

# BEAK TAIL

Issue 57 PUBLISHED QUARTERLY 3 Q 2010

# Wow. That Bird Sure Can Scream!

by Barbara Heidenreich

www.GoodBirdInc.com

Part II - continued from our last issue

Misty seemed to throw a kink in our now peaceful, well-behaved, and relatively quiet household. I "knew" from my past experience that I could repeat the process I had implemented with Tarah. However, this time proved to be a bit more challenging. Because I was working out of the home at the time, it meant no breaks from dealing with the behavior problem. Every time I left the room I was challenged with having to be focused on training this bird. I was finding this to be very demanding. In addition, there were times in the day when mentally I was just not prepared to train. Rather than feeling inspired to train and ready to resolve the behavior problem, I found myself dreading having to leave a room and work with Misty. I decided I needed to better set myself up for success. In getting to know Misty, who, other than the screaming behavior, I found to be a delight, I learned that in the past she was accustomed to being covered at night. I took advantage of this and decided to leave Misty

covered during the time in the morning I needed to shower and prepare breakfast and bird diets in the kitchen. This allowed me time to peacefully attend to necessary tasks in the morning. After this, I found I was less stressed and more prepared to begin a training session with Misty.



Throughout the day I would treat each time I left the room for whatever reason as a learning opportunity for Misty. I practiced my strategy of extinguishing screaming by not responding to it, followed by reinforcing a desired behavior. In this case the desired behavior was not a specific sound; instead, I chose to reinforce silence. My plan was to reinforce small increments of time of silence and gradually increase the duration Misty was silent before I would reinforce her with my presence or attention. If I were in the kitchen I would wait just outside of her view

while she screamed. At first if she offered a pause in screaming that seemed the slightest second longer than what she had presented in between screams in the past, I would quickly appear and offer generous amounts of attention. I wanted quiet to receive a greater amount of positive reinforcement than screaming, if I could. Over time, I gradually increased the amount of time she remained quiet before I would respond. And it worked!

However, this was not without challenges. There were times throughout the day when a training session was not convenient for me when I needed to leave the room. Rather than cover Misty, I opted for engaging her in other acceptable activity. For example, I often offered Misty a small cardboard box, a rolled up ball of newspaper, a new toy, or a portion of her diet just prior to leaving the room. This gave her another activity to focus on instead of screaming. But it also was not an opportunity for Misty to learn that screaming would not gain my attention and quiet would. It was still important to include training sessions throughout the day. The other activity was meant only to offer a break from training for me. (Continued on page 12)

# Letter from the Director

Dear PEAC Members,

Summer is just around the corner and the PEAC team has been very busy. I'd like to send my sincere thanks to all the volunteers who were able to staff our booths recently at both America's Family Pet Expo held at the Orange County Fairgrounds in April, and also at the Parrots International Symposium here in San Diego a couple of weeks ago. A huge thank you to Melanie Ariessohn, Teri Irvin, Judy Michaels, Rene Pina, and Craiq & Kylene Smartis for your support at these events. Spreading PEAC's message and achieving the goal of educated parrot owners is what our organization is all about and makes a difference every day in the lives of our avian companions.

We've recently created a PetFinder account on the Web. Now you can see our foster birds in-between newsletters at <a href="https://www.petfinder.com">www.petfinder.com</a>; search using our Zip code (92160) to see who's new to the program!

Please come visit our booth at the Del Mar Fair on Saturday, July 3rd. We'll be located at the San Diego Infield Pavilion, and the fair program looks like great fun again this year. We'll have a number of foster birds in attendance who would love to meet you!

Don't forget to register for our Parrot Training Workshop with internationallyrenowned animal trainer, Barbara Heidenreich, on July 31 This terrific event will have you engaged all day with practical techniques to teach your parrot new behaviors, including live demonstrations with a number of the PEAC foster birds. We'll also have on-site vendors to satisfy your psittacine retail therapy needs. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Crouse Executive Director Parrot Education and Adoption Center, San Diego

# WHAT WE ARE

Parrot Education & Adoption Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to educating its members and Parrot Education & Adoption 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 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**

Center P.O. Box 600423 San Diego, CA 92160-0423

> Beak to Tail Published quarterly Issue No. 57

Phone: 619-287-820 Fax: 909-563-8418 E-mail: parroted@peac.org Website: www.peac.org

# **PEAC Board**

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Barbara Crouse

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> Bookkeeper Teri Irvin

Administrative Assistant Jeff Greer

Membership/Sponsorship Barbara Crouse

**Volunteer Coordinator Adoption Coordinator TBD** 

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> <u>PEAC Artist</u> Linda Ruschat

Newsletter Editor Melanie Ariessohn

Thanks to Garry Wallan for your tireless years of service as the PEAC San Diego webmaster! Happy retirement from our Website!

# 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 of small birds are required to attend our "Avian Basic Care" seminar.
- 6. Potential adopters of medium to large birds are required to attend at least the following three seminars: "Avian Basic Care," "Parrot Personalities," and "Behavioral Problems."
- 7. Potential adopters will receive a copy of our adoption application after attending the required seminars.
- 8. All potential adopters will receive a home visit performed by one of our volunteers before being approved for adoption.
- 9. 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.
- 10. Only one parrot acquisition/adoption per home or PEAC membership is allowed in an 18-month time period.
- 11. Adopters are required to pay an adoption fee and reimburse PEAC for veterinary fees the bird may have incurred.
- 12. Adopted birds are to remain in the home and be treated as a member of the family.
- 13. Adopted birds may not be sold, given away, bred, or used for any type of monetary purposes.
- 14. 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.
- 15. As a general rule, we will not place a Cockatoo, Macaw, or other noisy bird in an apartment or condominium.
- 16. PEAC will not adopt birds as companions to other birds.
- 17. PEAC does not place birds into aviary situations.
- 18. Birds must remain in a 100% smoke-free environment.

# BEAK TO TAIL

# Available for Adoption in San Diego/So. California

Contact Barbara at 619-287-8200



# Cockatoos

- Umbrella:16-year-old "**Honey**" is a very sweet girl, as her name implies.
- Sulfur-crested: "Milo" aka "Cupcake" was found 18 years ago, and is a real sweetie!



# Macaws

• Green-Wing: 29-year-old "Red", who came to us in April because his family needed to travel, adjusted in just two days to a new foster home and a new diet! He's a really sweet guy, intelligent and a quick learner, with a laid -back personality. He gets along with birds, cats, and dogs, and would love a new permanent home.



### Amazons

• 28-year-old "Roz" is quiet, tiny for a blue-front, and very sweet-natured. She eats her veggies and pellets with gusto. She enjoys flapping wildly and is learning to play with foot toys. She steps up, gets along well with other birds, and is an all-around cutie who's looking for a new nest.



# • Hybrid: 14-year-old "**Kiki**" is a beautiful bird in perfect feather who loves to take daily walks. She is very talkative, speaks appropriately, and has a great sense of humor.



# • Double-yellow head "Pickle" is 37 years old and very sweet and quiet. In her youth she did tricks like roller-skating. She loves to perch on your hand and have her head scratched. She is a little afraid of some men and doesn't like cats, but may be willing to compromise if she feels you're a good match.



# Budgie

• "Gatsby" is a 12-year-old male budgie looking for a home where he can live out his golden years. He is untamed, but will fill your house with his beautiful songs, especially if caged near other birds.



• White-fronted: "Sweet Pea" was found and turned in to PEAC in Jan. 09. She now steps up easily onto a bare hand. She has adjusted to new routines very readily, and recognizes "Nut Time," "Shower Time", "Dinner Time", and "Nighty-Night Time." She talks and laughs along with phone conversations, and has turned out to be a very adaptable, delightful little girl.

If you're interested in adopting any of the birds listed above, you must attend all 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, in addition to reimbursement for any veter fees incurred by the bird you are adopting.

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# CONGRATS CASEY ON YOUR NEW FOREVER HOME!!

Casey in her new home, looking happier than ever before, and sporting a beautiful new crop of feathers on her chest and belly! In the process of adopting out birds, we find there are matches and then there are matches, but this one is most definitely a match made in heaven!



# SPOTLIGHT ON SWEET PEA - notes from her foster mom





Sweet Pea knows "dinner time" and "nighty-night time." When I call "dinner time," she immediately starts chirping loudly for me to get her. She sits on her play stand next to the kitchen table and participates in our conversation. We don't know what she's saying, but she seems very serious about it! The livelier the conversation, the more participation on her part.

Once every week or two I give my other birds whole-wheat curly noodles for dinner, which they seem to think is a special treat. So one night, I included Sweet Pea. Well, she took one look, threw each and every noodle out of the dish, and then proceeded to stomp back and forth on her perch. No eye pinning, just stomping. When we got through laughing (secretly), I gave her some birdie bread, whereupon she immediately started doing her happy little twittering and chirping. Which led me to wonder, just who is training whom?

Sweet Pea has already learned to step up onto a stick, as well as a bare hand! She loves her showers. She actually comes with me into the shower, where she sits on her shower stand; and when I direct the water onto her, she hangs upside down, spreading her wings and tail feathers. You can really see the beautiful blue on her wings.

Look back at our 1Q 2010 issue, just six short months ago, when all we could say about Sweet Pea was that she was afraid of hands but she could sure eat! What a long way she has come. And as she's just a young bird, her potential for the future is just amazing! Sweet Pea would love a permanent home. Come meet her on 7/31 or at one of our monthly seminars!

# Message from the San Diego Operations Manager

Dear PEAC Members,

Summer is here, already; can you believe it? You know what I'm going to say next, but I must reiterate it anyway: with the warm weather, more windows and doors are left open, and many more birds "escape," whether intentionally ("Who-hoo; free at last!!") or by accident ("Whoops! How did I end up out here, and how on earth do I get back home??"). Careful as we may be, it's often a guest or a child who inadvertently opens the door or window. So please check often for flight feathers that may have grown out (this time of year, many species are molting, which also means that new feathers will be coming in). There are some good articles out there about what to do if you lose your bird, and I really recommend that you familiarize yourself with the steps that should be taken in such an event, when time is of the essence.

It's also very important at this time of year that we make sure our parrots don't get overheated! I had one of our macaws in my bedroom with me this afternoon, and while I was quite comfortable, I suddenly noticed she was panting. I'd had a tower fan on, but she was on a 7-foot-high playstand, where the air was definitely warmer! I also make sure I give the birds a good soaking before putting them into the outdoor aviary, even in the shade, on hot days.

We've had a busy quarter, with booths at America's Pet Expo, the Parrots International Symposium, and the Del Mar Fair (with a fair booth still upcoming on July 3). As a result of this exposure, we've been very successful in getting the word out about PEAC; and it looks as though our San Diego chapter, with many new members, volunteers, and potential future volunteers, is poised to take off exponentially! I wish you all a great summer, and hope to see many of you on July 31 at the Barbara Heidenreich workshop (registration on pages 10 and 11).

Best regards,

Melaníe

Melanie Ariessohn

# Yes, We Still Need Foster Homes!

PEAC is still in great need of program birds, Our current out; and we need volunteers birds so that they can get the deserve without "burning parents. We also continue to calls and emails from people parrots to our adoption



foster homes for our foster homes are still maxed to take some of our current attention they need and out" their current foster receive large numbers of wanting to relinquish program, and we are

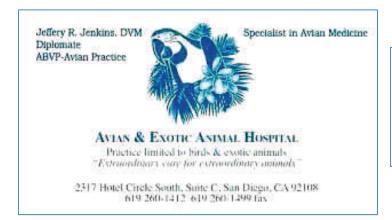
turning away, on average, 20 parrots each month, just in San Diego, due to lack of space.

You do want to help, don't you? Call 619.287.8200 or email parroted@peac.org for San Diego or 907.929.BIRD or akpeac@gmail.com for Anchorage.



PEAC San Diego 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



Dr. Jenkins provides a complimentary exam for newly adopted PEAC San Diego program birds and a discount on care for our foster birds.

Dr. Loudis will give a certificate good for one exam (to be used within 10 days of adoption) to new adopters of PEAC San Diego foster birds, and provides a discount on care for our foster birds.



# Todd R Cecil, DVM, DABVP-Avian Board Certified Specialist in Avian Medicine

Complete daytime & emergency medical/surgical services for exotic and avian patients.

La Mesa 5232 Jackson Dr. 91941 Chula Vista 885 Canarios Court 91910

619 462-4800 www.pescsandiego.com exotics@pescsandiego.com



Dr. Cecil provides a 50% discount on non-emergency services to our foster birds and 20% on emergency/ after-hours care.

Thanks to our volunteers for all of your help this quarter!!

# PARROT EDUCATION & ADOPTION CENTER - SAN DIEGO 2010 SEMINAR SCHEDULE

While many of our seminars are required for adoption, others are also encouraged to attend, to expand their knowledge in order to provide the best home possible for their own companion birds.

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

- Jean-Michel Cousteau

July 18: Living with Cockatoos Excessive Screaming

July 31: Parrot Training Workshop with Barbara Heidenreich \*

\*Note: This is a special 8-hour workshop with special pricing; see pages 10-11.

Special hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; check-in starts at 8:30 am.

August 22: Parrot Personalities (required for adoption)

Understanding, Preventing & Resolving Behavior Problems (required

for adoption)

Sept 19: Avian Health and Safety

Foraging and Nutrition

October 17: Parrot Personalities (required for adoption)

Understanding, Preventing & Resolving Behavior Problems (required

for adoption)

Nov 21: Holiday Toy-Making Workshop (special pricing for this event; TBA)

Seminars are held at Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way, Room D-6, San Diego. Regular seminars begin at 1:00 pm; second seminar begins at 2:15 pm. Seminar check -in begins at 12:30 pm. When possible, program birds will be present from 12:30 to 1:00 for "Meet and Greet."

Seminar fees (per person/day): ADVANCE REGISTERED\* AT THE DOOR FREE! \$5.00

Non-members: \$10.00 \$15.00

\*Advance registration is due on or before the Wednesday prior to the seminar; NO EXCEPTIONS.

Credit card payments (\$20.00 minimum) can be faxed to 909 563-8418 or emailed to parroted@peac.org

PayPal is available through parroted@peac.org

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO THE BIRDS OF PEAC IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

April Adcock

Big Beaks Bird Toys

Mike Keens/Jungle Toys

PetSmart Charities

Rene Pina

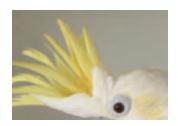
Darlene & Eldon Vogt

West Valley Bird Society

Mary Casadente & Lee Follansbee

TOPS (Totally Organic Pellets)

In these difficult economic times, your donations are truly appreciated and make a huge difference in the lives of our program birds.







|                |            | <u>KEGISTER ME!</u>                             |   |                |  |  |  |
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# PEAC® San Diego Presents: Parrot Behavior & Training Workshop with Barbara Heidenreich



July 31, 2010

In this workshop, parrot enthusiasts will learn basic methods and tools to teach their birds using positive reinforcement. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- The basics of training--how does it work?
- How to read and interpret bird body language
- Solving behavioral problems
- Training basic behaviors
- Training to benefit the health and welfare of your bird
- Training advanced behaviors for fun
- And more!

Workshop includes lecture, PowerPoint presentation, video, interactive activities, games, written materials, and live demonstrations on how to train behaviors from start to finish. An educational and fun experience is the goal. An open-forum format will facilitate analysis of companion parrot behavior challenges & goals.

# **REGISTRATION:**

PEAC members \$90/person Non-members \$110/person

Registration includes 40-page workbook, continental breakfast and afternoon snack, and commemorative PEAC t-shirt (color and design may vary).

Date: Saturday, July 31, 2010

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m (Registration/check-in begins at 8:30)

Location: Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way, San Diego, CA

Signature \_\_\_

# REGISTRATION FORM

# Parrot Training Workshop with Barbara Heidenreich

July 31, 2010, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Marina Village Conference Center, 1936 Quivira Way, San Diego, CA Address: \_\_\_\_\_City:\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_State/ZIP\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Phone: ( # People REGISTRATION Fee Total PEAC Member \$90.00 \$110.00 Non-Member PEAC MEMBERSHIP Single \$20 Family \$30 DISCOUNTS <10.00> Two PEAC members in same household (addresses will be verified) ADDITIONAL DONATION / SPONSORSHIP with recognition in Workshop Program/Syllabus Total Amount Due: \$ T-shirt size: \_\_s \_\_M \_\_L \_\_XL \_\_XXL \_\_XXXL Credit card payments:\_\_Visa \_\_MasterCard \_\_AmEx #:\_\_\_-\_\_\_Exp:\_\_\_/\_\_\_

> Refunds will be made as follows: 50% June 15 to July 10, 2010 Please return registration form and check made payable to

> > Parrot Education and Adoption Center PO Box 600423 San Diego, CA 92160

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_

Credit card payments:

mail to above address ~ or fax to 909 563-8418 ~ or use PayPal at parroted@peac.org

Questions? Email parroted@peac.org or call (619) 287-8200

~ WE LOVE YOUR BIRDS. BUT PLEASE DON'T BRING THEM TO THE WORKSHOP ~

# Wow. That Bird Sure Can Scream!

(continued from page 1)

This may have also lengthened the amount of time it took overall to teach Misty that screaming no longer would work.

Another challenge in training Misty was that Tarah was in the same room, and he would whistle scream for my attention while I at times when I left the room. While I wanted to respond to his whistle, I did not want to also accidentally reinforce Misty's screaming. My strategy had to be to only reinforce Tarah's whistle when Misty was not screaming. If I was focused on the training session, I also found I could position myself so that Tarah could see me, but Misty could not. This allowed me to reinforce his "good" behavior and wait for Misty to offer silence before responding to her.

Misty's screaming also appeared to stimulate an occasional screaming behavior in Ta-each bird based on their individ-be a lifetime of good behavior!

a strong reinforcement history for a whistle, I simply waited for him to offer a whistle before I would respond. Tarah quickly returned to offering a whistle and once again extinguished screaming.

Misty also would, on occasion, was in the room. When this occurred, I simply left the room. Again, my thought process was to teach her that screaming now created the opposite response. Instead of people coming to her, people go away. It was also important to reinforce her with attention at times for being quiet while I was in the room with her.

Overall, training Misty to present silence to gain my attention took about 6 weeks. Obviously, this was longer than it took for me to change Tarah's behavior. This could have been a result of the strength of the behavior in

rah. Fortunately, because he had ual positive reinforcement histories. It could have also been a result of the fewer training sessions applied to Misty during the given amount of time. It could also be a factor of the birds as individual learners. In any case, the end result was a bird that successfully learned to present desired behavior for attention, as opposed to the undesired behavior of screaming.

> I went through the emotional gamut that many companion parrot owners face when addressing screaming problems. However, by focusing on good training strategy and allowing myself opportunities to relieve myself of the stress associated with addressing the problem, I was able to attain my desired training goal. Screaming for attention is a behavior problem with a solution. Set yourself up for success and invest the time to train the desired behavior. The result can

# Tips to address screaming for attention:

- Extinguish screaming.
- Reinforce any other behavior besides screaming.
- Remember the extinction burst is a good sign! The end might be in sight. Change your feeling from frustrated to hopeful when your bird really goes for it.
- If you need to leave the room, but cannot focus on training, offer another positively reinforcing activity prior to leaving the room. This may buy you a short window of time to move freely between rooms without screaming behavior. However, you will still need to include training sessions at some point. (continued on page 17)

ISSUE 57

# SPOTLIGHT ON "SAMANTHA" A SWEET GIRL WHO NEEDS A HOME URGENTLY



Samantha is a Double-Yellow-Headed Amazon who was bred in Anchorage about 18 years ago, but who unfortunately ended up in the hands of a hoarder. When that person was jailed for animal cruelty, Samantha was rescued by police and then taken in by PEAC Anchorage to save her from euthanasia. Samantha came to us with health and emotional issues resultant from neglect and cruelty, and spent her first year in foster care seemingly in shock, just sitting quietly without playing or vocalizing.

In many respects, Samantha has come a long way in her six years with Karen in Anchorage. Her health issues resolved with proper care and a change in diet. But Samantha was "taught" to distrust humans for the first 11 years of her life, and while she has gotten over that to some extent, she still prefers to keep a polite distance.

Karen says, "She's now a girl of moderate vocalizations -- she doesn't scream, and although she doesn't talk much, she does say, 'hi,' 'hello,' 'oh my God,' and 'here, kitty, kitty, kitty.' She chews up toys like a normal Amazon would, doesn't pluck, and has never laid eggs or exhibited any other extreme hormonal behavior. She just doesn't want attention from people.." When Karen comes home, Sam goes through her normal Amazon vocalizations - a lot of trills, whistles, "Hi's," "Hello's," etc. She will occasionally sort of "whisper" at Karen, which, we've been told, means "I want to be your friend" in Amazonese, but if Karen approaches her, she backs off and goes to the furthest-away point in her cage. Samantha doesn't fly off her playstand, lunge, or exhibit other such aggressive behavior. She was once "babysat" with another Amazon who turned out ,coincidentally, to be one of her clutch-mates, and they behaved very sweetly to each other. She really has a very sweet personality, but just prefers to avoid physical contact with humans.

Samantha will willingly step up onto a dowel, a perch, or a towel draped across a hand, but other than that, she's pretty hand shy. Given the opportunity, she will move away from people unless she thinks they're packing a piece of pistachio. She will come over to the side of the cage if she thinks you have a food treat, and she will usually take it from you quite nicely. She loves sprouts, as well as birdie bread and most other carbs. She loves to chew wood, and the soft wood toys from Jungle Toys seem to be her favorite, though she also likes the shreddable stuff from Grey Feather toys. She loves her showers and exhibits the normal hilarious Amazon gymnastics/gyrations while bathing. Karen now says of Samantha, "She really has moments where I kept thinking she would come around...and maybe she will with someone else, just not me.....I don't know."

Due to circumstances beyond her control, Samantha needs to find a new home as soon as possible; and we would prefer that instead of another foster home, she go to her "forever home" now. Although she is currently in Anchorage, if you are a member in San Diego (or anywhere else) who qualifies to adopt her, PEAC will work with you to arrange for her transportation. Please call us at 907 929-BIRD (-2473) or 619 287-8200, or email akpeac@gmail.com if you think you might be the angel who saves Samantha for the second (and last!) time.

# ANCHORAGE PEAC

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Karen Webster

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Karen Ottenbreit
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Debbie & Steve Ross
Garry Wallan

ADOPTION COMMITTEE
Jackie Frederickson
Karen Ottenbreit
Garry Wallan
Karen Webster
Liz Wilson

# **ANCHORAGE**

# DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

Spring is finally here, though it's been very slow to warm up. Once the weather turns warm, we start to see an increase in the "lost bird" reports – usually due to clipped feathers being allowed to grow out over the winter months. If you have doors or windows which can be left open, or if you tend to take your bird outside with you, please remember to trim those flight feathers! If you're not sure how this is done, please contact your veterinarian.

If you're in the process of planting your garden, don't forget to plant a few things for your flock.\* They'll appreciate some fresh collard greens, arugula, Swiss chard, mint, or other greens throughout the summer.



Other goodies we can grow are carrots, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, sugar snap peas – even corn! Do you have raspberries? Once the fruits ripen, cut a long section of the branch (fruit and all) and put in the cage for your bird's enjoyment. Willow is also another favorite of my birds; they don't eat it but they do enjoy chewing the wood and the leaves. Don't have much of a green thumb? Did you know that dandelion greens and chickweed are also great for our birds? As you can see, Princess likes her chickweed. Sometimes she eats them, sometimes she

meditates in them. I call this her "downward facing parrot" yoga pose.

\* Please do NOT give your birds anything that has been exposed to pesticides or other chemical treatments. Wash all items well, especially if using organic fertilizers.

One event to take special note of this summer is our "Introduction to Training" seminar this August. PEAC volunteer Karen Ottenbreit also works with many of the birds at Bird Treatment & Learning Center, and has studied at NEI with Steve Martin. See which principles work with training your parrot, and which ones don't. Remember, "training" can have many applications – most important is learning how to reward the good behaviors and leave the undesired ones behind. Refer to the seminar schedule and registration form on page 16 for details.

Have a wonderful summer!!

Karen Webster Managing Director, PEAC Anchorage Available for Adoption in Anchorage Parrot Education & Adoption Center P.O. Box 91707 Anchorage, AK 99509-1707 907.929.2473 www.akpeac.org akpeac@gmail.com

# Amazon

Name: Samantha

Species: Double Yellow Head

Age: 17 years Sex: Female

Notes: Friendly in that she wants to be around people, but reserved in that she would prefer not to be touched. A true Amazon, she does love her showers! Definitely not a cuddler, but she does have a very sweet voice and personality.

# Conure

Name: Wilson

Species: Blue-crowned Conure

Age: unknown Sex: unknown

Notes: Wilson was a found bird, rescued after spending a day hanging out in several very tall trees close to an Italian restaurant. Care to guess what his favorite food is? He talks quite a bit, and while there's interest in getting scritches only from favored people, he's VERY interested in getting attention from that favored person, as well as playing with toys, etc.

# Poicephalus - Senegal

Name: **Sassy** Age: unknown Sex: unknown

Notes: This bird was found and turned over to us. She can be social and outgoing when she wants to, yet like several Senegals she can be somewhat territorial of her space. She has a healthy appetite and loves to play with her toys and get cuddles and scratches from her favorite people.

# 

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

PEAC AK is in need of volunteers for all Positions: booths, administrative, special events, and most of all — foster homes!!

We are highly indebted to our current foster families, but still are constantly turning away birds in need, due to a surfeit of foster homes.) Please contact us if you can help! 907-929-2473, akpeac@gmail.com.

# WAYS YOU CAN HELP!! Have you ever wondered how you could help PEAC, but thought "I just don't have the ability to foster"? That's okay, there's lots of ways people can help PEAC...

15

The Program Birds always appreciate these donations:

New toys
Harrison's Bird Food
(including Bird Bread Mix)
Nutriberries
Nuts in the shell
(almond, walnut, etc.)
Seasonal fruit
Travel carriers
Large cages
Perches

The administrative office of PEAC always appreciates donations of the following:

Stamps
Photocopier paper
Photo paper for color printers
Ink for color printers

If it were not for our volunteers, members, and public donations, we would not be able to do what we do. A large part of our funding comes from special events and fundraisers. We are always looking for donations for the events we put on throughout the year. If you have an item you would like to donate, please call or email us! 907-929-BIRD (2473) akpeac@gmail.com





# PARROT EDUCATION AND ADOPTION CENTER ANCHORAGE SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Please note: The June 17 seminar was unavoidably cancelled. We apologize for this, and will be offering the same seminar in November.

Tel: 907-929-BIRD E-mail: akpeac@gmail.com

While many of our seminars are required for adoption, others are encouraged to attend to expand their knowledge, in order to provide the best possible home for their own companion birds.

| Thur, Jul 15<br>7:00 -9:00p | Understanding, Preventing, and Resolving Behavior Problem (required for adoption) |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Thur, Aug 19<br>7:00 -9:00p | Introduction to Training  |
| Thur, Sep 16<br>7:00 -9:00p | Nutrition and Foraging  |

Thur, Oct 14 Basic Care/Lifestyles for the Successful Parrot Caregiver 7:00-9:00~p~ (required for adoption)

Thur, Nov 18 Parrot Personalities (required for adoption) 7:00 -9:00p

Lacey with her favorite toy

December TBD



# **REGISTER ME!**

| I Want to Be Inside (where it's warm) Getting My Parrot Education in Anchorage |                                  |                                  |                           |  |  |  |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| DATE   | TITLE                            | # PEOPLE AMT DUE                 |                           |  |  |  |
|  |                                  |                                  |                           |  |  |  |
|  |                                  |                                  |                           |  |  |  |
|  |                                  |                                  |                           |  |  |  |
|  |                                  |                                  |                           |  |  |  |
|  | TOTAL AMOUNT DUE                 |                                  |                           |  |  |  |
| Name:  |                                  | Phone:                           |                           |  |  |  |
| Address:   |                                  |                                  | State:                    |  |  |  |
|  | Email:                           |                                  |                           |  |  |  |
| Credit Ca  | rd #:                            | (VISA M                          | (VISA MC AMEX) Exp/       |  |  |  |
| Signature  | :                                | Date:                            |                           |  |  |  |
| Make chec  | ks payable to PEAC and mail with | this form to PEAC, PO Box 91707, | Anchorrage, AK 99509-1707 |  |  |  |

Your membership, support, and participation at our events are essential to the future of our chapter and our foster birds! Thank you for your generosity!!

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses who have donated to our Anchorage chapter:

Alaska Mill and Feed Louann Cutler Grey Feather Toys

Jackie Frederickson, DVM Professional Legal Copy Robert A. Rehbock

Ginger Memorial Fund Layne Dicker & Sally Spencer Faye Miller

TOPS (Totally Organic Pellets)

# **SEMINAR FEES (per person/day)**

ADVANCE REGISTERED AT THE DOOR **PEAC** Members FREE! \$5.00 Non-Members \$10.00 \$15.00

Our seminars are held at the BP Energy Center, 900 E. Benson Blvd., Anchorage from 7:00-9:00pm. Advance registration must be received no later than three days prior to the day of the seminar. To register, please email or mail the seminar date you want to attend, and the number of people attending. If you are a PEAC member and are registering in advance, registration over the phone or via email is accepted. For fax or USPS registrations, please use the registration form above.

Seminars are subject to change or cancellation. Registration fees for non-members will be refunded only if a seminar is cancelled.

# Though we love your birds, PLEASE leave them at home while you attend these seminars!

### Wow. That Bird Sure Can Scream!

(continued from page 12)

- Get some earplugs to help you cope with the screaming during the extinction burst...
- Plan to wait in the other room. Prepare in advance a quiet activity you can do when trying to deal with a screaming session.
- Leave the room immediately when your bird screams for your attention.
- Manage your activities to help set yourself up for success. For example, keep the lights off or your bird covered for a few extra minutes in the morning until you are prepared to deal with the screaming with good training strategies.
- Get support. If neighbors are having a problem with your screaming parrot, explain to them that you are working on training your bird not to scream.
- Count seconds in intervals of silence and increase if possible.
- Focus on fixing the problem instead of on your frustration.
- Believe you will get there. This strategy does work.
- Offer even more reinforcers for the desired behavior than the undesired behavior normally would have received in the past.
- Keep notes, if necessary, to determine how and when this behavior may be getting reinforced. Eliminate any reinforcers for screaming.

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COME TO OUR LIVE SAN DIEGO WORKSHOP WITH BARBARA ON JULY 31 - See pp 10-11.

This is the 3rd article in our series on Kazoo, a Jardine's Parrot living with Jean Feakes in Douglas, Alaska.

In our last issue, we saw Kazoo struggle with alternate setbacks and rallies, showing his spirit throughout all and taking an active part in the flock when he was able. By the end of the last article, Kazoo had been doing well again, and there was hope that he would continue to improve.







# KAZOO'S CORNER

by Jean Feakes, Anchorage Chapter

Installment 3: Wherein we bid a sad goodbye to our brave, sweet friend.

It is with much sadness that I inform you that Jean had to make the painful decision to say goodbye to Kazoo. His health, while previously stabilized, had started into a downward spiral shortly after the last newsletter. He was losing weight and becoming very lethargic. Another trip to the vet revealed his glucose level was quite elevated, and his prognosis did not look good. Even if he was in great heath, the stress of the necessary treatment would be hard on Kazoo. In Jean's own words: "Rather than put him through all the shots I would have to give him plus checking his glucose often sometimes multiple times a day, I decided to put him down. It was the most painful decision I have ever had to make but I believe that I did the right thing for him."

It's not easy to say goodbye to a loved one, whether the decision is ours to make or not. My sympathies go out to Jean and the rest of her flock. If you would like to send any messages or condolences to her, please feel free to send them to me at <a href="mailto:akpeac@gmail.com">akpeac@gmail.com</a> and I will make sure she gets them.

Give your feathered friends and other loved ones a hug or a scritch in remembrance of Kazoo, and give a moment of silence in remembrance of those we've loved and lost - feathered or not.

-Karen Webster Managing Director, AKPEAC

# Strategies to Utilize when a Flighted Parrot Escapes

By Barbara Heidenreich, www.GoodBirdInc.com

Copyright 2005 @ Good Bird Inc. First appeared in Good Bird Magazine Volume 1 Issue 1 Spring 2005.

My blue fronted Amazon parrot, Tarah, does not have clipped wings. However like many birds that were clipped during the fledging process, he has never quite learned the kind of flight skills that might earn him the title of a "flyer". I often said "He's has his flight feathers, but he doesn't fly." One day I learned, the hard way, that this wasn't exactly true.

I was visiting my parents as I was moving from southern California to northern California. When I arrived I brought Tarah in his cage to my old bedroom. I opened the door to the cage to allow my bird some much needed free time. Before I knew it, he bolted off his cage and through the bedroom door, took a right, and made his way down the hall. He then banked left and flew through the living room. At that very moment my father was just opening the sliding glass door to step out onto the deck. Guess who went through the door, too? The deck was on the second floor, so my bird had two stories of lift to assist him on his grand flight down the fairway of the golf course behind the house. Thank goodness he was a green flying brick. He ran out of gas and slowly descended to the soft green grass before a tree offered its branches as refuge. Juiced by adrenalin, my feet barely touched the ground as I ran after my bird.

I have always been very careful about the choices I make having a flighted bird in the house. But I was very surprised by the amazing flight my bird made on that day. Sometimes birds that we think will never fly do, indeed, fly. Sometimes birds that have flight feathers trimmed surprise us when feathers return. Sometimes experienced flyers get frightened or find themselves in unfamiliar territory. Whatever the situation, there are some strategies that can be very useful to recovering a bird that has flown to a location undesired by you. The following information is provided to prepare you for that day when your bird may find itself airborne and heading in the wrong direction. These strategies apply whether your bird has no flight skills or is a world-class flying athlete.

# Bird is flying away

• Call to your bird loudly as he is flying-it may help him find his way back to you.

As your bird is flying, do not take your eyes off him. Note the last place you saw him, the level of his flight, how tired he looked. He may have landed in that area. (Radio or phone contact for a group of people searching can be very helpful in this situation. Grab your cell phone!)

### Searching for your bird

- If you have a group of people, spread out and circle the area where you last saw him.
- If you cannot locate him, call to him. He may call back. Say words or sounds he knows or mimics. Most parrots are located by their screams.
- If he has another bird he likes, put that bird in a cage and bring it to the area where you last saw him. Walk away from the bird in the cage. It might encourage the bird in the cage to scream. This may inspire the lost bird to scream. Keep talking to a minimum so you can listen for the scream.
- Look carefully in a limited area (within 1 mile) in the early stages of your search. Parrots usually do not go far unless blown by the wind, chased by a bird of prey, or extremely frightened.
- Keep in mind that your parrot may see you before you see him. When this happens, parrots are sometimes very quiet. This may be because the parrot is more comfortable now that you are present.

Despite some parrots' bright colors, they can be very difficult to see in trees. Look for movement buried in the trees as opposed to your whole bird perched prominently on the tree.

### You have located the bird, but he is out of reach

- Once you find you bird, relax (unless the bird is in immediate danger). It is better to let the bird sit where he is (if he is inaccessible) while you work out a strategy. Do not frantically try to grab the bird, hose or scare him down.
- If the bird has just landed, he will probably not fly again (if at all) for a while.
- Bring the bird's favorite person and/or favorite bird friend (in a cage) to the area where your bird is located.
- Bring favorite food items, familiar food bowls, and the bird's cage, if possible.
- Be careful not to ask your bird to fly from a great height or a steep angle. Try to position yourself (or bird buddy, or bird cage) to allow short flights or short climbs to lower places.



- Try to lure your bird to fly or climb to branches/objects that are similar to those upon which he is sitting, if possible. A bird may be too frightened to climb onto a distinctly different perch. (For example, the bird might be afraid to climb off a tree onto a fence.) If you have no other option, expect the process to be slower and be patient with your bird as he builds his confidence. He may also fly again if he touches the new perch and is frightened by it.
- Do not raise an unfamiliar object up to your bird to have him step onto it. More than likely, this will only scare your bird to fly farther away. If you have a familiar item, you may have a chance that the bird will step onto it. Keep in mind that things like ladders, people climbing trees, cherry pickers, etc. may also scare your bird. Go extremely slowly if you resort to using these items. Stop any action if your bird looks like he wants to fly away.
- Try to call your bird down when his body language indicates he is ready to try to come down. Do not constantly call.
- Try hiding from your bird on occasion. This will create a level of anxiety in your bird which may cause him to try to come to you once you reappear. Usually birds will scream and or start moving around a lot when they are ready to make an effort to return to you. If you notice this activity, come out from hiding.
- If you hear your bird screaming while you are hiding, he may be ready to fly or is already in the air. Come out of hiding right away. Most parrots scream when they are flying in this type of situation.
- Birds also often relieve themselves and also scream right before they fly. Be alert for this. You may need to see where your bird flies. Be ready to run if necessary.

Avoid having a crowd of people around the bird's favorite person. A scared bird may not want to fly into a crowd of strangers. Give the bird's favorite person lots of room.

The sun is setting and your bird is still out.

- Parrots will usually fly again shortly before the sun starts to set. This is probably your last opportunity to get your bird back before he will begin to roost for the night. Take advantage of it. You can try to get the bird "pumped" up by yelling and creating a level of excitement. This may encourage one last flight.
- As the sun starts to set, your bird will start to fluff his feathers and get ready to roost for the night. At this point it is best to just allow him to go to sleep. Keep an eye on him until the sun has set completely. Remember his exact location.
- Before the sun rises the next day, return to that location. Your bird should still be there, unless he was frightened in the night (owls can cause this).

Usually by 8:30 or 9:00 a.m., your bird will be ready to fly again or make an attempt to get to you. Repeat the steps described in the section "You have located your bird, but he is out of reach".

Your bird has flown off and after 24 hours of searching he has not been spotted.

- Contact the following people and let them know you are looking for your bird. If a person finds your bird they may contact one of these organizations.
- O Call animal control; call the SPCA/humane society/bird rescue organizations in your area
- O Call local veterinarians; call local zoos
- O Call local pet shops
- O Check the classified section of the paper for "found" bird. Answer all ads. People are sometimes unaware of what they have found. A Congo African grey may be mistaken for the mythical red tailed pigeon by a helpful stranger who is unfamiliar with parrots.
- o Call local police
- o Place an ad in the classified section of the paper for a "lost" bird.
- Note: Don't give out the bird's band number. If your bird accidentally falls into the wrong hands, this could lead to removal of the band.
- Post flyers that state "lost bird" in the areas you last saw your bird. You may also wish to offer a reward as incentive for people to call. A photo is helpful.

Often a bird is found within 24 hours of his disappearance. The trick is to find the person who found your bird. Do not give up! The key to getting a bird back is perseverance.



# THE "GINGER" MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM\*

Ginger was one of the first birds Anchorage took in, and the difference we were able to make in this bird's life was remarkable. Unfortunately, we were not granted enough time with Ginger on this earth; let the story of her life carry the message of birds in need to future generations. May she rest in peace.

Through word of mouth, PEAC has become widely known. With this notoriety comes an increase in the number of birds needing our help. The increased volume of birds coming through our door has placed an additional financial burden on the organization. Just one of our macaws requires a \$20-\$30 toy at least once a month, in addition to the food costs (and thanks to the difficult times we are facing, food costs have risen dramatically). Sadly, we have numerous parrots of all sizes, needing food and a variety of toys, waiting to enter our program.

We are appealing to you as a fellow parrot lover to help us help these homeless birds. Please consider enrolling in our sponsorship program. For a monthly contribution, you can sponsor one or more of our birds. In return, you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that a parrot's life was enriched by your donation, and your name will appear on our Sponsorship List in our quarterly newsletter, Beak to Tail. (If you wish to remain anonymous, just check that box on the Sponsorship Enrollment Form.) All donations are tax-deductible and directly benefit our birds. Simply fill out the enrollment form and return it with your donation.\* After enrolling, for

# THE GINGER MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FORM

Sponsorship Levels:

\$50/mo. Macaw/Large Cockatoo \$15/mo. Conure/Parrotlet

\$25/mo. African Grey/Amazon/Eclectus are waiting and \$10/mo. Cockatiel/Budgie/Lovebird

I wish to remain anonymous.

VISA/MC/AMEX Card #:

I am unable to give a monthly donation, but I would like to help with a one-time donation of \$

Phone #: Name: Address: State: Zip: E-mail:

> Or make check payable to PEAC and mail with this form to PEAC, P.O. Box 91707, Anchorage, AK 99509-1707

your convenience, you will receive an envelope each month in which to return your donation. The birds thank you for your contribution.

\* All donations to the Ginger Sponsorship Program remain at PEAC's Anchorage chapter.



# **Participants**

Anonymous Lucia Blades Gale Chan Mike & Julie Comella Layne Dicker Kelly Flynn Kathy Fraga Lisa Greeson Jim & Karen Hodson Philip & Lee Jenkins Beverly Kirkegaard Debra Kolen Judy Lazar Patrice Marcks Ann Palik Rene Pina Geneva Potepan Jean Rockwell Chloe Rogers Steve Scott John & Janet Smith Linda Stuart Virginia VanDyke\* \*(in memory of Ziggy)

# THE "CHICKEN" MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Chicken, a "Festive Amazon" (Amazona festiva) was imported in about 1970, as an adult, wild-caught bird. He was first owned by an elderly woman, a chain smoker, who had him for about 15 years and taught him to be a phenomenal talker. When she passed away, Chicken was left to her two sons, neither of whom liked him, and they kept him in isolation. Their sister rescued Chicken and gave him to a vet tech at the hospital where he was a client. The tech kept Chicken for a few years, until becoming engaged to someone who was allergic. In 1993, she called Layne Dicker, who was doing bird adoptions; Layne immediately fell in love with Chicken. He says that Chicken was affectionate, personable, and completely trustworthy. He would sit on Layne's shoulder for an hour with his head down getting scratched, and if Layne stopped, he'd nibble at his ear, making a little growling sound. In 1998, Chicken died of lung cancer. Layne has never completely gotten over it.

PEAC has set up a memorial fund to help homeless birds with stories like Chicken's. But we can't do this without your help. Just one of our Amazons or macaws requires a new \$20 or \$30 toy at least once a month, in addition to the food costs. And we have numerous birds of all sizes waiting to enter our program! We are appealing to you as a fellow parrot lover to help us help these homeless birds. Please consider enrolling in our \$ponsorship Program. For a monthly contribution you can sponsor one or more of our birds. In return you will receive the satisfaction of knowing that a parrot's life was enriched by your donation, and your name will appear, if you wish, on our \$ponsorship List in our quarterly newsletter. All donations are tax deductible and will directly benefit our birds.

Simply fill out the enrollment form and return it with your donation.\* After enrolling, for your convenience, you will receive an envelope each month in which to return your donation. The birds are waiting and thank you for your contribution!

\* All donations to this program remain at PEAC headquarters in San Diego. For sponsorship opportunities in your area, contact your local Chapter.

# PEAC MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNTS

Check it Out! The following companies are supportive of PEAC's work and have graciously offered to give PEAC members a discount on items ordered from them.

Advanced Avian Designs, Inc.

888-408-4967-10%

Artistic Avian Accessories

209-748-5631 - 10%

Avian Antics

734-782-5270 - 10%

Avian Gourmet

1-888-88-AVIAN

www.aviangourmet.com - 10%

AviTech, Inc.

1-800-646-BIRD - 10%

**Bell Plastics** 

1-800-235-8265 - 20%

Birds by Donalee

520-574-7290

www.birdsbydonalee.com - 10%

Charlie Macaw

Companion Birdwear

800-704-3003

PEAC member price: \$19.50

Featherwear

925-280-9666 - 10%

Feathered Follies - 10%

www.feathered-follies.com

925-681-2473

Firefly Studios

800-777-9242 - \$2 off shirts

Freeway Enterprises

Home of the Birdie Play Stand 707-678-9065 - 10%

Grey Feather Toy Creations

www.GreyFeatherToys.com 866-355-5904 - 5%

(must use discount code: PEAC)

Hidden Forest Art Gallery

Fallbrook, CA

www.gaminiratnavira.com - 10%

Manzanita Avenue Fred Bird & Company

530-347-6339 - 10%

Noah's Kingdom

1-800-662-4711 - 10%

Parrot Island

952-928-9985

888-9PARROT (Orders only)

www.parrotislandinc.com - 10%

Premium Pet Kitchen

1-800-945-2451 20% off first order

www.puppypaws.com

Puppy Paws

Coupon Code: PEAC - 15%

The Purring Parrot - 10%

619-223-2326

www.thepurringparrot.com

Rose's Pet Emporium

888-418-2269

www.rosespet.com - 10%

Scooterware

914-255-MOON

www.scooterware1.com - 10%

Southern Cross

941-283-3037-10%

Sunrise Solutions/Hide N Sleep

303-469-4217 - 10%

White Wing Farms

360-942-3669

25% (write "PEAC member dis-

count" on order form)

San Diego Stores

Feathers - San Marcos

Birdland - North Park

The Purring Parrot - Point Loma

20% discount for 1st time board-

ers

Cleveland Area Store

Pet Paradise - Willoughby

Anchorage Area Store

Alaska Mill & Feed

10% discount on companion bird

food, toys, supplies, etc.

Costa Rica

Laguna del Lagarto Lodge

25% off prevailing room rates. www.lagarto-lodge-costa-rica.com

# BEAK TO TAIL

PARROT EDUCATION & ADOPTION CENTER® P.O. BOX 600423 SAN DIEGO, CA 92160-0423



Parrot Education & Adoption Center®

# UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>July 15, 2010</u> Behavior Problems (Anchorage)

<u>July 18, 2010</u> Cockatoos / Excessive Screaming (San Diego)

<u>July 31, 2010</u>
Barbara Heidenreich Conference
(San Diego)

August 19, 2010 Introduction to Training (Anchorage)