



Parrot Education & Adoption Center™

# BEAK TO TAIL

Issue 75/76

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

1Q/2Q 2016

## SPOTLIGHT on MAJOR



Major is a male military macaw who we believe to be around 20+ years of age. Major's owner passed away and his son contacted PEAC to see about relinquishing him to our foster program. On arriving to do our intake evaluation of Major we were shocked at the conditions he was being kept in. His cage was cylindrical and was about 24" wide by 36" tall. This small a cage for a macaw was cruel and inhumane, as Major was not able to even turn himself around or move his legs and feet to feed himself or groom his terribly dingy feathers.

His food bowl, which he was able to use by bending over and eating with his beak directly out of, was filled with some kind of food that was covered in flies, as he was

housed out on the back patio with only a blue tarp as a roof to shelter him from the rain and intense sun we have here in San Diego County.

Though at the time PEAC did not have an opening for another macaw, our director, Eric Kern, who "specializes" in rehabilitating and working with the larger parrots, agreed that he could make room for him as it was cruel to leave him even one more day in the conditions he was forced to live in. Major was taken to an avian vet and he received a complete check up and blood work. His blood work showed some elevated liver enzymes which indicated his diet contained too much fat and he was being fed more than likely sunflower seeds as his main source of nutrition.

*Continued on page 13*

## TWO INTERESTING ARTICLES ON PARROTS

This one, from the NY Times, discusses parrot communication, diet, tool-making, etc. in the wild.

[http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/03/22/science/parrots-are-a-lot-more-than-pretty-bird.html?\\_r=1&referer=https://www.google.com/](http://mobile.nytimes.com/2016/03/22/science/parrots-are-a-lot-more-than-pretty-bird.html?_r=1&referer=https://www.google.com/)

And this one, also from the NY Times, talks about Serenity Park in L.A. and their work with parrots and vets with PTSD.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/31/magazine/what-does-a-parrot-know-about-ptsd.html?emc=eta1>

## Letter from the Director

Dear PEAC Members,

It is hard to believe that we are about to finish the first quarter of 2016. Lots of great things are planned for this spring and early summer. We have yearly events like the Turquoise Animal Hospital Exotic Pet Expo, Pirate Days at the Maritime Museum, and the largest event we participate in every year, the America's Family Pet Expo at the Orange County Fairgrounds in Costa Mesa, CA. All these events give PEAC a chance to spread its message of providing access to the latest up-to-date information on parrot care, both physical and psychological. I am happy to see so many of our volunteers step forward to help organize and run these fantastic events. PEAC only continues to exist because of its volunteers, members, and generous donors.

I am happy to mention we have had four adoptions so far this year. Two Amazons, Sunny and Hermione, came to us after their owner's age made caring for them no longer possible. This owner's son contacted PEAC, and Barb Crouse and I met the parrots and the son and determined PEAC was able to add them to our foster flock. Fortunately, in a short time, a couple with several years of parrot experience contacted PEAC and was interested in both of them. Though PEAC normally does not adopt out more than one parrot every 18 months to a new owner, it was the prior owner's wish that if possible that they remain together. It was wonderful to find a good home for both of them and to be able to adopt them together as was the request of the prior owner.

(continued on page 10)

### 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

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San Diego, CA 92160-0423

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Mary Taylor  
Dory Thompson  
Suzette Valdez  
Asako Yamamoto

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**Artist**

Linda Ruschat

**Editor**

Melanie Ariessohn

**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](mailto:adoption@peac.org) to find out more about any of these birds!

### Cockatoos



**“Pita,” 12-yr-old m. lesser-sulfur crested.** Pita lived with his previous owner from the time he was weaned until she found PEAC to assist her in finding a new home.

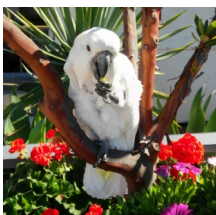
Pita is now on a very healthy and varied diet of fruits and vegetables along with a pelleted diet. He has adjusted to his new foster family and is working on stepping up. He is comfortable around small dogs and cats, but needs to be the only bird in his new home. He has a varied vocabulary. With continued positive reinforcement training, Pita will become a wonderful companion cockatoo.



**“Ziggy,” 10-yr-old m. umbrella.** Ziggy came to us when his former owner was no longer able to give him the care he needed. He is a very gentle and non-aggressive cockatoo. He will step up on an arm. He is fairly quiet for a cockatoo. He prefers to be in the company of his flock (either human or feathered). He is fairly undemanding

and is happy playing with a variety of toys. He is a very verbal guy who says quite a few phrases (Hi Ziggy; Ziggy is a good boy; Be good, Ziggy; I love you, Ziggy; Go night-night; and more). He loves music and "sings" la la la la when in a new situation. He has no feather destructive behavior and is in gorgeous condition.

Ziggy is a smart boy who will break off a long thin piece of wood and use it as a back scratcher. He is a wonderful bird who will make some lucky person a great companion.



**“Tootsie,” 13-yr-old f. umbrella.** Tootsie came to us in April of 2014. The couple that had Tootsie for her first 12 years moved and had to confine her to a very small cage. Tootsie was unable to adjust and pulled most 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.” Tootsie requires someone with a great deal of cockatoo experience. She is a fast learner and just wants to be in a forever home that will love her the way she deserves.



**“Paris,” 11-yr-old f. Moluccan.** Paris’s history is not entirely clear; she was purchased at a swap meet and later turned in to a local animal shelter. Our vet estimates her age at appx 10. Like many ‘toos, Paris is very social and steps right up. She seems to trust women more than men. She is quite expressive; her body language is very clear.

Paris loves veggies, and also eats pellets, fruit, and almonds and walnuts. She is not nearly as loud or noisy as most Moluccans, although she does call the flock an hour before sundown. She is a classic escape artist and knows how to pick the lock on her cage. Paris loves to chew wood toys. She is naked on her legs, breast and back, and we dress her in protective clothing, which she doesn’t seem to mind. Paris would love to be a single bird in a home with a cockatoo savvy family.

### Indian Ringneck



**“Joey,” <2-yr-old Im. ndian ringneck parakeet.** Joey was found and turned over to us by the Dept. of Animal Services. We believe he is an escapee from a backyard aviary as he is wary of human approach but makes no attempt to bite. He does not yet have his neck ring so he is believed to be less than 2 years old.

Joey is a charming little guy in spite of not being hand tame at this time. He chirps and squeaks, holding entire conversations by himself! We are working with him to allow human approach and he is doing very well, tolerating daily husbandry without any frantic behavior. He eats a wide variety of vegetables but has so far shown little interest in pellets. Please stay tuned for further updates as Joey progresses with taming and training.

### Amazons



**“Quinn,” age unknown, m. lilac-crowned.** Quinn is a gentle and calm Amazon who enjoys being around other birds but prefers Amazons. Quinn says “hello” in a very sweet Elmo voice and melts his foster mommy’s heart. He can be a little shy when asked to step up, and would like someone who is patient and has a calm household.

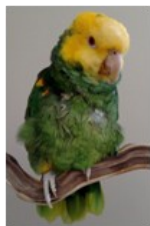


## Available for Adoption in San Diego/Southern California

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### Amazons (cont)

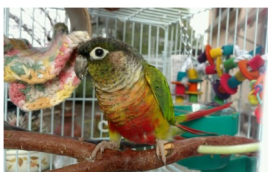
Quinn is always ready to eat, and enjoys baked or steamed yams, broccoli, peas, apples, veggie pasta, rice, quinoa and anything tasty and nutritious! He is a wonderful companion who is looking for a forever home.



**“Pickle,” 46-year-old m. double yellow head.** Pickle was relinquished to PEAC when his third owner developed health issues. He was in his second home for 35 years and was originally turned over to PEAC around 2008 when his elderly owners could no longer care for him. Pickle loves his foraging toys and eats a well-rounded diet. He is very smart and

in his second home he learned to perform the Chargers’ chant, portions of Old MacDonald, roller skating, riding a bird-sized scooter, playing basketball, turning in a circle, and spreading his wings on cue. Although he hasn’t done these behaviors in a number of years, he would likely enjoy re-learning them with a new family. Pickle is somewhat reserved at first, although he started stepping up after only 2-3 days in his foster home. He is generally a very quiet Amazon, even in the presence of other Amazons. He’s an amazing fellow; still very active, and climbs all over his cage and around his play areas.

### Conures



**“Merlin,” f. pineapple, age unknown.** Merlin came to PEAC via the Department of Animal Services after having been in a fight while trying to survive out

in the wild on her own. Her foster mom keeps her cage in the kitchen and when they have left the cage door open so she can come out to explore, Merlin bolts to the sliding glass door. Merlin cannot be easily handled yet and the fosters are working on settling her down to finger train. When holding her, one must cuddle her against ones chest for head scratches. As we have only had her in the foster program a couple of months, we are still seeing her true personality come forward. She is going to make someone a fun little bird to have.

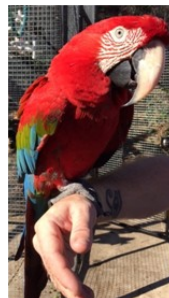


**“Peanut,” m. Jenday, age unknown.** Peanut was found and turned in to the Bonita shelter, which tried unsuccessfully to find his home and then turned him over to us on 10/16/15.

### Conures (cont)

Peanut is fairly quiet for a Jenday once he is used to his surroundings, although he is quite vocal when he can see a person to talk to. He loves attention and will babble and whistle if you talk to him. Peanut is not yet comfortable at stepping up to a hand when he is inside his cage, but he is working on that. However, once out of his cage he is very willing to step up and be carried around. He does not bite, and will make an adorable addition to someone’s family.

### Macaws



**“Dino,” 17-yr-old m. greenwing.** Dino came to PEAC in October 2015. His prior owner had three macaws and was living in a condo, where he was cited for excessive noise. Dino was mate-bonded with another macaw and came in with some alleged issues but we have not seen evidence of them. He will step up for almost anyone and he is now a gentle giant like most greenwings.

Dino at 19 years old has a long life ahead of him. His blood work initially showed elevated liver enzymes, probably brought on by poor diet. The vet suggested doing blood work again in 6 months to see if a better diet with less fat might have given his liver time to heal. Dino says some things, including “Hello Dino,” “Goodbye,” and “I can talk.” He is a joy to have around and seems to not be bothered by dogs or other birds, though we of course suggest not letting him bond with another bird like he was when he first came in to the foster program, so that his wonderful personality may remain.



**“Major,” 20+-yr-old m. military.** Major came to us after living in terrible conditions, when his owner passed away. Because of living with a “perch” that was only the diameter of his cage bars, the tendons in his toes are permanently damaged and he has difficulty gripping onto an arm or a perch, although he is somewhat comfortable in the crook of his foster dad’s arm. He has no evidence of arthritis.

Despite his disability, Major is the most loving military we have ever seen. He will readily lick the fingers of his foster family and our volunteers. Unlike most militaries, he has a calm and gentle personality. He steps up and has never shown any aggression. Major will need someone willing to provide him with physical therapy for probably the rest of his life, but the effort will be returned a thousandfold by his loving nature.

## Available for Adoption in San Diego/Southern California

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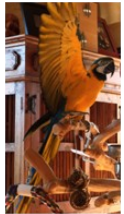
### Macaws



**"Baby," 10-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.

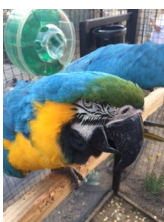
Baby is now eating a balanced diet and playing well with toys. He is out of his cage for about 10 hours a day. Due to previous long-term feather destructive behavior he has no feathers on his chest and they probably will not re-grow. Baby tends to make very loud vocalizations when not in the presence of another parrot he can buddy up with, and will do best in a home with another parrot near his own size, such as another mini-macaw, an Amazon, or a larger conure.

Baby enjoys human interaction and gets along with both men and women. He says "hi Baby" and "hello." He readily steps up. He is a sweet, fun guy looking for his forever home.



**"Abbi," 31-yr-old m. blue-and-gold.** Abbi came to us in January of 2015 after his second home in 30 yrs. His first owner moved out of state, and he was placed for just a short time in his second home, until they moved into an apartment. In Abbi's early life, he sustained a traumatic injury, which resulted in the loss of his left eye and the use of his left wing, which was broken and never set, so he is not able to open and extend it.

Abbi is a bit shy at first, as he has trouble seeing to his left. He gets every-other day showers at his foster volunteer's home and seems to enjoy the company of the other macaws that are part of his foster flock. Despite what must have been a rough start in life, Abbi seems resilient and is just looking for his new forever home with someone who will respect his slight limitations and love him no matter what.



**"Iggy," 11-year-old f. blue-and-gold, age unknown.** Iggy was purchased at a flea market in New Orleans, LA. On arriving at ARC, a PEAC foster volunteer's location and facility, she was very frightened of her new surroundings and for almost a week did not want to leave her cage. We slowly offered her sun-

flower seeds to entice her out but she would just take them and drop them, so she turned out not to be very food motivated.

### Macaws (cont)

We started wrapping our hand and arm slightly with a towel and she very willingly now steps up on to the towel, comes out of her cage, and then transfers slowly over to the handler's bare arm.

Iggy is still learning to trust and has a way to go, but with the right person and the use of consistent positive reinforcement training, she will become an amazing companion for someone looking for a large parrot.



**"Willow," 22-yr-old f. blue-and-gold.** Willow came to PEAC from the Dept. of Animal Services after being found on a rooftop. She has some feather loss on her chest.

Willow immediately converted over to a pelleted diet and is starting to show some interest in her morning vegetables, fruit, and sprouts. She loves her afternoon nuts. She steps up very well, and has shown no aggression at all. Willow is a very sweet girl who will make a wonderful companion for someone who has the time and space for a macaw.

### African Grey



**"Doc," 17-year-old m. Congo (aka red-tailed).** Doc has only had one owner who, due to some serious life-changing events, was no longer able to care for him or Iggy the blue and gold macaw that he lived with. Doc was fully flighted when he came into PEAC and had strong flying skills so he had to have a

serious flight feather trim to discourage this behavior but provide a safe way to land.

For the first few days, as is the case with many parrots, he was nervous and quiet and did not want to step up or even come out of his cage. Now it's the opposite: he loves to come out of his cage and isn't always eager to go back in at night. He has a small vocabulary but it is accompanied by many whistles and sounds that make him quite comical to watch. He is in magnificent feather and seems to be handling the transition into a foster home quite well. Doc requires a lot of toys to keep his mind stimulated. He will make someone an amazing companion parrot with just a little more positive reinforcement training.

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



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We welcome our new volunteers! Lori and Kaela Duran  
And Ron and Sue Peterson

## PARROT EDUCATION & ADOPTION CENTER 2016 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

"People protect what they love. We need to provide the information so that they can love."

- Jean-Michel Cousteau

We encourage everyone to attend our Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar, "Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet," which is a comprehensive seminar for everyone, incorporating the latest information on everything from anatomy and behavior to care and enrichment.

4/9 Sat	1:00 pm 2:15 pm	"Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet" (required for adoption) "Become a Foster Volunteer," foster volunteer requirements and updates
4/24 Sun	Cancelled, as we will be at the Orange County Fairgrounds at America's Family Pet Expo	
5/8 Sun	1:00 pm 2:15 pm	"Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet" (required for adoption) "Become a Foster Volunteer," foster volunteer requirements and updates
5/29 Sun	1:00 pm 2:15 pm	"Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet" (required for adoption) "Become a Foster Volunteer," foster volunteer requirements and updates
6/12 Sun	1:00 pm 2:15 pm	"Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet" (required for adoption) "Become a Foster Volunteer," foster volunteer requirements and updates
6/26 Sun	1:00 pm 2:15 pm	"Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet" (required for adoption) "Become a Foster Volunteer," foster volunteer requirements and updates

<b>Seminar fees (per person/day):</b>	<b>PAY WHEN REGISTERED</b>	<b>AT THE DOOR</b>
<b>PEAC Members:</b>	FREE!	\$5.00
<b>Non-members:</b>	\$10.00	\$15.00

Registration is due by the Wednesday prior to the seminar; no exceptions. Seminars are subject to cancellation if not enough people are registered by midnight Wednesday. The second week seminar is held in Jamul; the last week is at the Dept of Animal Services on Gaines St, San Diego.

### REGISTER ME!

Sign Me Up in Sunny San Diego for these 2016 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 parroted@peac.org.



**PEAC RIVERSIDE COUNTY 2015 SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

We encourage everyone to attend our Volunteer / Adoption Required Seminar, "Everything You Need to Know about Parrots," which is a comprehensive seminar for everyone, incorporating the latest information on "everything parrot," from anatomy and behavior to care and enrichment.

4/23 Sat Cancelled, as we will be at the Orange County Fairgrounds  
At America's Family Pet Expo

5/21 Sat 1:00 pm "Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet"  
(required for adoption)

6/25 Sat 1:00 pm "Understanding this Unique Wild Companion Pet"  
(required for adoption)

<b>Seminar fees (per person/day):</b>	<b>PAY WHEN REGISTERED</b>	<b>AT THE DOOR</b>
<b>PEAC Members:</b>	FREE!	\$5.00
<b>Non-members:</b>	\$10.00	\$15.00

Registration is due by the Wednesday prior to the seminar; no exceptions. Seminars are subject to cancellation if not enough people are registered by midnight Wednesday.

<b>REGISTER ME!</b>			
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			

**LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR (continued from page 2)**

Asha, a Scarlet Macaw who was with us since being a year old and now is going on 3, finally found his match with a couple in Arizona. The gentleman volunteers at his local zoo and has several other exotic companion pets. His experience with large parrots showed that he understood and uses positive reinforcement training with the birds he cares for at the zoo and in his neighborhood. It was such a good feeling knowing that Asha would be in good hands, as, if he lives up to his species he will be a bit of a challenge, to say the least. Last but not least was Lola, a blue and gold macaw. Not only myself, but those who serve on the adoption committee, wish these parrots and their new caregivers the best, and as we promise for all parrots that are adopted from PEAC, we will remain available to help with any questions or problems their caregivers may end up facing. Again, this goes back to PEAC's first and most important mission, education.

Over the course of the last 2+ years as the director, I have worked to expand our work in Southern CA. Unfortunately, with not meeting our goal during our year-end fundraiser, much of the growth must be put on hold until the funding is available. Some of the work, though, will continue going forward. At the last advisory committee meeting, we discussed some of the issues we face with people looking to relinquish their parrots. First, we had to understand what it means to be a rescue and adoption organization versus a sanctuary. Simply put, we need to evaluate a parrot for its adoptability. As much as PEAC would like nothing more than to be able to say yes to every parrot that we get called about, that is not physically or financially possible. Many birds with, for instance, feather destructive behavior, where they have been doing it for such a long time that the feathers will just not grow back, is more than likely not very adoptable. So what do we do? Again, taking each case by case we would be willing to post the parrot with a bio on our website and Petfinder once the owner has had the bird undergo a vet exam and blood work like all the parrots in our foster flock. We would also ask the owner to agree to bring the parrot to a seminar should we have a potential adopter interested in the parrot. This is one way PEAC can get exposure for the birds we are not able to physically take into our foster group. Of course, this is not for every parrot, as some birds are just not good candidates for adoption, in which case we would provide the owner with information on how to contact some sanctuaries that PEAC endorses. So to sum up our new "policy," we are still allowing people the opportunity to fill out a bird questionnaire and undergo an at-home evaluation of the parrot as the first steps in deciding if the parrot is a good candidate for being fostered. If, at that time, it is determined that the bird is a candidate, we would then let the owner know if we have an opening; and if not, we would agree to place the parrot on our website and Petfinder, and if a good candidate for fostering, on our wait list.

At the same meeting we evaluated the parrots in our foster program. Two particularly difficult parrots were discussed. It was determined that we have done everything possible, starting with complete physical exam and labs and evaluations of behavior by a well respected behaviorist and animal trainer local to San Diego County. Both birds, we determined, belonged in a sanctuary and not in the PEAC foster program.

(continued on page 14)



Eric, our Director, with Dino



Major

## OUTREACH EVENTS IN TEMECULA!

PEAC is appearing at Petco Adoption Fairs in Temecula!  
Come check out our booth!

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

**6/19 Sunday 2:00-5:00 pm**

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

Location:

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

***BRING YOUR FRIENDS! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!***

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

Alan Crouse	Jeffrey Beckett
Alliison Schacht	Jonathan Poh
Ann Palik	Judy Michaels
April Adcock	Kelly Flynn
Catherine Bourne	Lisa Stevens
Charla Mora	Maria Brinson
Curtis Froschheiser	Mary Taylor
Daniel Kuttner	Michelle Warn
David Hiipakka	Rene Pina
Diane Koczur	Stephen Hartfield
Elisa Patkotak	Steve Velasco
Gale Chan	Tina Hauer
Jessica Niehoff	Rhonda Mitchell
Linda Stuart	Kathy Fraga

Leroy H. Polliard in honor of Lynn C. Conley

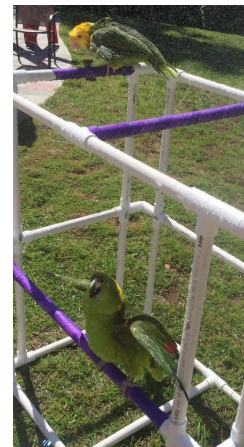
If you're interested in adopting any of our program birds, you must attend the seminar required for adoption and complete an application for approval. You must also show proof that you have an adequate cage and are acquainted with an avian veterinarian before taking your bird home. Adopted birds may 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](http://peac.org/?page_id=40).

Congratulations on  
Your New Home!



Asha



Sunny and  
Hermione

Lola



PEAC booth at the  
Blessing of the Animals



Asha napping



**SPOTLIGHT on MAJOR**

(continued from page 1)

He was also evaluated to determine the extent of his muscle atrophy due to the fact that he was immobile and was not able to do anything other than stand on a 1" dowel for the 20 years the owner had him. The vet said we had two options: one was to euthanize him, as up to that day, his quality of life was not humane. The second option was to see how he did with some physical therapy to his feet by providing him a modified special-needs cage where he would be kept until the time came where he was strong enough to perch on his own and no longer have the fear of falling. A bird club in the L.A. area was kind enough to donate a Plexiglass container which we lined with towels and allowed Major to settle into his new environment. Within just a month's time, he had learned how to use his beak to climb all around a regular parrot cage and to perch on surfaces that allowed his feet to lay flat so that he did not have to grasp onto a perch like most parrots do. His appetite was never a problem and he converted over to a sprout-and-pellet diet in just a few days. He is also offered some pistachios at lunch, to provide a little more fat in his diet, as most macaws require a slightly higher amount of fat compared to other species of parrots. He recently had blood work performed, and his liver is healed and shows no evidence of fatty liver disease or any other ailment.

Major's personality is that of a survivor. He willingly will step up but has a special way of doing it so you must have confidence when handling him so that he feels safe balancing in the crook of your arm where the forearm meets the elbow. He has one rope perch that he moves to, and then with a tap of his beak to ensure the stability of your arm he jumps onto you and off you go to his outside aviary to enjoy yet another sunny day in the foothills of Jamul where our director, Eric Kern, has designed and built a facility to allow him to work with the rehabilitation of macaws. Major still is apprehensive of being touched on his head, though you can give him a break rub and he will gladly give you a tongue bath in return. Though we do not encourage people to kiss their parrots as there is always the risk of getting a bite to the lip, it is hard not to kiss this gentle boy as he leans in to you for a snuggle and a kiss hello.

Please contact PEAC, either through our website or at [membership@peac.org](mailto:membership@peac.org), if you are interested in meeting this amazing parrot with a happy ending that we hope will conclude with finding his forever home where he will be allowed to continue his progress into becoming an amazing companion parrot. If you are not able to adopt a bird of your own, please consider volunteering or donating to PEAC as all your time and finances will go directly to the care of our foster flock and the work we do with our educational programs.

Congratulations Asha, Hermione,  
Lola, and Sunny, on finding your  
forever homes!

**VOLUNTEER MEETINGS**

Upcoming quarterly meetings for volunteers:

April 10, 12:30p Volunteer Meeting

June 5, 12:30p Volunteer Meeting

Advisory Committee Meeting to immediately follow both Volunteer Meetings.

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

**LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR (continued from page 10)**

As the director, I wrote letters to some of the sanctuaries that PEAC has networked with in the past. We were very pleased to hear back from the Oasis, letting us know that at the end-of-April-beginning-of-May they would have openings for both of these parrots. The Oasis has very strict intake guidelines including an extensive list of lab work that is required. Each parrot is going to cost PEAC around \$500 for the veterinary visits. Adding to that the costs of traveling, donation, and lodging to and from Arizona, the total estimate for providing these birds sanctuary is around \$1500-2000. To maximize what we can take away from our visit with the Oasis, we have asked them to allow us to interview them and their staff, explaining their situation and involvement with parrot rescue. PEAC is working with Candice Thiem, a very talented film and writing professional, who has agreed at no cost to PEAC to put together several short video clips on a wide range of topics, and to also help produce a small documentary on the current issue of companion parrot over-population and all that goes along with that topic. We hope that from this point forward, we will not end up having to transfer parrots out of our foster program to sanctuaries, with our more involved and detailed evaluation process.

Another change has been that what once was a suggested donation of \$200 per bird being relinquished to PEAC to join its foster flock (each parrot entering the foster program costs on average \$400 for complete veterinary work up) is now mandatory. In the event that the current owner states that they are not financially able to make this donation, we will then request that the owner email a letter to the director of PEAC which will then be forwarded on to the advisory committee along with any notes the director or volunteer involved may have, to assist the committee in deciding whether to waive the fee or lessen the amount. Again, since being the director, I have taken the approach that everything should be handled on a case-by-case basis and nothing is set in stone. As we teach in our seminar, though there are some similarities parrots share with their species, each parrot is an individual and may or may not have these common traits that are familiar with the species.

I often comment to the volunteers that one of the difficult things with being the director is with having to discuss financial issues, but I have come to realize over the course of my 2+ years as director that we cannot do the work we do without the support from all those who care about the plight all companion animals are in with over-population, not only affecting dogs and cats but also the third most common pet in the USA, parrots. So I ask all of you who receive the newsletter to please take note of the "support PEAC" ad that we have included in this issue (and plan to have in all issues from here on out) and take just a few moments so send in even just a single dollar as with that single dollar PEAC may see a dream come true where rescue is no longer needed and all parrots are kept in safe, loving, and healthy environments. Do it now; just tear off the donation slip and mail it in with your check or credit card information. You may also go directly to Paypal and make a donation that way. Every penny we get with a donation goes directly to our work with education and the care of our foster flock.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you may have. You can either go to our website and send a message via that or drop me an email using [membership@peac.org](mailto:membership@peac.org). I wish everyone a bright and happy Spring, and may all our companion parrots settle down a bit from this once again crazy breeding season.

In closing, I want to thank you for all that you already give, in both your time and finances, to our small but very important organization. We are not able to save them all, but to make a difference in one parrot's life is worth the efforts to keep PEAC up and running, so that the ones we are able to save have a chance at a wonderful new life.

Sincerely,  
Eric Kern, Director

ESTIMATED COST FOR TRANSFER OF TWO BIRDS  
TO THE OASIS

Estimate provided to PEAC on Feb 20, 2016

Services to be performed on Pita, S. Crested Cockatoo, Male

Procedure or Dispensed Item	Charge
Outside Lab Postage VMD	4.67
Gram Stain	46.40
PBFD DNA –Probe	51.20
Avian Herpes/Pacheco's DNA	51.08
Psittacosis-DNA Probe	50.40
Avian/Reptilian Plus Bile Acid	83.08
Hematology CBC	61.56
Examination-recheck	52.00
<b>Total Estimated Charges</b>	<b>\$400.48</b>

Services to be performed on Jazz, Blue Fronted Amazon, Male

Procedure or Dispensed Item	Charge
Outside Lab Postage VMD	4.67
Gram Stain	46.40
Avian Herpes/Pacheco's DNA	51.08
Psittacosis-DNA Probe	50.40
Avian/Reptilian Plus Bile Acid	83.08
Hematology CBC	61.56
Examination-recheck	46.40
<b>Total Estimated Charges</b>	<b>\$343.68</b>

Transportation:	\$500.00
Donation to the OASIS Sanctuary	\$500.00

**TOTAL for TRANSFER: \$1,744.16**

Won't you please help us meet these costs? Every little bit helps!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT:



Avian Behavior International



Diamond Avian



The Laughing Parrot  
(coupon code PEAC15)

Pet Terrific



Petsmart



Rebecca K. O'Connor/CAITEC  
/Project Parrot Positive



Petco Foundation



Jungle Toys

The Purring Parrot



Bird Toys Etc Bird Toys Etc



Avian Rehabilitation  
Center



*Come visit us on the web!*

“Like” us on Facebook

[Parrot-Education-and-Adoption-Center](https://www.facebook.com/Parrot-Education-and-Adoption-Center)

Follow us on Twitter

@PEACsandiego

Check the updated calendar and interesting articles on our website

[www.peac.org](http://www.peac.org)

*Watch your email for our PEAC Monthly Info Blast*





# SUPPORT



Donate now by filling in the information and mailing to PEAC

PO Box 600423

San Diego, CA 92160

membership@peac.org

In order for PEAC to continue

the work it does in Southern CA we need your financial gift. No matter how small the donation it all will go to help PEAC continue its ongoing projects focusing on education in all things parrot and just as importantly financially assist with the care of the parrots that make up our foster flock. At no other time in PEAC history going back to 1998 have we ever needed your support more. Each year we see more and more

parrots needing assistance in being rehomed either by entering our foster flock or obtaining our help in locating another organization.

Credit Card number

Exp Date

CVV Number

Billing Zip Code

Name and email

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### STAR VOLUNTEER: APRIL ADCOCK

*Our star volunteer this quarter is April Adcock. April is a volunteer, a foster volunteer, and a member of the Advisory Committee. She also, along with Judy Michaels, be covering our new adoption outreach days at Petsmart in Kearny Mesa. April is always up for volunteering whenever PEAC needs someone. Thank you, April!*

**What got you interested in parrots, and what was your first bird?** When I was sixteen I became extremely ill and had to be home schooled. I had to have a number of painful surgeries that made it very hard to leave the house or even get out of bed. I was extremely lonely and depressed, and even thought about taking my life. I couldn't handle the physical or mental pain anymore.

One day I was watching PBS and a special came on about parrots. I saw how they communicated with their owners. I knew absolutely nothing about parrots! My father asked if he could do anything to make me feel better. I told him I wanted a parrot. My dad gave me \$350. He told me I had to get a parrot, food and cage. Money was extremely tight for my family back then. This was a big deal and a family sacrifice. I went that day to a petshop and found Baby. He was the only bird in the store that was caged with a padlock. I told the sales person how much I had. He said, "We have a deal!". So we left with a parakeet-sized cage, seed, and Baby. I didn't realize how he would change my life! I got him home and was terrified of him. I realized I had no clue what I was doing! The next morning at 6am I woke up to screaming. Baby was screaming "Help the Babe!" "Help me!" I was in complete shock. My mother said "you need to get up and feed him breakfast." I always slept in to 11am, but every morning after that I got up at 6:30am and fed him. Baby gave me a reason to live and helped me to fight and get better. He saved my life. He would be beside me over the next 4 surgeries, his perch by my bedside.



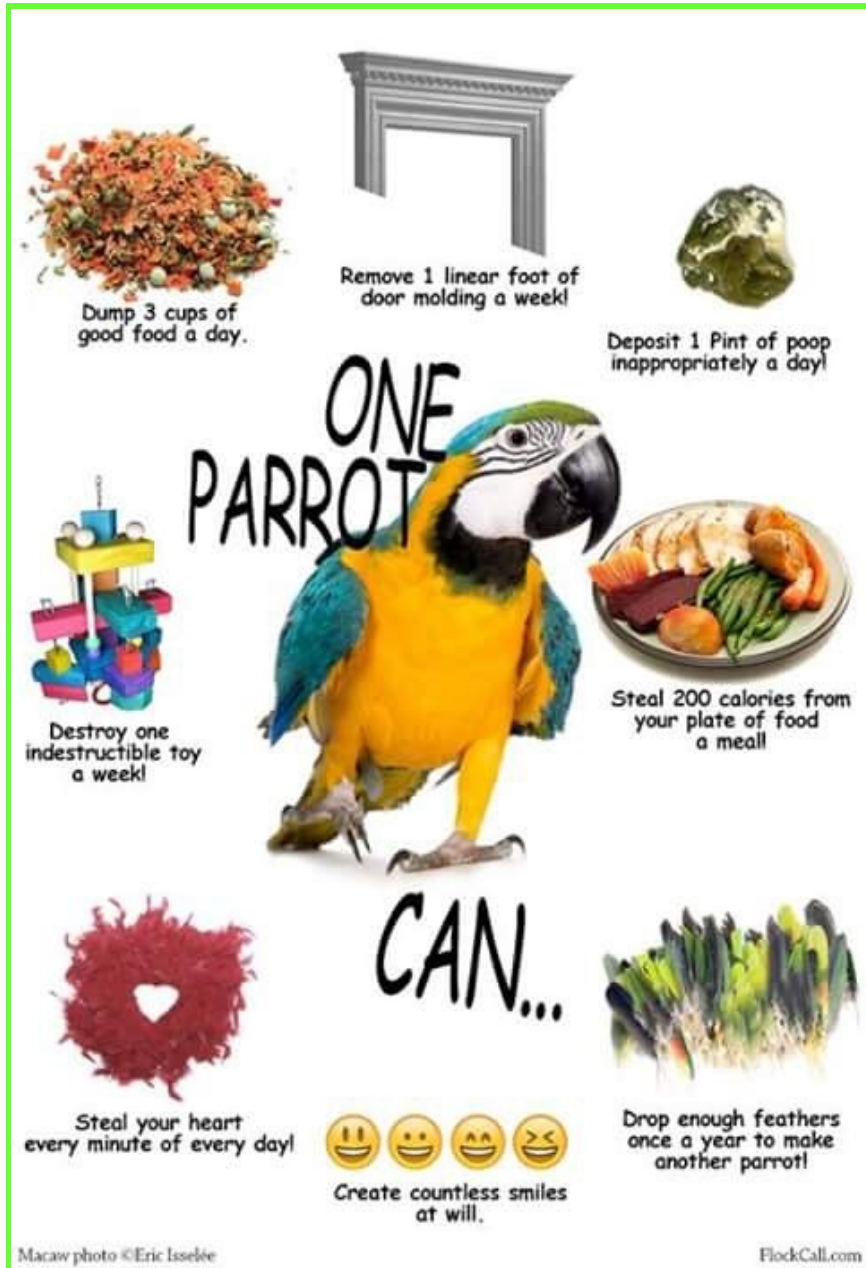
**What do you like most about volunteering?** I love educating new and old parrot owners. I also think about the past when I first met Baby. Life would have been easier for us both if I had had PEAC back then. How wonderful it is to have been given the opportunity to volunteer for PEAC and help make life better for parrots and people.

I also need to add what I love most about volunteering for PEAC is the second chance PEAC gives to these amazing parrots. Rescues like PEAC are disappearing and there are so many birds that have no second chance. Tonight I was reading the Globalgiving update by our Director, Eric Kern. I started crying seeing the pictures of our second chance parrots in their new homes. This is what drives me to keep going. I don't want a Baby to miss out on a second chance. I was Baby's 3rd owner by the time he was two years old.

**How do you spend your spare non-bird-related time?** I work full time as a hairstylist and also am studying to become a stand-up comic. I am finding I have plenty of material with my parrots.

PEAC would like to thank ARC—Avian Rehabilitation Center—for their most generous donation this quarter.





Doubtless you know most of this from personal experience, but if not perhaps you could use a refresher via our seminar! PEAC is dedicated to not only rehoming unwanted and found parrots, but also and primarily to education of its members and the public on the physical and psychological needs of these intelligent animals.

### WANTED: ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER

A position has opened up on our Advisory Committee. This committee meets quarterly and helps make decisions that are not relegated solely to the Director or the Board of Directors. The requirements are that you be a volunteer (if you are not one now we may make an exception, should you decide to become one), that you be available for these Sunday meetings once a quarter, that you are currently aware or make yourself aware of PEAC's policies and procedures, and that you can objectively evaluate issues pertaining to the organization. If interested, please contact Eric at [membership@peac.org](mailto:membership@peac.org).

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



Parrot Education & Adoption Center®

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2, 2016

Turquoise Animal Hospital Exotics Expo  
(San Diego)

April 22-24, 2016

America's Family Pet Expo  
(Orange County Fairgrounds)

May 15, 2016

Petco Adoption Fair  
(Wildomar)

May 21-22, 2016

Pirate Days  
(Embarcadero, San Diego)

June 19, 2016

Petco Adoption Fair  
(Wildomar)