous system causing seizures and death

Positive Reinforcement:

by: Lara Joseph

Lara is the owner of The Animal Behavior Center, LLC in Ohio. She presents workshops, travels, lectures, and consults focusing on positive reinforcement interactions and modifying behavior through applications in behavior analysis. She is also the Director of Avian Training for a wildlife rehabilitation center where she focuses on taking stress out of animal environments. Lara is an active member of The Animal Behavior Management Alliance, The American Federation of Aviculture, a professional member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators, The Pet Professional Guild, and the founder of The Parrot Society of NW Ohio. For more information visit her website at TheAnimalBehaviorCenter.com.

The proof is in the pudding...about positive reinforcement training, that is. Sometimes I don't even like to use the word 'training' when I'm talking about the way I interact with birds because some people tend to think 'training' means to teach them tricks or 'training' means teaching a bird to fly to you when requested. Yes, both of these examples are training but training happens each time anyone of us interacts with our bird, our dog, or our horse. We are all trainers and the importance lies in exactly what we are training the animal to do. We unknowingly train our birds to bite harder and scream louder while un-training the desirable behaviors like perching quietly and playing independently. There is always a place to begin turning these behaviors around because I know you can always teach an old dog new tricks. I know it.

A lot of times when I talk about training I will use the terms 'positive reinforcement interactions' because it takes the weight off the person doing the listening. By this I mean they don't have to look at the word 'training' in the sense it is often perceived as I mentioned above. Positive reinforcement interactions or training is not a fad...it is a way of living and the best advice I can give anyone are a few. It takes practice and not necessarily much to see the strong results. Learn from your mistakes, is another piece of advice I give. I make mistakes every day. I'll see a bird reacting in a way I did not see coming or find myself thinking "I pushed the bird too far". So learn from it. Take a step back and think "What brought that on? How can I approach this differently next time?" This is also why I stay as far away from generalizing species of birds as I possibly can. By this I mean generalizing in a sense of saying "Start with a small bird or Greys are phobic." I've seen dynamite come in small packages and I've seen the biggest of birds be the biggest chickens. See, I just generalized the chicken. 😊

Each bird is its own individual and instead of looking at "What kind of bird is it?" I say "What behavior is it that I want to work with or that I'm dealing with?" It doesn't matter the species of bird, actually it doesn't even matter the animal. I don't want a parrot lunging at me any more than I want to hear an owl clack its beak at the sight of me. If I see or hear either of these happening, I always respect what the bird is saying. That lunge and that clack is a form of communication for that bird and if I ignore it, I'm interacting or training that bird to learn that it either needs to move to the next stronger line of communication like flying away from me to biting, or I'm interacting with it or training it to learn that no matter what it tries to tell me, I'm not going to listen. This approach is not going to do me any favors in trying to develop a relationship or line of trust with the bird.

I train the birds at Nature's Nursery, a wildlife rehabilitation center near me. One day I walked in and their program pigeon and blue jay flew to me. Francis the pigeon landed on my hand and Pete the blue jay landed on my shoulder. I didn't call them and I didn't knowingly cue them. All I did was walk in. Someone turned and looked at me and said "Look at you. You're just like Snow White. All the birds just come to you." Do you know how many times I've thought about this statement? What that statement told me was that particular person hasn't yet experienced the true strength in positive reinforcement interaction or training yet. I looked at her as I raised an eyebrow and thought "Hmm, should she be my next training subject?"

The reason this has gone through my mind so many times over the past year is because it lets me know how many people out there truly don't know of the strength in this type of interaction with animals or people. (*see note at end of paragraph) These two birds didn't just fly to me because I have this magical aura and a long blue dress and a crown. They flew to me because I'm the deliverer of positive reinforcers. I'm the communicator that respects their body language and has learned to read them and backs off when the bird tells me to back off. I try my hardest to never push a bird to the point where it has to tell me to back off with its body language. If I do, I call that a mistake and I learn from it. *To read an additional blog post I wrote in working with reinforcers with animals and with people click this link: [Unknowingly Punishing Desired Behavior](#)

Those birds flew to me because I reward desired behaviors. I quickly identify reinforcers and then reserve them for times in which I need or want to deliver for a behavior I want to see maintain or increase. I've been accused of bribing birds. Hmm, when this was directed my

way I thought “What did I not explain or communicate clearly to this person?” It was an opportunity I took from which to learn. We all move towards things we want or desire and away from things we don’t want or outcomes we don’t desire. The things we move towards we do so because we are reinforced for doing so. Sometimes we even move towards things we don’t like because the reinforcer outweighs the negative feelings we are given when we move towards them. For example... work. Someone who hates their job continues to go because there is a reinforcer...the paycheck. See where I’m going? Try to think of any behavior you exhibit and have their not be a reinforcer for doing it. We give behaviors because there is some type of outcome we want. That is why I always positively reinforce the behaviors of birds, other animals, and people that I want to see maintain or increase. When one of my birds or a bird in which I’m interacting with exhibits a behavior I want to see maintain or increase, you bet your bippy I’m going to reinforce that one. If it earned them a positive reinforcer (reward) this time, chances are they will see if it works again. It is my job as this type of trainer to identify the reinforcer and then use it or them sparingly to keep that behavior strong. Francis the pigeon flew to my hand so I rubbed her beak. That is one of her reinforcers. Pete flew to my shoulder so I turned my head and talked to him in a way I always talk to him. Attention from me is a reinforcer for Pete. Also, the bird is always the one that decides the reinforcer. Never us. Stick that one in your thinking cap for tonight when you are trying to sleep. 😊

I am working with a bird now that I have no clue of its history. Not a clue. I do know that the first time I raised my hand to it to step up it growled at the proximity and probably pace at which I raised my hand. Mistake...I learned from it. I should have known better than to approach an animal in the pace I did and if someone was watching me, they probably would not have thought I moved fast at all. When this bird growled at me, that could be a sign that the history and pairing of a human hand to this bird has not always been a good one. Not anymore and not in my presence. When I began working with this bird the only obvious reinforcer I could identify was food. So, in the beginning I continually paired food with the proximity of my hand. Yes, I hand delivered most of its food the first day or two. Whatever food I left behind for the bird was nutritious, but not necessarily all of the bird’s favored pieces. Those pieces remained in my hand.

I fed the bird small morsels from between my finger tips. Pairing or Conditioning...I was pairing my hand and my proximity with this bird’s obvious and highly valued reinforcers. For the first day, my only physical interaction with the bird was walking up to it and handing it a morsel of food from between my fingers. Yep, that’s a lot of getting up and feeding. The bird’s reaction to seeing me getting up became a cue that its favored food was coming. This was an enormous reinforcer for me. “It’s working and quickly!” I thought. The next day I was delivering food in an open flat hand. It saw more of my hand and continual pairing of pairing me with what the bird desires. I’m just the deliverer of the desired at this point. Soon me, and any interaction with me, I hope will be a reinforcer for this bird. That’s how it works out the majority of the time anyway.

My goal was to be able to walk up and offer my flat hand, open facing down, asking the bird to step, and have the bird step onto my hand. Through consistent pairing of rewarding behaviors I wanted to see increase, this goal was accomplished the next day. Note, that each bird is its own individual and this may take shorter or longer, pending on the bird. A few days later I felt confident in being able well read the body language of the bird when it was getting ready to fly somewhere so I started offering my hand as a form of transportation for the bird. By observing the bird for a few days, I could tell the things it liked to fly to so when I took it to where I thought it wanted to go, that line of communication and understanding became a reinforcer for the bird to continue stepping on my hand. Guess what? No food involved here! Delivering the bird to its desired destination was the reinforcer and it is strong because I consistently paired myself with it. I can now walk by this bird in close proximity at a normal pace without hearing a growl. The bird is now scale trained, flies to areas on cue, steps on my hand 98% of the time when asked (I made a mistake the other day or it would be 100%, I learned from it), and is being recall trained with great success.

In closing, I want to relate quickly to how positive reinforcement interaction or training works on all or most living things. I have yet to meet a bird that did or does something for no reason. Over the past few days my neighbor has hired a man to work on the outside of her house and her lawn. She just left an hour ago. She told him she was leaving and he said he would stay until five and he would see her tomorrow. The progress in these last two hours of the day may very well be her reinforcer for continuing to hire him to come back. The reason I say “may” is because tomorrow isn’t here yet. I’m assuming he will continue to earn her trust in him by showing that work is being done while she is not home. His reinforcer for coming back tomorrow will be his paycheck.

The worker enjoys watching me train birds in my back yard everyday and he often makes one comment a day on my interaction with the birds. Today he told me “It’s really neat to see how you interact with the birds and how they are always eager to do what you ask.” “Yea?” I said as I put my hands on my hips while turning and observing these lovely creatures all perched around the aviary. “It’s not magic.” I said as I turned back to him and smiled. No need for a crown and blue dress in this show.

DEAR DR. JON

Dr. Jon is a residency trained avian veterinarian who practices at CountryChase Veterinary in Tampa, Florida. Dr. Rubinstein attended veterinary school at Tufts University in Grafton, Massachusetts. After graduation he worked for two years as a mixed animal veterinarian outside Atlanta, Georgia. He completed a rotating internship at the Veterinary Referral and Emergency Center in Darien, Connecticut followed by two years working as an overnight emergency doctor in a busy New York City referral hospital. During this time he also volunteered his time at the Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange, NJ. He then accepted a position in a dual three-year residency in Avian and Reptile/Amphibian Medicine. He has lectured at veterinary conferences and been published in both veterinary journals and textbooks. Dr. Rubinstein enjoys seeing a wide variety of pets, and continues to volunteer his time to local rehabilitation organizations and aquaria.

How do I stop a chronic feather-plucking bird from plucking without using neck rings or body suits?

This is going to be a long answer, and the only question we cover this issue, as feather destructive behavior (FDB) is one of the most common and most frustrating conditions we as avian vets have to deal with is. It has been estimated that a full 10% of birds show some degree of FDB. Not only is it incredibly common, but it is also very, very hard to cure. In addition, there is very little reliable scientific research in the field, and therefore unproven and often inaccurate “conventional wisdom” is incredibly pervasive, even among veterinarians. To make matters worse, often it is the best owners whose birds begin to exhibit feather destructive behaviors—my mentor always referred to it as “a disease of the best kept birds”. The problem is so pervasive that many vets that see a lot of birds do not even discuss the situation, understanding that the odds of fixing the problem is small. Hopefully here we can shed some light on what does and does not cause FDB.



When determining the cause of feather loss, I find it helps to create categories. One can think of intrinsic feather loss as feather loss which is either not caused by the bird, or is caused by the normal preening of abnormal feathers. This can be contrasted with FDB, which can be defined as self-inflicted feather loss, damage, or destruction. These feather destructive behaviors may have either medical or psychological underpinnings.

Intrinsic feather loss may be caused by an inappropriate environment. Small caging in which the bird is constantly damaging its feathers, low humidity, and abnormal photoperiods can certainly play a role in feathers being removed at an inappropriate rate, which could be mistaken for feather destructive behavior. However in these cases the feathers are damaged, and the removal of damaged feathers is appropriate.

Intrinsic feather loss can also be caused by a variety of medical problems. Viral diseases, such as circovirus and polyomavirus can manifest as abnormal feathers, but this is species specific. Malnutrition, including the feeding of all-seed diets has been anecdotally linked to FDB. This may be due to the high energetic costs of molting (the basal metabolic rate of birds can double during molting!) and the inability of poor quality diets to provide proper nutrition, but it is important to note that in experimental studies in which deficiencies in certain amino acids was induced FDB was never observed. Whether the accelerated removal of damaged or poor quality feathers caused by poor diet has been confused with FDB or if there exists a more direct link awaits further research.

Likewise, FDB can be caused by medical and non-medical conditions. The list of medical conditions that have been linked to FDB is extensive. As causality has never been even remotely proven, it is probably better to speak of medical “associations” instead of medical “causes”. Any medical condition that causes local or general irritation, pain or discomfort has the potential to cause picking directly over the site or more diffusely. Historically liver disease has often been linked with FDB, but cases of FDB presumed to be associated with renal disease and localized and systemic infections have also been reported. Hypothyroidism has also been reported to be a cause of FDB, however chickens with either primary or induced hypothyroidism do not exhibit FDB although they often have abnormal molts and plumage patterns. Any link between low thyroid levels and FDB remain anecdotal.

Many, many other conditions have been associated with FDB including skin infections, allergies, and parasitic infections but again, none have ever seemed to stand up to scientific investigation. One interesting theory is that some birds with FDB, particularly those that show self mutilation, may have avian bornavirus infection. This emerging disease, the cause of PDD (aka macaw wasting syndrome) is a neurotropic virus that has been shown to be able to cause a peripheral neuritis, and as such, may induce peripheral pain and perhaps FDB. This link, like the others, remains speculative but interesting.

The sad reality is that the vast majority of FDB is caused by behavioral and psychological factors. It is important to remember that behavioral FDB is not a diagnosis but simply a reflection of inadequacies in the captive environment provided to that bird. Many have argued that psychogenic FDB is similar to stereotypical behavioral disorders in human beings such as trichotillomania. Stereotypes are defined as behaviors that are repetitive, performed out of their original context, and therefore serve no obvious purpose; these behaviors do nothing to reduce or ease the environmental situation on which they depend, but are simply an expression of that environment. In humans and birds these abnormal behaviors are generally observed in situations of conflict and frustration and are often abnormal expressions of normal behavior. It is probably not a coincidence that the most common stereotypes seen in birds are aberrations of normal behaviors: vocalization and flock communication (screaming behavior), reproduction and mate interaction (excessive masturbation and/or cockatoo prolapse syndrome), or grooming (FDB). It is also worth noting that FDB is not observed in free-living parrots; clearly the disease is in some manner caused by captivity.

It is likely that most behavioral FDB is caused by a reductive, overly simple, mentally boring environment over which the bird has little or no control. This becomes obvious should one compare the daily activities of a wild-living parrot and a pet parrot. In the wild an Amazon parrot may spend 6 or more hours per day foraging for food—in captivity Amazons spend 30-72 minutes per day in feeding behavior. If you then factor in the distance the parrot would travel to find that food; the vigilance required to locate and avoid predators; the challenge of observing and reacting to changing environmental and weather patterns; and the mental flexibility required to navigate the myriad of interactions that occur in a flock of similarly intelligent individuals. Pet parrots are generally kept in cages no larger than 5 to 10 times their own height and less than this in width. They are fed a bowl of easily accessible food that requires no thought to select or prepare. Our generally poor understanding of avian social structure leads to the “human flock” sending confusing and inconsistent signals, especially in terms of reproductive relationships. In addition, these birds are housed exclusively indoors with no need to adapt to their highly static environments. Given this, is not probably not surprising that FDB and other avian stereotypes seem quite similar to those observed in industrial farms and some zoological institutions.

So what do we do about it? Leaving aside collaring and drug therapy (both very controversial, and frequently counter-productive) what can you and your vet do about FDB? The first step is to make absolutely sure that there is no environmental or medical cause for the behavior. A full veterinary exam with a complete history, bloodwork and X-rays is usually enough to determine if there is a medical cause. If there is not (the most common scenario) then the key to improving the birds quality of life is through mental enrichment and stimulation. It is unlikely that this will result in a cure as FDB, like nail chewing, hair twisting and other habits eventually comes to release endorphins on its own, making the behavior very rewarding even when removed from its original stimulus. Regardless of whether it decreases the extent of the FDB, increasing the mental stimulation provided to the bird is likely to make that bird more happy, satisfied, and mentally healthy.

Simple steps go a long way. Periodically reorganize the cage furniture, so that the bird has to re-acquaint him or herself with the layout. Move the physical location of the cage to provide a dynamic environment. A cage near a window is ideal. Even better is providing controlled, supervised access to the out-doors. Here the bird can observe and react to novel stimuli, such as cloud movement, barometric pressure changes, traffic, wild birds, and the like. Being outside also requires the bird to be vigilant for (hopefully nonexistent) predators, providing additional mental stimulation.

Mental stimulation can also be provided via the encouraging of foraging behaviors. This may involve the use of commercially available, complicated foraging toys, but can also be done simply via the provision of complicated foods like corn-on-the-cob, pomegranate, pineapple, or bananas with the peel still on. It can also be done by mixing the food with shredded newspaper, or hiding it inside a paper bag such that the bird has to make an effort to locate and consume the food. I would encourage all bird owners to learn about captive foraging; a good place to start is the Captive Foraging DVD by Dr. Scott Echols (Google it!).

Birds are messy and destructive by nature, and the provision of magazines, soft wooden perches, phone books, and the like that the bird will enjoy destroying (but will not consume!) provides a fun alternative to self-mutilation. Another simple way to provide the bird with a “job” is training. Many birds, despite their intelligence, are not asked to perform any action more complicated than stepping onto a hand or a finger. Owners can begin by teaching the “come” and “stay” commands they use with other pets. Providing food and verbal rewards for performing a task requires the bird to focus and think. This also allows the bird and owner to bond in a way that does not involve rubbing and petting, consequently this will not be perceived by the bird as sexual behavior.

Again, once FDB, especially psychogenic FDB, is established there is no intervention that will reliably cure it. But by instituting the changes listed above it is likely that the bird will have a more fulfilling life. These techniques are almost always better as a preventative than as a cure, and hopefully as time goes on veterinarians will be sure to council all new bird owners on the importance of mental as well as physical health in our pet psittacines.

WHY DOES FPR HAVE VET REQUIREMENTS FOR POTENTIAL ADOPTERS?

By Nicole Bennett

REALLY? A vet requirement? Why does it matter to Florida Parrot Rescue if I vet my OTHER animals? I give them a loving home, food and toys - what more do they need?!

We sometimes hear “yes - I have other animals, but I don’t take them to a vet”. Ugh Is often our first thought - as usually this means that person will not be able to, or are not willing to meet our high standard of adoption requirements. However, there are firm reasons as to why we take the stance that vetting your current animals properly is a “must have” for a potential adopter. Many people call their animals their babies - you talk to them, love them and treat them like members of your family, which is how it should be - so how come their care should not be as important as any other “family member”? And what does adopting a bird from Florida Parrot Rescue have to do with vetting my other animals? Simply put, if you don’t vet your dogs or cats on a regular basis - which is the responsible thing to do - then you most likely won’t vet an adoptive bird on a regular basis. Parrots are sensitive animals that require regular vetting as they can hide illnesses very easily - often times this regular vetting can save your birds life - we have seen it happen MANY times! Our fosters and volunteers also put a lot of time, care, and funds into the parrots in our care and we want to make sure they go to a home where they will continue to be looked after with the high quality of care of they have been provided through the rescue. Most people also entrust their parrots to our care for re-homing because we have such high standards. We feel that we have an obligation to those people and especially to the birds in our care - each and every bird, no matter the size, deserves the same high quality health care and we will continue to give that care to every single animal that comes through our door.

Another questions we get is “why take them to an AVIAN veterinarian?” Some say “I have a veterinarian right around the corner who sees dogs and cats, but they said they see a couple birds now and then” STOP RIGHT THERE! WHY? Because - most veterinarians are not trained to see birds; these are exotic animals and require the knowledge, tools, skills and specialized training of a qualified avian veterinarian. Some people think it’s perfectly acceptable to ask the pet store for advice on their ill bird, but if MY foot were broken - I wouldn’t go to the shoe store for help!

The avian veterinarians we have met are extremely dedicated individuals, who spend quality time looking into new treatments and giving advice to their clients on proper diet and care to the owners. They belong to the Association Of Avian Veterinarians, so they keep up to date on the newest and most current medical information. They spend a good deal of time with your bird (out of his/her cage) during the exam, they weigh your bird, discuss care, concerns and recommendations. They also have you come back for a yearly visit. They will establish a relationship with you and your bird - and will be familiar with your bird in case of an emergency or illness.

So, before you decide NOT to take your baby for a yearly check-up with a vet... think of all the reasons you should!

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, Avian & Exotic Clinic of Palm City, Collingswood Animal Hospital in Port Charlotte, Lake Howell Animal Clinic, Animal Hospital of Pensacola, Weston Road Animal Hospital of Weston, Broward Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital of Deerfield Beach, Blue Pearl Veterinary Specialists in Tampa and Ark & Bark Animal Clinic in Palm Bay.

THE VET CHIRPS IN!!

April Romagnano, PhD, DVM, ABVP

www.avianandexoticclinicofpalmcity.com

Dr. April Romagnano (Dr. April) graduated from McGill University, Montréal in 1982 with a B.Sc. She obtained her PhD from the Université de Montréal in 1987 and a D.V.M. from the University of Florida in 1992. She completed an internship in Wildlife/Small Animal Medicine at the University of Florida in 1993 and a residency in Avian Medicine and Surgery at North Carolina State University in 1995. Dr. April was the staff veterinarian at the Avicultural Breeding and Research Center in Loxahatchee Florida from 1995 to 2002, where she cared for over 5,500 Parrots around the clock. Dr. April became a Wildlife Department Courtesy Clinical Assistant Professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Florida in 1996 and remains in that post today. In 2001 she opened the Animal Health Clinic with her husband Dr. Scott G. Martin and functions there as the Avian Specialist, co-owner and manager. In 2010 she opened The Avian and Exotic Clinic of Palm City and functions there as the Avian Specialist, owner and manager. Dr. April is also a consultant and relief veterinarian for The Palm Beach Zoo and Lion Country Safari since 1996.

The Avian and Exotic Clinic of Palm City is the first AAHA Avian Referral Practice in the states of Florida. In fact the clinic joins only three others in the entire USA, 2 in New York and one in Texas. As an AAHA Avian Referral Practice Dr. April and the staff at the Avian and Exotic Clinic of Palm City strive accommodate Avian Medical and Surgical needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The Avian and Exotic Clinic of Palm City's Mission is to be a full service facility for birds, as well as exotics and reptiles. Services offered include; various diagnostics – including endoscopy - and treatments, intensive medical and surgical care, and husbandry and boarding. The practice offers individualized and compassionate care for each patient.

Toy, Perch and Sleeping Enclosure Concerns

Of major concern to The Avian and Exotic Clinic of Palm City is patient safety in PLAY and REST in their various cages and on their perches at home.

It has become evident over the years that certain types of toys, perches, and sleeping enclosures are unsafe for our feathered friends'. Specifically loose dangling stringy toys, perches, and fluffy and smooth material tent like sleeping enclosures are of concern. Typically birds' get entrapped in the loose dangling fibers or the material, but sometimes they get hooked on to the toys fishhook like metal bases or the sleeping enclosures metal hanging fasteners (better name for ~ pear shaped screw closing hooks).

Stringy and Fluffy or Smooth Material Concerns: I have seen many a Lovebird get entangled in both fluffy and smooth material sleeping enclosures, such as snuggle huts. Conures, Quakers, and other small to small-medium sized birds tend to get entrapped in loose dangling stringy toys and perches. Dangling stringy toys and perches cause birds to get their toes and feet caught. If not found immediately many of these birds will panic and desperately attempt to free themselves. Initially birds caught in the fibers of a toy, perch, or sleeping enclosure will chew on the material or string and then on their own toes and feet, skin, muscle and bone in an attempt to free themselves. This causes the ensnared and self-mutilated tissue to bleed and become further entrapped as the blood mats the fibers and then dries, clots and hardens. Birds will chew off one, or more, or all of their toes, and even parts of their foot, or their entire foot in an attempt to free themselves. Often the owners are unaware that any self-mutilation has happened and bring the bird in still attached to the fibers of the toy, perch or sleeping enclosure. The owners ask to have the birds foot etc freed – detached - from the toy, perch or sleeping enclosures matted fibers, assuming that the appendage is simply caught. When this occurs, we explain our concerns to the owners, and often proceed with freeing the entrapped foot to find a foot minus toes or a bloody stump entangled in material and clotted blood minus all toes and part or parts of the foot. These are the lucky birds.

Other birds hang and/or flap about continuously in an attempt to free themselves from these loose stringy or material toys, perches or sleeping enclosures. These frantic birds typically flap themselves to death and are typically found hanging upside down dead. The continuous flapping and wreathing causes these birds to develop rhabdomyolysis. During rhabdomyolysis massive damage is done to the birds muscles, the muscle fibers break down, releasing enormous amounts of myoglobin into the blood stream. Elevated myoglobin accumulates in the kidney tubules, causing kidney damage, and ultimately kidney failure and death, if not treated immediately. Many entrapped, hanging, and flapping about birds die before being found. Others are found, but too late. The rare few are rescued by their owners early on, immediately rushed to their Avian Veterinarians, and treated immediately, and aggressively, with parenteral fluids and supportive care.

Metal Hook and Fastener Concerns: Although parrots of all sizes can potentially get trapped in string and fluffy and smooth material substances as described above, medium sized parrots tend to get hooked on to metal hook like ends of certain toys that contain loose dangling string fibers or the fasteners that attach the toys or sleeping enclosures to the cage bars. These birds usually get caught in the metal hooks or fasteners and hang upside down in their cages. They typically break their legs, chew at their feet and legs in an attempt to free themselves, and develop rhabdomyolysis as described above. Amazons, Hawk Heads, and very inquisitive African Grey parrots are more likely to get hooked than larger less agile parrots.

Recent Clinical Case: Once such bird, an adult male Congo African Grey parrot recently presented to the Avian & Exotic Clinic of Palm City. This Grey was hooked, with a large metal fishhook like end of a dangly string toy. The hook held the string threads in place, forming the toy. The fishhook like end entered through the birds vent (the exit of the cloaca) and punctured its' way directly out through the cloacal wall, muscle, and skin at the central ventral most aspect of the cloaca.

In this way, the hook had hooked enough skin, muscle, cloacal body wall and muscular vent edge to hang the bird upside down without ripping through. Unfortunately the hook hung bird for hours before the owner discovered it and unhooked it. The act of hanging caused enormous amounts of swelling (inflammation and edema) in the birds cloaca and its' very important internal organ attachments; the two ureters (for urine and urates), the colon (for feces), and the two deferent ducts (for sperm).

The cloacal swelling was so very severe it inhibited the normal elimination of droppings. Hence the bird could not defecate and urinate properly and had a pasted vent. A pasted vent means that the birds' droppings were pasted all over the vent and the tail feather area. Typically pasted droppings consist of feces, urine and urates, however in this case only malodorous urine and urates were pasted to the vent, and minimal to no feces were noted.

Despite aggressive fluid therapy and surgery that repaired cloacal damage, the bird still could not pass urine and urates normally, nor could it pass any feces at all. This back up caused an acute cloacal bacterial and yeast infection. The birds CBC showed an elevated WBC indicating inflammation. An elevated AST indicated compromised liver function. A very high CPK reflecting severe cloacal muscle damage both internally and externally. The elevated CPK also indirectly contributed to renal compromise measured by elevated uric acid. This bird's uric acid values were so high that the standardized avian blood machine at the largest national pet laboratory in the country could not read them. The standard machine used could only estimate that the Grey's uric acid was greater than 30 mg/dL. Values greater than 30 mg/dL are rarely found in live birds, treatment is rarely curative, and most all of these birds succumb to complete renal failure and subsequent death. The Grey's uric acid was rechecked on another machine and found to be 132 mg/dL. In over 20 years working with birds, never before have I seen a uric acid over a hundred.

Gross necropsy revealed visceral and renal gout – which resembles powdered sugar sprinkled over the affected organs. The grey's ureters and kidneys were also affected structurally. His ureters were dilated bilaterally, this condition is referred to as hydroureter. His kidneys also showed signs of hydronephrosis. Since birds do not have a bladder, the ureters, one from each kidney, bring the urine to the cloaca for excretion. The Grey's ureters became hydroureters, because the cloacal-ureter attachment was so inflamed by the hook trauma that urine was not able to empty properly from both of them. Further the hydroureters caused a back up of urine on both of the kidneys resulting in hydronephrosis, which resulted in internal irreversible structural kidney damage. The grey's liver was also enlarged with rounded edges in-addition to the visceral gout noted grossly. His intestines were also affected in that they were dilated with backed-up feces because of the structural inflammation at the colon's attachment to the cloaca caused by the hook trauma. Like the ureters, the colon could not empty properly at its' connection to the cloaca due to the massive swelling or inflammation and edema caused by the toy hook trauma.

In summary, since both of this bird's kidneys were damaged at the cellular level (gout) and structurally by the toy hook trauma, he died of hyperuricemia which causes secondary complications with hyperkalemia and ultimately cardiac arrest. This birds liver (gout and hepatomegally) and gastrointestinal tract (fecal back-up) conditions collectively caused toxin build-up in his body further complicating his condition. Hence this bird died of a heart attack caused by the hook toy, despite timely medical and aggressive fluid therapy. The birds' cause of death was indeed the anatomic traumatic abnormalities created by the toy hook injury.

This bird died because, he was inadvertently given an unsafe toy, by those who cared for him, and loved him, for most of his 20 years. Please be very careful and think twice before choosing toys, perches, and sleep enclosures for your birds. String, material, and hooks of any kind are dangerous and can indeed be fatal.



Avian & Exotic Clinic of Palm City

April Romagnano, PhD, DVM, ABVP

(Avian Specialist)

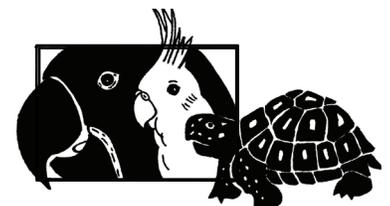
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FUNDRAISERS OF 2013

CHOPALOOZA

We just wanted to give a HUGE shout out to those who donated to our yearly fundraisers, Chopalooza and Fashion Feathers & Fur! We raised just over \$8,000 through Chopalooza and \$7,400 from Fashion Feathers and Fur.

Chopalooza is a fundraiser that FPR volunteers organize and pull off each year which includes on-line auctions, live and on-line raffles, veterinarian guest speakers, live music, and booths from local organizations which support FPR.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO CHOPALOOZA:

A Parrot's Perch Rescue
 Alicia of Alicia's Creations
 American Victory Mariners & Museum Ship
 Austin Air
 Bark Busters
 Bernard Scott
 Brevard Zoo
 Butterfly World
 Caitec
 Charlene Bebko
 Charlotte Carlile
 Chris and Lorry Burgr
 Clairese Austin
 Cora Cashman
 Coral Castle
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 Janet Bray of BirdBrain Gifts
 Jeff at Dog-Gone Sauce

Joanne Hull
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 Lisa Cisio of Scentsy
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 Tampa Bay Rays
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 The Tampa Bay Buccaneers
 Trade Winds Cruise Lines
 Twin Beaks Aviary
 Walt Disney World
 World of Wine Guide
 Zac & Karen Atwood

FUNDRAISERS OF 2013: FASHION, FEATHERS AND FUR

Fashion, Feathers and Fur is a fundraiser that is organized by Dr. Christy Layton and the staff at [Timberlane Pet Hospital and Resort](#) each year and includes guest celebrities, dinner, wine, and live and silent auctions. FFF benefits four non-profits in the area, including FPR. This year, they raised almost \$30,000 with 1/4 of those proceeds benefiting our rescue directly!

A HUGE AND HEARTFELT THANK YOU goes to Dr. Christy Layton and her staff, our volunteers, and of course everyone who donated items to both fundraisers. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR DONATIONS TO FASHION, FEATHERS AND FUR:

Amber Baker	Karen Barnes
AMC Movie Theaters	Kennedy Space Center
Amy DeStefanis	Kristin Demers
Angel, Sloan, and Diane at The Breeze	Law Office of Aida M. Rodriguez
Animal Hospital of Regency Park	Morgan Feaster of Fringe Boutique
Ashley Porcello	Nikki Bentley
Barbara Layton	Nutramax
Bark Busters	Oakfield Lanes of Brandon
Becky Rockwell	P. Flynn Photo
Bloomington Pet Supply	Patti Sutherland
Boxer and Chrystie Mark	Plant City Minuteman Press
Brittney, Belinda, and Angela at The Breeze	Renee Stone
Busch Gardens	Rob Evans
Captain Tim Whitfield	Ruthie & Ida Benson-Fowler & Agnes
Cigar Replica Pens	Salon jack
Cold Stone Creamery	Second Chance Boxer Rescue
Consuegra Title, LLC	Sister's & Company
CountryChase Veterinary Clinic	SLReflexions
Courtney Chapman	Steve and Michelle Ploutz of M&S Enterprises
Crescent Jewelry	Talk Fusion
David Nevue	Tampa Bay's Fine Wine Guide
Diane Schnellbach	Tampa Bay's Lowery Park Zoo
Dogma Pet Rescue	Terri L. Basey Garrett
Dr. Barry Gaffney	The Black Saddle
Elanco	The Florida Aquarium
Evelyn McCorristin Peters	The Fran Haasch Law Group
EVK Consulting, LLC	The Orso Family
Focus 4 Beauty	Thomas & LoCicero
Give A Hoots Pets	Three Birds Tavern
Hopewell	Touching Tomorrow, INC
In The Field Agriculture Magazine	Tradewinds Casino Cruise Lines
Investigations and Security Training Academy	Tradewinds Island Resorts
Isobel Hitchcock	Transport Trailer Express
Jacqui Silla of the Canine Company	Wag Pet Boutique and Bathhouse
Jay and Sara Calhoun	Warriors for Christ Paintball Ministry
Jennifer James	Wendy's
Jennifer Kaczmarski	



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 forever homes with loving and responsible families.

FLORIDA PARROT RESCUE, INC

flparrotrescue@aol.com

<http://www.floridaparrotrescue.com>

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

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

Phone: 813-516-1759



Adoptable Bird of the Quarter: Calypso Jenday Conure

Hi, I am a Jenday Conure and I am 18 years old. I am a little shy at first, but non aggressive, but I do not like men or dogs. I am a little plucked on my chest, but we are hoping that will stop. I eat Zupreem natural pellets and a small amount of seed and fresh fruit and veggies, I will step up and am a quiet birdy... won't you give me a forever home?