



BEAK TO TAIL

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OVERPOPULATION OF PARROTS & THE EXPANDING UNWANTED PARROT CRISIS

by Karen Windsor

The intent of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992 was to help preserve wild bird populations worldwide by removing the United States from the international market. At the time, parrot breeders in the U.S. fought that legislation for a number of reasons they perceived as valid, not the least of which was the fear they would be economically crippled without access to imported breeding stock. In the end, the effect of the WBCA was quite the opposite. In many areas of the United States, the value of parrots increased in light of the alleged WBCA influenced decrease in parrot availability. And as the perceived value of parrots began to grow, commercial breeding began to accelerate.

According to Glenn Reynolds, former World Parrot Trust Administrator in the U.S. who had been a breeder before, during and after the Wild Bird Conservation Act, one of the most insidious consequences of the legislation was the rise of “the parrot broker.” These were unscrupulous individuals who saw an opportunity to exploit the market and make an easy buck acting as the connection between the breeders and the consumers. The broker didn’t give a damn about the parrots. He was there to feed a market as quickly and with as many birds as possible – and to take a big cut.

The “shortage” of parrots as influenced by the WBCA, whether real or imagined, spurred an acceleration in domestic breeding that, over time, actually began to steadily decrease the market value of parrots, making them more accessible than ever before to a much wider consumer base. This, of course, gave further rise to demand, and profit-minded brokers and breeders stepped up production. Parrots could be induced to lay more frequently – or even continually – when their fertile eggs or their newly hatched babies were promptly removed. Of course, hand-feeding hatchlings takes time, costs money, and takes up valuable space in the factory. Pumping chicks into the retail stores unweaned effectively kept the product in motion and passed that cost onto the retailers. But why stop there? Creating a myth and selling “the bonding experience” to consumers moved the product even faster, and passed that cost of time and money

along even further.

The AVMA Pet Demographics Survey of 2001 indicated 10 million parrots in homes in the U.S.. According to a 1996 PIJAC survey which included breeder information, that number was as high as 40 million. That’s a big stretch. But two years of research conducted by author Mira Tweti, while she wrote her book “Of Parrots and People,” gives us a pretty good point of reference as we try to really quantify what’s going on out there in regard to parrot numbers today. Mira’s research indicated that PetSmart, with approximately 900 stores nationwide, is being supplied by production plants like Kaytee Preferred Birds and Rainbow World Exotics to the tune of about 900,000 parrots per year.

Petco, which only just stopped selling “large” parrots a few years ago, but which still commonly sells parakeets, cockatiels, conures, quakers, caiques, ringnecks, mini-macaws, etc... boasts an equal number of retail stores nationwide actively selling parrots.

But PetSmart and Petco do not have the market cornered on parrot sales. In general, independent pet retailers generate a higher percentage of sales from live pets than the cost-minded pet supply superstores. And it is important to consider the fact that the greatest source of all for the direct sale of parrots to consumers are breeders.

There are more than 2500 parrot breeders in operation nationwide, each producing anywhere from 10 to over 65 different parrot species per farm – or factory. It is common for large breeders to house anywhere between 500 and 1000 breeding birds.

For example: Scudder’s Parrot Depot in Washington State came under fire starting in 1999 with at least 800 parrots being held and bred under what can only be described as criminally negligent and abusive conditions so abhorrent as to incite a legal battle that waged from 1999 to 2006.

(Continued on page 10)

Letter from the Director

Dear PEAC Members,

Well, it was a busy end to 2014 and start to 2015. I want to start by thanking each and every person who donated and helped with last year's annual fundraiser. Though we had set our goals high to raise \$24,000, we received just over \$10,000 in donations. Our first quarterly volunteer meeting is set for January 25, and one of the main topics that will be discussed is how to try to make up the difference between our estimated budget for 2015 and our actual monetary intake. For each and every parrot that we adopt out, there is, of course an adoption fee as well as a fee to cover up to \$200 of its veterinary costs. Though you would think that our adoption fees would cover the cost of care for the parrots, it does not even come close. It is my position that we not increase our adoption fees, as PEAC has always been and will continue to be focused on matching the right parrot with the right person, and no amount of money can compare to the joy and excitement felt when we place a parrot in a new home.

In my first year as director, I am very pleased to report we have had no returns of any parrots that have been adopted in 2014, which goes to show we are doing something right. Previously, we didn't charge for relinquishments but have often asked for a donation toward the bird's care. Many times, for a variety of reasons, the person is not able to give a donation. I plan to continue to approach every intake as an individual situation but will begin with the start of 2015 to make the person relinquishing aware that there will be a suggested fee of \$200 for every bird surrendered to PEAC. The thing I don't want to happen is for a person to choose not to use PEAC due to cost issues but I feel it is imperative that they are made aware that they are asking for PEAC to not only take on the responsibility of caring for their parrot but also to assume the cost of that care.

(continued on page 11)

WHAT WE ARE

Parrot Education & Adoption Center is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to educating its members and current and potential bird owners about the proper care of pet birds. Unwanted or found parrots are accepted at PEAC and in turn are adopted to qualified applicants.

Sharing current information and correcting misconceptions about parrots are the major aims of PEAC. Our goal is to keep abreast of the latest developments in the world of aviculture and share them with you, our members.

PEAC was founded in 1996 by Bonnie Kenk, who served as the Executive Director for our first 12 years.

CONTACT US

Parrot Education & Adoption
Center
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**PEAC
Policies and Procedures**

1. PEAC does not purchase birds, even to remove them from bad situations.
2. PEAC will accept birds donated to our organization.
3. PEAC does not breed birds or place any birds into breeding situations.
4. PEAC does not adopt birds to children.
5. Potential adopters are required to attend an afternoon class focusing on Basic Anatomy and Health, Nutrition, Enrichment & Environment, and Body Language.
6. All potential adopters will then receive a home visit performed by a PEAC volunteer.
7. Potential adopters will receive a copy of our adoption application after the home visit has been completed.
8. Approved adoption applications will be placed on a waiting list if a bird is not currently in our system that would be a good match for the approved adopter.
9. Only one parrot acquisition/adoption per home or PEAC membership is allowed in an 18-month time period.
10. Adopters are required to pay an adoption fee and reimburse PEAC for veterinary fees the bird may have incurred.
11. Adopted birds are to remain in the home and be treated as a member of the family.
12. Adopted birds may not be sold, given away, bred, or used for any type of monetary purposes.
13. After attending the mandatory seminars, those wishing to adopt a first-time large bird, such as an Amazon, African Grey, Cockatoo, or Macaw, will be required to spend hands-on time with the species of their choice under supervision of one of our volunteers before being approved.
14. As a general rule, we will not place a Cockatoo, Macaw, or other noisy bird in an apartment or condominium.
15. PEAC will not adopt birds as companions to other birds.
16. Birds must remain in a 100% smoke-free environment.

Available for Adoption in San Diego/Southern California

Call 619 287-8200 or email adoption@peac.org to find out more about any of these birds!

African Greys



“Bentley,” 14-yr-old m. Timneh. Bentley is in generally good feather. He eats well and is always willing to try new foods. He loves any toys that can be shredded or torn apart. Bentley talks, but mostly mumbles. He whistles beautifully and mostly communicates when you are out of the room, but loves to whistle and talk back and forth. Bentley needs some work with cage aggression. He would probably do best in a home with a low level of energy where he gets plenty of attention, but isn't required to be extremely affectionate. His charm is in his intelligence and forward personality.



“Morris,” 37-yr-old m. Congo. Morris came to us when his elderly owner could no longer care for him. Due to a seed-only diet and a stressful environment, he developed feather destructive behavior and barbered a large portion of his plumage. He is

now on medication and an appropriate diet, and has begun growing his feathers back and playing with foraging toys. Morris is a very gentle and calm African grey who wants to share his life with a human companion who understands the intricacies of his species.

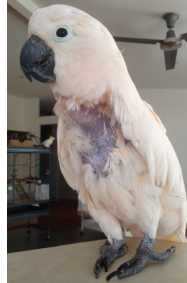
Cockatoos



“Francis,” 17-yr-old m. Moluccan. Francis entered PEAC in June of 2012 when his owner surrendered him for what we were told was a screaming problem. On receiving Francis he was not handle-able and had a lot of phobic behaviors. He has now improved greatly. His screaming is mainly now only fear driven and also used for tattling on his foster's other cockatoo. He's no

longer phobic, he now chews on toys, and he is eating a better diet and starting to explore his surroundings. He is working on stepping up, but is still nervous when left alone.

Francis may be best suited to a home with another bird. He will require someone who has a great deal of cockatoo experience, and with some more work, he is going to be a wonderful companion parrot.



“Rosie Bubbles,” f. Moluccan. Rosie came to us in 2012 from a hoarding situation. With surgery followed by a handmade specially-fitted apparatus to prevent self-mutilation, she has made phenomenal progress. Her surgical wound has healed completely, and because of the apparatus and her change in environment, she has completely stopped her feather picking and self-mutilation.

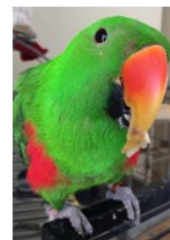
At present, she is still in need of the handmade “bibby,” but each day she is making great strides in her healing. We are also working on a screaming problem, and she has made excellent progress.



“Tootsie,” 12-yr-old f. umbrella. Tootsie came to us in April of this year. The couple that had Tootsie for her entire 12 years moved and had to confine Tootsie to a very small cage. She was unable to adjust and pulled the majority of her feathers from her chest and legs.

Since coming to PEAC and getting an appropriate cage, Tootsie has grown back most of her feathers. She is gentle and loves to cuddle and be around her people. She LOVES her toys! Tootsie knows a few words such as “hello” and “I love you.” She is a fast learner and just wants to be in a forever home that will love her and care for her the way she deserves.

Eclectus



“Grasshopper,” m. Grasshopper came to us in July 2014 from the Department of Animal Services, so we don't know his history. He has a huge and ever-growing vocabulary which will amaze you! He is good natured, with an easy going demeanor. He gets along well with dogs, cats and other birds. He eats a varied diet. Grasshopper is a big personality in a little green body who would love to have a forever home.

Congratulations, Bailey, Barney,
Bonnie, Honey, Kito, Malloy, Oscar,
Poco, and Ruby, on finding your
forever homes!

Available for Adoption in San Diego/Southern California

Call 619 287-8200 or email adoption@peac.org to find out more about any of these birds!

Amazons



“Billie,” 26+-yr-old f. blue-front. Billie lived with the same family for over 26 years. Her original owner passed some years ago, and the son who cared for her now travels, so she was turned over to PEAC. Billie was on a seed-based diet; however, she now eats pellets and an excellent variety of vegetables. With the

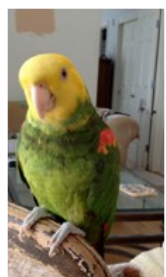
addition of foraging toys and a roomier cage, her new feather growth looks beautiful with no evidence of overpreening. Billie uses a variety of words and phrases, whistles, and laughter. She steps up well for both genders in her foster home. She is very engaging; an all-around clown; and clearly enjoys interaction from the people in her life, allowing trusted people to hold her like a football and turn her upside down!



“Ralphie,” 3-yr-old m. red-lore.

Ralphie came to PEAC on January 1, 2012. He apparently had been part of a wild flock near Los Angeles, CA, and had been hit by a car, breaking his leg and bursting his air sacs. He was taken to a shelter and then brought to San Diego, where

he underwent surgery. He now steps up on a stick, wolf whistles, says “hello,” and is beginning to mumble along to “Old McDonald Had a Farm.” Ralphie will do best in a home with more than one bird. He is a wonderful, playful companion parrot who is looking for a forever home.



“Samantha,” 21-yr-old f. double-yellow head. Sam was turned over to our Anchorage Chapter by Dept. of Animal Services from a hoarding situation. Now, Sam loves showers! She enjoys ambient attention from the people in her life, but prefers not to be touched. She has a beautiful, melodic voice, speaks clearly, and loves to laugh along with you. She steps up on a stick, and would love to

follow you around the house!

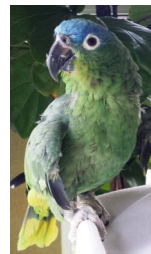


“Quinn,” Lilac-crowned, age and sex unknown. Quinn is a gentle and calm Lilac Crowned Amazon who enjoys being around other birds but prefers Amazons. Quinn says “Hello” in a very sweet Elmo voice and melts the foster

mommy’s heart. Quinn can be a little shy when asked to step up; and would like someone who is patient and has a calm household.

Amazons (cont)

Quinn is always ready to eat, and enjoys baked or steamed yams, broccoli, peas, apples, veggie pasta, rice, quinoa and anything tasty and nutritious! Quinn is a wonderful companion who is looking for a forever home.



“Georgie,” 23-yr-old f. mealy. Georgie came to us from her one and only owner. As a result of being kept in a small cage, her wings droop down and she has no muscle strength to hold them upright. This may correct its self as she begins to be busier, as she now has an adequate cage size and lots of time to explore her play tree outside of her cage.

She steps up and is full of energy and curiosity. She gets along well with other birds. She is a bit quieter than other mealies, but is quite vocal, especially around dusk. Georgie loves her pellets! She has a wonderful, funny personality and will jabber on and on with you all day. She is an amazing Amazon for the right person, as she will provide not only lots of love for her new owner, but hours of laughter, as well.



“Jazz,” 12-yr-old m. blue-fronted. Jazz was relinquished to PEAC from his first home. He steps up, and loves head scratches. He is extremely quiet, although is heard laughing, hiccupping and quietly talking throughout the day. Jazz eats an excellent variety of vegetables and pellets. He has quickly

learned about target training. He loves to shred cardboard and softer toys and enjoys destroying various foraging devices.

Jazz can be excitable at times and will do best in a quieter home without the presence of female Amazons. He’s a very nice young Amazon who will make a wonderful companion for a parrot-savvy family.



Available for Adoption in San Diego/Southern California

Call 619 287-8200 or email adoption@peac.org to find out more about any of these birds!

Macaws



"Baby," 9-yr-old m. yellow-collared. Before being relinquished, Baby had not been let out of his cage, did not step up, and was on a high-fat diet of only sunflower seeds. A vet check after taking him in to PEAC was normal, despite his poor diet.

Baby is now eating a balanced diet and is learning to play with toys. He does exhibit feather destructive behavior and has no feathers on his chest. Baby tends to make very loud vocalizations, especially when left alone, as well as when he first wakes up and at dusk.

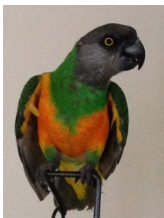
Baby now enjoys human interaction and is out of his cage for about 10 hours a day. He says "Hi baby" and "Hello". He readily steps up. Baby gets along with other parrots, and both men and women, and does not seem to have a gender preference. He is a sweet, fun guy looking for his forever home.



"Chili Pepper," 22-yr-old m. greenwing. According to his prior owner, six years ago Chili Pepper changed overnight from a loving and wonderful pet to an aggressive and cage protective bird that could not be handled without fear of being bitten. The owner also said that at that same time, Chili Pepper stopped wanting to take showers.

On arriving in San Diego, one of our volunteers who was assisting with the transport asked if he could try to see if he would step up for him out of the carrier. As though he were a different bird than the owner described, he easily stepped up and wanted nothing more than to be petted and preened. The next day, he was happy as a clam, opening his wings and playing in the misty shower water. Chili Pepper seems so far to be a very warm and loving Greenwing who just wants someone to give him the time he deserves and a wonderful home that he can feel safe in once again.

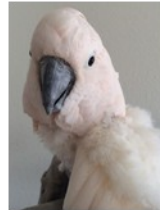
Poicephalus



"Sammi," m. Senegal. Sammi escaped his cage and was found 10 months later in someone's yard; however, a vet check found him in excellent health! His former owner could not take Sammi back, so he was placed into PEAC.

Sammi steps up and makes many different whistles and sounds. He loves to cuddle and get scratches from his foster mom but does not like men or other birds, so would be happiest as a single bird in a home with a woman as his primary caregiver, where he can show his charming and loving nature.

Cockatoos



"Mia," 13-yr-old f. Moluccan. Mia came to us from the same home as Pita. She is warming up well to her new foster home, and every day is met with new positive steps. She has a great vocabulary.

Mia plays well with the toys in her cage and on her playstand. She steps up when asked, and has not tried to bite. She does a minimal amount of screaming. She gets a little nervous around other birds, but doesn't mind dogs or cats. Mia will make someone a great companion!

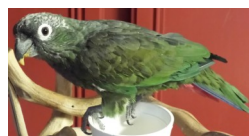


"Pita," 11-yr-old m. lesser-sulfur crested. Pita lived along with Mia and his previous owner from the time he was weaned until she found PEAC to assist her in finding a new home for him. He was being kept

in a fairly dirty cage and was being given cardboard boxes to play with, which contributed to an aggressive personality. With work by his foster volunteer, however, the personality traits that are not conducive to a pet cockatoo have been removed.

Pita is now on a very healthy and varied diet of fruits and vegetables along with a pelleted diet. He is adjusting well to his new foster family and working on stepping up. He is comfortable around small dogs and cats. He has a varied vocabulary and he likes his outdoor aviary time. With positive reinforcement training, coupled with lots of love and patience, Pita will become a wonderful sulfur crested cockatoo.

Pionus



"Kiwi," 12-yr-old m. Maximilian's. Kiwi was relinquished when his only owner had to move his entire family back East and felt it was not fair for Kiwi to live in a travel trailer for an undetermined amount of time.

Kiwi is a fun, beautiful, well-feathered bird who feels like velvet when you touch his feathers. He is learning to step up and likes an occasional head scratch. He loves his play stand and likes small toys. Kiwi makes lots of chirping noises, but for the most part is a quiet bird who enjoys hanging out with his foster family and their flock of parrots.

PEAC thanks the following Avian Board-certified veterinarians, who have generously agreed to provide discounts on veterinary care for our program birds:

Dr. Jeffrey Jenkins, San Diego 619.260.1412

Dr. Brian Loudis, Encinitas 760.634.2022

Dr. Todd Cecil, La Mesa 619.462.4800

Jeffery R. Jenkins, DVM
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We are happy to announce our new corporate sponsor,
The Laughing Parrot. www.thelaughingparrot.com

PARROT EDUCATION & ADOPTION CENTER 2015 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

“People protect what they love. We need to provide the information so that they can love.”
- Jean-Michel Cousteau

New Seminar: We encourage everyone to attend our new “Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar,” which is a new, comprehensive seminar for everyone, incorporating the latest information on “everything parrot,” from anatomy and behavior to care and enrichment.

1/25 Sun	1:00 pm	“Parrot Body Language”
	2:15 pm	“Become a Foster Volunteer,” foster volunteer requirements and updates
2/8 Sun	1:00 pm	New: Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar
	2:15 pm	“Become a Foster Volunteer,” foster volunteer requirements and updates
2/22 Sun	1:00 pm	New: “Overpopulation of Parrots and the Expanding Unwanted Parrot Crisis”
3/8 Sun	1:00 pm	New: Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar
	2:15 pm	“Become a Foster Volunteer,” foster volunteer requirements and updates
3/29 Sun	1:00 pm	New: Guest Speaker Dr. Nadine Lamberski “The Thick-Billed Parrot”

San Diego seminars are held at the San Diego Department of Animal Services, 5480 Gaines Street, San Diego 92110. Seminar check-in begins at 12:30 pm. First seminar begins at 1:00 pm; second seminar begins at 2:15 pm. When possible, program birds will be present 12:30 to 1:00.

Seminar fees (per person/day):	ADVANCE REGISTERED*	AT THE DOOR
PEAC Members:	FREE!	\$5.00
Non-members:	\$10.00	\$15.00

*Advance registration is due by the Wednesday prior to the seminar; no exceptions.

REGISTER ME!

Sign Me Up in Sunny San Diego for these 2015 Seminars:

DATE	TITLE	# PEOPLE	AMT
			\$
			\$
			\$

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____

Credit Card #: _____ (VISA MC AMEX, DISCOVER) Exp. ____/____

Signature (for credit cards) _____ CVV (3 digits on back of card) _____

Make checks payable to PEAC and mail with this form to PEAC, PO Box 600423, San Diego, CA 92160

Or fax credit card payment to 909 563-8418 or email credit card or PayPal to membership@peac.org.

PEAC RIVERSIDE COUNTY 2015 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

New Seminar: We encourage everyone to attend our new “Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar,” which is a new, comprehensive seminar for everyone, incorporating the latest information on “everything parrot,” from anatomy and behavior to care and enrichment.

- 1/31 Sat. 1:00 pm **New:** Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar
- 2/21 Sat. 1:00 pm The Avian Gourmet: Nutrition for a Healthy Parrot
- 3/21 Sat. 1:00 pm **New:** Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar

When possible, program birds will be present from 12:30 to 1:00.

Seminar Location:
 Animal Friends of the Valleys
 Southwest Communities Animal Shelter
 33751 Mission Trail, Wildomar, CA

Seminar check-in begins at 12:30 pm. First seminar begins at 1:00 pm; second seminar begins at 2:15 pm. When possible, program birds will be present 12:30 to 1:00.

Seminar fees (per person/day):	ADVANCE REGISTERED*	AT THE DOOR
PEAC Members:	FREE!	\$5.00
Non-members:	\$10.00	\$15.00

*Advance registration is due by the Wednesday prior to the seminar; no exceptions.

REGISTER ME!

Sign Me Up in Wild, Wild Wildomar for these 2015 Seminars:

DATE	TITLE	# PEOPLE	AMT
			\$
			\$
			\$

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____

Credit Card #: _____ (VISA MC AMEX, DISCOVER) Exp. ____/____

Signature (for credit cards) _____ CVV (3 digits on back of card) _____

Make checks payable to PEAC and mail with this form to PEAC, PO Box 600423, San Diego, CA 92160
 Or fax credit card payment to 909 563-8418 or email credit card or PayPal to membership@peac.org.

This legal battle, of course, ended in a sweeping victory for Scudders and the larger Washington State breeding community when, with a legal team funded by the AFA, they succeeded in blocking proposed legislation that would mandate licensing and standards of care in breeding facilities in the state of Washington.

Beech's Bird Nest Ranch of North Carolina, a one-time field research farm for Kaytee Pet Products, liquidated its stock of 500 parrots in a public auction in March of 2007.

The Luv Them Birds Breeding facility located in Loxahatchee, Florida, owned and operated by Gabriel Foundation Board member Kathleen Szabo, put 642 breeding birds up for public auction in September of 2009. These represented over 300 proven breeding pairs producing between 2 to 8 babies per pair per year, as disclosed by the breeder herself.

When you crunch the numbers and consider that, in addition to the volume of parrots being produced by industrial giants like Kaytee Preferred Birds, over 2500 independent breeders in the U.S. are launching anywhere between 100 and 1500 baby parrots each on an annual basis, we can pretty much stand behind a modest calculation of at least 2 million parrots being bred for the market each year. Renowned parrot breeder EB Cravens suggested several years ago that the reality was probably closer to 5 million. And when we're talking about a high production commercial industry that's been in full swing now for at least two decades, producing animals with life spans typically between 25 and 80 years, I think it's pretty safe to say that we're looking at a domestic parrot population that realistically exceeds the 40 million range.

But the Numbers Debate is not the only issue. The issue that we are really hoping the avian veterinary community will begin to wrap its collective mind around is the manner of production and the effect this has on the quality of the product which, in fact, is a highly intelligent, psychologically sensitive, living, breathing animal: The standard method of production for pet parrots in the U.S. is a *parrot mill*.

WHY is this okay? We would find this completely unacceptable in any other arena. There is no debate over whether or not a facility breeding 500 dogs and producing over a thousand puppies annually for the pet trade is a bad idea, not only because of the health issues plaguing puppies produced in this manner, but because we cannot tolerate the abject suffering of dogs being bred literally to death under horrific conditions. But, in fact, between 80 and 90% of parrots produced for the U.S. market are production bred, and this is accepted - or at least not questioned - by the industry, by consumers...and even by the avian veterinary community. We condemn the practice when it applies to dogs or cats or even bunnies. Why is it that we can accept the practice as it applies to an animal that is even more highly evolved cognitively than a dog? Why are we completely disconnected from the harm this is doing to parrots?

Species of higher intelligence like primates, elephants, dolphins and whales - and parrots - require a sustained parental nurturing period in order to develop into normal healthy, well-adjusted adults. In the wild, parrot babies remain with their parents often for up to two years or more while the parents teach them all the things they need to know about their world, about themselves and about their species in order to survive and thrive. Adult parrots continue to feed their offspring well after the babies are able to feed themselves. This is an aspect of the nurturing and sustained parental support process that is essential to the healthy development of parrots.

(continued on page 17)

OUTREACH EVENTS IN TEMECULA!

PEAC will now be appearing at Petco Adoption Fairs in Riverside!
Come check out our booth!

1/18 Sunday 2:00-5:00 pm

2/15 Sunday 2:00-5:00 pm

3/15 Sunday 2:00-5:00 pm

Program birds will be present for you to meet and greet!

Location:
Petco at the Mall in Temecula
40474 Winchester Road
Temecula, CA 92591
951 296-0388

BRING YOUR FRIENDS! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

DIRECTOR'S LETTER (continued)

I cannot begin to express how happy I am and proud of the work our volunteers, both those who foster and those who just offer their time, have given to PEAC in 2014. There have been a few outreach events where we have had to thank people for offering to help but we have it covered with those already offering to volunteer. That is a first in my experience with PEAC. We never want to discourage a volunteer from offering help, so with some of the events coming in 2015 we will be scheduling time slots to allow all to participate in events.

I want to take a few moments to talk to you about a parrot rescue that I was able to tour recently in Hawaii and sit down and chat with the founders, Dorothy and Jerry Walsh. On arriving at the sanctuary (also their personal residences that is off the grid) I was not sure what to expect, as the drive there took us up what seemed to be an abandoned road.

(continued on page 16)

PEAC is participating in the 6th Annual Blessing of the Animals in the Old Town San Diego Historic Park on Sunday, 1/18, from noon to 3:00p. Come visit our booth and see some of our volunteers and foster birds! (You may bring your pets for blessing, but please do not bring any birds or other animals into our booth.) We look forward to seeing you there!

EMERGENCY INFORMATION & RESOURCES

ANIMAL RESCUE ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Phone Number(s)	Additional Information
Animal Rescue Reserve (A.R.R.)	619-299-0871	Authorized to rescue behind fire lines.
Animal Rescue	760-789-5775 760-735-0448 (pager)	Not permitted behind fire lines.
Wildlife Assist Volunteers	858-278-2222 (gen info) 858-653-7300 619-921-6044	Captures injured wildlife.

INTERNET LOST & FOUND

www.911parrotalert.com

www.birdhotline.com

<http://birdmart.com/classifieds/lost/>

www.parrotpages.com

PARROT RESCUE & ADOPTION ORGANIZATIONS

Organization	Phone Number	Website
Parrot Education & Adoption Center (San Diego)	619-287-8200	www.peac.org
The Lily Sanctuary (Fountain Valley)	714-442-9474	www.lilysanctuary.org
Parrots First (Los Angeles)	866-248-7670	www.parrotsfirst.org
Olive Branch Parrot Rescue (Inland Empire)	909-609-9048	www.olivebranchparrotrescue.org
Last Chance at Life	760-433-3763	www.lastchanceatlife.org

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION ORGANIZATIONS

Calif. Dept of Fish & Game – local search: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/rehab/facilities.html>

California Wildlife Center, Malibu – 818-222-2658; www.californiawildlifecenter.org

Project Wildlife - 619-225-9453; www.projectwildlife.org

Hope Wildlife, Corona - 951-279-3232

Wind Canyon Wild Life Rehabilitation Center (raptors, mammals) - 951-677-6940

ANIMAL POISON CONTROL HOTLINE — 888-416-4435

AVIAN VETERINARIANS

<u>Facility (city)</u>	<u>Veterinarian(s)</u>	<u>Phone/Website</u>
Acacia Animal Health Center (Escondido)	Gary A Gallerstein, DVM Carmine G. Bausone, DVM	760-745-8115 www.aahc.us
All Pets Animal Hospital (Encinitas)	Brian Loudis, DVM, DABVP-Avian	760-634-2022 www.allpetsanimal.com
All Pets Medical Centre (West Hills)	Amy Worell, DVM, DABVP-Avian	818-883-2600 www.yourpets.com
Animal & Bird Wellness Center (Westlake Village)	Tiffany Margolin, DVM, DABVP-Avian	805-497-4900 www.animalandbirdwellness.com
Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital (San Diego)	Jeffrey Jenkins, DVM, DABVP-Avian	619-260-1412 www.drexotic.com
Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital (Hawthorne)	Walter J. Rosskopf, DVM, DABVP-Avian	310-679-0693
Discovery Valley Animal Hospital (San Marcos)	Lee Young, DVM	760-744-0032 www.discoveryvalleyvet.com
Chaparral Pet Hospital (Claremont)	Ann McDowell, DVM	909-625-1561
Pacific Beach Veterinary Clinic (San Diego)	Benita Keiss, DVM	858-272-6255 www.pbvetclinic.com
Pet Emergency & Specialty Ctr (La Mesa)	Todd R. Cecil, DVM, DABVP-Avian	619-462-4800 www.pescsandiego.com
Rancho San Diego Animal Hosp (Rancho San Diego)	Roseanne Brown, DVM	619-660-6767
The Bird Clinic (Orange)	Larry P. Nemetz, DVM (exclusive avian practice)	714-633-2910 www.thebirdclinic.com
VCA Wilshire Animal Hospital (Santa Monica)	Frank Lavac, DVM, DABVP-Avian	310-828-4587 www.vcawilshire.com

(D)ABVP – (Diplomate) American Board of Veterinary Practitioners -Avian

NECROPSY (animal autopsy) & laboratory tests - County of San Diego Veterinarian, 858-694-2838.

Parrot Education & Adoption Center provides the above information as part of our educational efforts. This does not constitute an endorsement of any specific service. Always ask for references before choosing a specific service.

We strongly recommend establishing a relationship with an avian veterinarian before you are faced with an emergency.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT:



Avian Behavior International



Diamond Avian

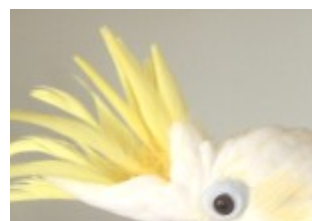
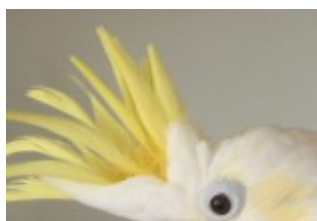


Rebecca O'Connor/CAITEC
/Project Parrot Positive



Petco Foundation

The Laughing Parrot
(coupon code PEAC15)



Thank you to the following people
who have so generously donated to the birds of PEAC:

Anonymous

April Adcock

Enrique Ayala

Kat Bert

William Bingham

Carol Blackburn

Gale Chan and Stephen Scott

Mike and Julie Comella

Kathy Fragg

Linda Greeson

Jim and Karen Hodson

Ann Palik

Mary Yang

W and DJ Hunter

Judith Lazar

Jeanine Lyons

Debra Kolen

Janice Mahlberg

Carey Nagoda

Jessica Niehoff

Rosemary Patrick

Jean Rockwell

Rayna Duenas

Chloe Rogers

Robert & Linda Stuart

Virginia Van Dyke

Judith Goe

Amy Williams

Dennis Brown & Dwight Goldblatt

SPOTLIGHT on Jazz



Jazz is an approximately 12-year-old male Blue-fronted Amazon. He was relinquished from his first home and although he was moved about using a stick, he has been stepping calmly onto an offered hand in his foster home. He is extremely quiet, although he is heard laughing, hiccupping and quietly talking throughout the day. Jazz eats extremely well an excellent variety of vegetables, and has accepted all four different types of pellets offered in his foster home. Jazz has quickly learned about target training, and is also learning about playing with toys; he loves to shred cardboard and softer toys and seems to enjoy learning to destroy the various foraging devices he is presented with.

Jazz can be excitable at times and will do best in a quieter home without the presence of female Amazons. He's a very nice young Amazon who will make a wonderful companion for a parrot savvy family. Did we mention he LOVES head scratches?

If you're interested in adopting any of our program birds, you must attend the seminars required for adoption and complete an application for approval. You must also show proof that you have an adequate cage and are acquainted with an avian veterinarian before taking your bird home. Adopted birds may not be bred, sold, given away or used for any type of monetary purposes! A minimal adoption fee is required, as is reimbursement for any vet fees that the bird you are adopting has incurred.

For more information on adopting a PEAC bird, visit http://peac.org/?page_id=40.

VOLUNTEER MEETING

Upcoming quarterly meeting for volunteers:

January 25, 1:00p; Gaines Street location

Please submit suggested topics to Eric by 7 days prior to meeting.

Volunteers: we look forward to seeing you there!

DIRECTOR'S LETTER (continued)

As the dense foliage opened up we saw open grass fields surrounded by what we were later informed was an old macadamia nut plantation. Dorothy and Jerry were parrot owners for many years before retiring to the Big Island. What started out as just helping a few birds that needed homes, turned into not only a full-fledged adoption organization but also a sanctuary for the parrots that are not necessarily adoptable for a variety of reasons. With the stable climate of Hawaii, the birds are able to be housed outside in large flight aviaries and many times are housed with species of the same kind (well, once in a while with a special parrot that is not of the same species).

Through trial and error they have designed and developed amazing housing for the parrots that are under their care. The story behind each parrot was the same stories we hear here in Southern California. In speaking with Dorothy she confirmed what the latest research has begun to indicate: that these animals are naturally used to living with members of the same species and seem to do better whether housed together or just in visual contact with each other. Many of the aggression problems that are seen in birds that have lived alone diminish when introduced to one of their own kind. It was breathtaking to see these magnificent animals still come to their human caretakers but also interact with each other in an obvious flock setting.

Another place that I was able to visit while in Hawaii for two weeks was the Pana Ewa Rainforest and Zoo. Though the zoo was a beautiful place to take a walk and charges no fee for visiting, I was heartsick to see the cages the birds were kept in. Many of the enclosures reminded me of the Bronx Zoo, in the area where I grew up back in the late 70's early 80's. The habitats were overgrown with foliage and there was no room for the birds to fly around, or even move much, it seemed. No toys were available for them to play with, so all they could do was sit on perches and be stared at by visitors. The diet we saw being offered was some pelleted diet but the food bowls contained large amounts of sunflower seeds, as well. My partner and I were so saddened by visiting these parrots that we got the contact information so that we could send a care package to be shared by all the birds in the care of the zoo. We also plan on including some literature and handouts on diet and care, and hope that those in charge may take the information seriously.

(continued on page 19)

Come visit us on the web!

"Like" us on Facebook

[Parrot-Education-and-Adoption-Center](#)

Follow us on Twitter

@PEACsandiego

Check the updated calendar and interesting articles on our website

www.peac.org

Watch your email for our PEAC Monthly Info Blast

NEWSFLASH - - UPCOMING FOSTER BIRD EVENTS!!

Come see our volunteers and foster birds in San Diego at the following events:

Petco Unleashed, 308 Washington St. **2/1**, 9:00a to 2:00p

Petco Unleashed, 308 Washington St. **3/1**, 9:00a to 2:00p

When parrots are raised by their natural parents, they learn to identify themselves as belonging to their own species. They learn to process the experiences of an ever-changing world and they learn from mom how to react, when to be alarmed, what new stimuli is benign – or not, what the social cues are and what the appropriate behavior is for any given situation. They learn how to properly groom themselves and about the social significance of grooming others. They learn what to eat and where to find it. They learn how to forage, how to play, how to communicate and how to relate to members of their own species, their own flocks and their own family. And they learn how to fly. Their gift of flight in every way defines who they are and is inextricably linked to their psychological, physical and biological health. Their hearts, their lungs, their brains, their skin, their nervous systems, every fiber in their bodies is linked to what their wings were designed to do.

Well...life isn't really anything like this for parrots raised in captivity. In fact, traditional, commercial aviculture has done little to emulate anything close to a natural developmental experience for parrots being raised in captivity, or even uphold humane standards for breeding stock. For decades, the avicultural breeding community have held themselves up as the experts who have taught the rest of us about proper husbandry and breeding and rearing standards. This may be so in some instances, but in many respects, the breeding community has overwhelmingly made it up as they've gone along, instituted practices without any basis in science whatsoever, and frequently changed their minds and methods as the actual scientific research has emerged. Furthermore, based on the strength of the Avicultural Society of America and the American Federation of Aviculture, the breeding community is accountable to no one. They have managed to successfully block any and all attempts to impose legal regulations on their industry. Anyone can call themselves an authority. Anyone can breed any number of birds they wish under any kind of conditions without licensing, veterinary oversight or standards of care.

To this day, the standard set-up for a breeding facility is a succession of barren cages devoid of enrichments, with boxes attached. Aviculture has dictated that toys and enrichments – and even daylight – distracts parrots from their job, which is simply to mate and produce eggs. To this day, shipping unweaned parrots that are merely days old to retail locations and/or selling unweaned babies directly to consumers is perfectly legal and widely practiced.

As “products” in a fast paced, profit minded pet market, the vast majority of captive bred parrots have never known their natural parents. One of hundreds or sometimes even thousands of baby parrots on a breeding ranch, a commercially bred parrot is production-line fed without the benefit of nurturing – or even a real parent. Within a few short weeks – sometimes even a few short days of hatching, he is packed up and shipped out unweaned to be delivered to his retail destination. If the baby survives the transport or isn't too sick once he has reached the pet store, he is delegated to a display case where he sits, miserably alone, and waits to be dutifully hand fed on a fixed schedule by a sales clerk who is qualified as an experienced expert by virtue of having successfully completed the on-line hand-feeding training course offered by PIJAC. Provided this baby isn't injured or even killed by a succession of PIJAC trained sales clerks, he is encouraged to learn to eat on his own by the time he is 6 to 10 weeks old, depending on his species, as his hand-feedings are gradually reduced. His begging is ignored. He'll learn to eat before he lets himself starve to death. Probably. If he is lucky, he is purchased by a compassionate consumer who will take him home and shower him with the love and interaction he craves every single night for at least 2 hours after she returns home from work. The pet store provides the complimentary wing-clip before sending him on his way.

(Continued on page 19)

Letter from the Editor

Dear PEAC Members,

The question of whether or not to clip a bird's wings is often the topic of heated discussion. On the pro side, in a feather picker, the short, clipped wing feather is sometimes seen by the bird as something abnormal that has to be removed. Also, clipped feathers growing back sometimes "stick into" the bird, causing irritation and leading to picking.

Alternatively, an unclipped bird is both susceptible to dangers in the household, i.e., ceiling fans, open toilets or cooking pots, etc., and to flying off out an open window or door, or while being moved from the house to an outside aviary. Even the slightest gust of wind can give a bird lift off your shoulder or hand. Many birds bred in the United States are not allowed to fledge, so once they take off flying, they are not sure how to land, so are at great risk of not returning to their homes. Also, it stands to reason that not having been outside, they don't know what their homes look like once they're out there, especially overhead! Even birds trained for free-flight shows sometimes "escape," never to return.

Although many say that a bird is born to fly and it is cruel to keep its wings clipped, the decision to keep a bird flighted is one that should be made very carefully, and only by someone with many years of experience, not only with parrots in general, but with his or her own bird. Even then, you never know....

Here's to keeping our loved ones safe!

Best regards,

Melanie Ariessohn
Editor/Operations



Sammi
Courtesy Judy Michaels

OVERPOPULATION OF PARROTS (continued from page 17)

Well, this is quite an austere illustration. It actually sounds ridiculously outdated, as we are better educated these days and have so much more information about the importance of nurturing our parrots during the neonatal stage – and beyond. Nevertheless, this form of factory farming or production breeding is still prevalent. This is still the way it's done. This is still the experience of vast numbers of highly intelligent, sensitive little parrots as they begin their journey through life. Even if we were to pretend that this is only what happens to parrots produced commercially for the big chain superstores, we're still talking about a million parrots a year that are launched into the world like a fleet of shiny little toasters.

(Concluded next issue)

DIRECTOR'S LETTER (continued)

I am certain that as a local government-run facility, funding is limited. It is sad to say but it is a reality that money is necessary for all organizations that are providing care and shelter for our feathered friends. It is my dream that one day PEAC may find the individual or a group of individuals who would consider leaving a large enough estate so that PEAC can develop not only a place for all the birds to live in, but also offer sanctuary for those birds that have been in the foster program for years and for those parrots that are deemed not to be a good fit for the current way PEAC operates its program for intakes.

The article in this issue of our newsletter addresses the overpopulation that we all know exists in our country. This year I not only plan to finally start visiting schools to educate the upcoming generations about parrots but also to try to work together with other rescues such as Best Friends and Last Chance at Life, so that together we may be able to help all the birds in need of a new place to call home. All rescues, I will admit, are struggling for the same funding, but I feel strongly that if we can put the money issues aside and so long as the organization holds true to the same issues that are stated in our mission statement, there is no reason we cannot work together to find ways to help address the ever-growing problem of parrots being relinquished.

Once again, I want to thank you for your all that you give to PEAC, whether it was by donating to our yearly fundraiser, renewing your annual memberships, or volunteering your time and help. Without you PEAC would not be able to continue the heartfelt work we do.

Wishing all of you the best in 2015.

Eric Kern
Director



BEAK TO TAIL
PARROT EDUCATION & ADOPTION CENTER®
P.O. Box 600423
SAN DIEGO, CA 92160-0423



Parrot Education & Adoption Center®

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 24, 2015

Nutrition Workshop
(Wildomar)

January 25, 2015

Parrot Body Language
(San Diego)

February 21, 2015

Managing Biting Behavior
(Wildomar)

February 22, 2015

The Unwanted Parrot Crisis
(San Diego)

March 29, 2015

The Thick-Billed Parrot
(San Diego)