



BEAK TO TAIL

Issue 62

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

4Q 2011

The S Files: Yogi: Biting

Reported by Ellen K. Cook, DVM, S.G. Friedman, PhD, and L. McGuire
(see www.behaviorworks.org for more information and the original article)

The S Files are real case studies of behavior challenges faced by companion parrots that were successfully resolved using systematic change strategies, without force or coercion. In all cases, the interventionists are the parrots' actual caregivers. Many of the caregivers have little or no prior experience applying the teaching technology of applied behavior analysis but all of them have a strong commitment to changing behavior with the most positive, least intrusive effective strategies.

The S Files are not behavior-change recipes. Train-by-numbers approaches often fail because every bird is a study of one and every relationship and setting is unique. However, the steps used in these case studies can provide the scaffolding to better understand, predict, and change behavior with your own parrots or those with whom you work. Appreciation and admiration is extended to the many caregivers described in the S Files for their willingness to share their dedication and behavior programs here. This S file describes a recent intervention implemented by one of the authors' own birds.

MEET:

Ray and Ellen: Cockatoo Caregivers

Yogi: Approximately 13 year old, Moluccan Cockatoo hen

RELEVANT BACKGROUND:

Ray and Ellen adopted Yogi in September, 2008. Yogi, Ray and Ellen live with two cats, one Chihuahua and three other parrots (a male Moluccan, a bare-eyed cockatoo hen and a male cockatiel). A few months after Yogi moved in, she developed a sexual attraction (operationalized as crouching down, wings quivering, panting) when our male Moluccan, who showed no interest

in her, was in her vicinity.

Yogi came with the habit of perching on shoulders; Ray and Ellen continued to allow this.

After a few weeks with them, she began to make repetitive very loud vocalizations whenever left alone. In January, 2009, Yogi, perched on Ellen's shoulder, bit Ellen's ear hard enough to cause bleeding. Ellen did not allow Yogi on her shoulder after this, but Ray continued to do so. Yogi has never bitten Ray at any time. During the next eight months, Yogi bit Ellen's arm twice as Ellen put Yogi in her cage.

The shower rod in the bathroom was Yogi's perch of choice. After she chewed through the wood trim there, Ray began nailing up pieces of wood for her to chew. Ray would have to replace them every couple of weeks. Ray and Ellen jokingly referred to the shower as "Yogi's nest".

A year after Yogi joined the flock, she discovered that her wings had grown out enough to enable her to fly across the room. This is when the biting rapidly escalated; a couple of weeks later, Yogi flew to Ellen's shoulder and lightly nipped the right side of her neck. Yogi's wings were then trimmed to prevent a facial bite. After her wings were trimmed, Yogi would wait until Ellen was in close proximity to her perch and would then jump onto Ellen's shoulder. The final incident occurred on November 2, 2009. Yogi jumped onto Ellen's back, bit Ellen's left ear, causing significant pain and damage.

I. TARGET BEHAVIOR -- What is the one problem behavior you want to change?

(Continued on page 8)

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear PEAC Members,

Autumn is in full swing and our 2011 Annual Conference just wrapped up here in San Diego. We were treated to a variety of speakers including Diane Grindol, Sybil Erden, Hillary Hankey, Jeffrey Jenkins DVM, and Noelle Fontaine.

Diane set the stage for how parrots change our lives ranging from the everyday increase in variety of produce in our refrigerators, to family dynamics, and how our hobbies and interactions with other people are impacted by our feathered companions.

Hillary, a professional animal trainer and graduate of Susan G. Friedman's professional Living & Learning with Animals curriculum, expertly shared the principles of positive reinforcement and then illustrated these with an hour of training demonstrations with PEAC and personal parrots who also attended.

Sybil, founder and President of The Oasis Sanctuary in Cascabel, AZ shared The Oasis's journey from humble beginnings to the world class facility it is today. She also shared her vision of better addressing the overpopulation problem relating to companion parrots that continues to plague rescues, sanctuaries and parrot advocacy groups across the globe.

Dr. Jenkins shared his view of all things in moderation, reminding us that poor nutrition continues to result in the early demise and decrease in quality of health for many parrots. Although he has not personally witnessed parrot injury or death from overheated non-stick surfaces, he cautioned bird owners from exposing birds to any overheated cookware or cooking oil. None of us will be rushing out to purchase non-stick items as the dangers of PTFE are well documented in the veterinary literature. *(continued on page 5)*

WHAT WE ARE

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

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

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

CONTACT US

Parrot Education & Adoption
Center
P.O. Box 600423
San Diego, CA 92160-0423

Beak to Tail
Published quarterly
Issues No. 60/61

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

PEAC Board

Shannon Ariessoehn
Barbara Crouse
Dawn Danielson
Teri Irvin
Jeffrey Jenkins DVM, DABVP-
Avian
Brian Loudis DVM, DABVP-Avian

Executive Director

Barbara Crouse

Leadership Team

April Adcock
Barbara Crouse

Bookkeeper

Teri Irvin

Administrative Assistant

Jeff Greer

Membership/Sponsorship

Barbara Crouse

Volunteer Coordinator

April Adcock

Adoption Coordinator

April Adcock

Adoption Committee

Gary Baer
Sue Baer
Teri Irvin
Bobbie Sevier
Liz Wilson

**PEAC Volunteers
in San Diego/
Southern California**

April Adcock
Kathy Anderson
Richard Anderson
Gary & Sue Baer
Beverly Berkowitz
Dr. Martin Buncher
Barbara Crouse
Yvette Gray
Jeff Greer
Hillary Hankey
Teri Irvin
Linda & Leo McNamara
Judy Michaels
Rene Pina
Nibal Qagi
Bobbie Sevier
Mary Taylor

PEAC Artist
Linda Ruschat

Newsletter Editor
Jenna Tyger

Webmaster
Jeff Morneweck

**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.

Special Thanks to Melanie Ariessohn

Melanie Ariessohn has been a stalwart PEAC volunteer in San Diego for over ten years. During that time, she has worn many hats including socializing PEAC foster birds at the home of our Founder, and Director for 12 years, Bonnie Kenk. Melanie also worked numerous PEAC booths, functions and events over the years. In spite of public speaking being somewhat outside her "comfort zone," she taught seminars and helped keep our seminar content up to date. Her talents in editing and writing are phenomenal and we've been so fortunate to have her as Editor for *Beak to Tail* for a number of years. When Bonnie retired at the end of 2008, Melanie took on several additional roles including Operations Manager managing PEAC mail and finances, advising the rest of the Leadership Team on organizational, financial and operational matters among others. More recently her editorial reach expanded to include completing the layout for *Beak to Tail*. A number of PEAC foster birds have been a part of her flock over the years. It seemed whenever we were in a critical bind to take in a parrot from a desperate situation, Melanie's response was typically "I'll foster it." Her willingness to promote the PEAC Mission and Values has always been exemplary; often putting the needs of PEAC ahead of her own. While many of us are faced with significant life challenges from time to time, Melanie has faced more of these in the past couple of years than most people cope with in a lifetime. As a result, we recently regretfully accepted her resignation from the San Diego Leadership Team, as Operations Manager, Board Member, Adoption Committee member, and Newsletter Editor. We thank with deepest gratitude for everything you've done for PEAC and wish you nothing but the best both personally and professionally. Finally, we hope life's challenges settle down to a dull roar and that you choose to continue to play an active role with the PEAC San Diego team.

With Best Wishes,

Barbara Crouse & April Adcock

Letter from the Executive Director *(Continued from page 2)*

Noelle, who has appeared at various parrot forums and written several articles on enrichment in companion parrots, is also a staunch supporter of conservation of the wild macaws. Her enrichment activities are truly inspiring and made us all re-examine how our birds are housed and taught to play. While her birds enjoy the luxury of outside open space due to the absence of raptors and other predators around her home, here in Southern California we'll seek ways to engage our birds in a wider variety of outdoor play areas with the safety of enclosed space.

Coming up in November and December this year, we're expanding our Toy Making Workshops to two sites. Please check out the details on page 8. Hope to see you there.

Have a Safe and Happy Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Barbara Crouse

AWW, C'MON....HELP WANTED!

PEAC San Diego and PEAC Anchorage still have an incredible need for foster homes. Who's on our waiting list? In San Diego, we had just whittled our waiting list down to one bird, when we received several new applications from people wanting to give theirs up. With the economy still in the dumps and people losing their homes, the coming months will continue to reveal new people needing to relinquish their parrot companions. What can we do? How can we say no to these poor birds in such great need? Desperate people who are unwilling or unable to wait for their birds to move up our waiting list and into our program can end up selling or giving their birds to yet another parrot-clueless person, and in a year or so, the bird will be in another unwanted situation, with perhaps additional behavioral problems. Some people will even go so far as to euthanize the pet parrot that they consider a "problem" when they "can't" wait any longer for an opening to become available in our program.

We still continue to receive large numbers of calls and emails from people wanting to relinquish parrots to our adoption program, and **we are still turning away, on average, 20+ parrots each month, just in San Diego, due to a surfeit of foster families.**

Our foster birds come to your home pre-vet-checked and usually pre-quarantined by us. During their initial 30-day quarantine period in the home of one of our most experienced volunteers, each bird is evaluated for personality and behavior traits, to help us place it with the best possible foster match. We also evaluate your lifestyle and personality and your comments with respect to what species and personality type you think would be best for you, to ensure that the bird we are placing with you is one that we think can best succeed with you as its foster parent. Sometimes we do such a good job at this that it backfires, and the foster parent ends up adopting the bird! Why do we call this "backfiring"? Because it permanently closes up one opening in our foster parent program. But you know, love is love, and we can't always help who we fall in love with!



PEAC provides our foster homes with an appropriate cage, a playstand when possible, a travel carrier, TOPS organic pellets, an initial batch of toys and later replacement toys whenever available, and all the support you could ever ask for. All you need to supply is treats, fruits, veg, and pasta; varying degrees of patience; and a whole lotta love.

You may be able to save a life. How much better can that be?

Call 619.287.8200

or email parroted@peac.org for San Diego

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

Jeffery R. Jenkins, DVM
Diplomate
ABVP-Avian Practice



Specialist in Avian Medicine

AVIAN & EXOTIC ANIMAL HOSPITAL
Practice limited to birds & exotic animals
"Extraordinary care for extraordinary animals"

2317 Hotel Circle South, Suite C, San Diego, CA 92108
619 260-1412 619 260-1499 fax

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.



ALL PETS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

BRIAN LOUDIS, DVM, ABVP
Diplomat, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners

760-634-2022
www.allpetsanimal.com

285 N. El Camino Real #105 Encinitas, CA 92024

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 hour care.

The S Files: Yogi: Biting

(Continued from page 1)

Describe it in unambiguous, observable terms.

Yogi bites Ellen: her beak grasps a large amount of flesh, clamping down repeatedly and twisting, refusing to let go, all of which causes deep bruising, bleeding and pain.

II. ANTECEDENTS -- What events or conditions immediately precede the behavior that may set it off? Specifically, consider the following possibilities:

GENERAL: When Ellen is near Yogi.

A. WHEN is the problem behavior most likely to occur?

1. Ellen turns her back to Yogi and walks away,
2. Ellen's attention is diverted and Yogi is nearby.
3. Ellen asks Yogi to step up from her shower perch.
4. Ellen tries to put Yogi in her cage.

B. WHERE does the problem behavior occur?

From wherever Yogi is perched, but most often from the shower perching area.

C. WHO is present when the problem behavior occurs (people and pets)?

Ellen and the other two cockatoos are most often present. The dog, cats and Ray occasionally are present.

D. When is the parrot most successful, that is, when doesn't the problem behavior occur?
When Ray is home; when Yogi is occupied w/ chewing wood or eating, when Yogi is in her cage.

F. How might the behavior relate to behavior in the wild?

Yogi frequently exhibits reproductive behavior, which is operationalized as squatting low, wings slightly extended, total body quivering, vent winking and panting. Her biting may serve as a defensive maneuver to drive away competitors/intruders and/or to protect/guard the nest.

III. CONSEQUENCES - What is the purpose or "payoff" for engaging in the behavior?

A. Positive reinforcers gained:

Social: Ellen's drama when she tries to remove Yogi from her shoulder. Ray's attention to Yogi when he "rescues" Ellen

Item or Activity: Remaining in shower perching area, chasing Ellen from area, calling Ray

Sensory Feedback: Ellen's vocalizations, the feeling of beak on flesh

(Continued on page 20)



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.

Participants

Gale Chan
 Mike & Julie Comella
 Kelly Flynn
 Kathy Fraga
 Lisa Greeson
 Jim & Karen Hodson
 Philip & Lee Jenkins
 Beverly Kirkegaard
 Paul & Debra Kolen
 Judy Lazar
 Ann Palik
 Rene Pina
 Geneva Potepan
 Jean Rockwell
 Chloe Rogers
 Steve Scott
 Linda Stuart
 Virginia VanDyke*
 *(in memory of Ziggy)

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 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, if you wish, on our Sponsorship 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.

THE CHICKEN MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Sponsorship Levels:

- \$50/mo. Macaw/Large Cockatoo \$25/mo. African Grey/Amazon/Eclectus
 \$15/mo. Conure/Parrotlet \$10/mo. Cockatiel/Budgie/Lovebird
 I wish to remain anonymous. Do not print my name on the Sponsorship list.
 I am unable to give a monthly donation, but I would like to help with a one-time donation of \$_____.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Make check payable to PEAC and mail with the registration form to
 PEAC, P.O. Box 600423, San Diego, CA 92160.

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

Avian Fashions
Avian Antics Boutique
Sheralin Conkey
Parrot's Treasure
Lafeber
ZuPreem
Harrison's Bird Foods
Von's
Parrot People
April Adcock

Steve and Linda Velasco
Chloe Rogers
Christian Renteria and Robi Lynn
Doran
Peter Eto
Rene Pina
Judy Michaels
Diane Grindol
Beverly Berkowitz
Roses Pet Emporium



RETURNED MAIL?

PEAC San Diego had a little problem with our PO box address for a few weeks, during which time most of the mail you sent us, including membership and donation checks, was returned to you.

If your mail was returned, please simply re-send it to us at PO Box 600423, San Diego, CA 92160. We do rely on your donations to keep the organization going, and we sincerely thank you for your continued support and apologize for the inconvenience this caused you.

PEAC CONFERENCE

PEAC San Diego recently concluded our annual conference. Thanks to all who participated in this event!



Comments from participants of the conference, held on October 29, 2011:

“Not the easiest thing to drive two hours to San Diego for an 8:30 a.m. arrival on a Saturday morning but compliments on your 2011 Conference. Diane's Cockatiel book has been a real help to me so it was a particular delight to meet her.

Also, I found it fascinating that the experts have differing opinions, and all feel strongly on their various positions. Very helpful to hear... Thanks, again, for a particularly useful conference!”

“Enjoyed the conference very much and looking forward to future gatherings!”

“We had a great time and it's always nice to learn new things.”

ADOPTION UPDATES

Aussie and Sugar Baby's new “mom” says “I just wanted to give you a big thank you for letting me adopt Aussie and Sugar Baby. Aussie has stolen my heart and Baby is simply beguiling! They have filled my home with fun and joy. So thank you from the bottom of my heart!”



Polo, a red-lored Amazon was adopted in September 2011. His new owner says “I do indeed have a major update on Polo. I don't know what his history with nail trimming is like. But I do have to say him and I did very well early this week. I tried to towel him in order to trim. Let me say it is one thing that neither I or Polo like. So I tried that for two minutes, then decided to sit him in my lap and imply trim with no towel or restraint. I have to say he liked that much better than with the towel. He is doing very well. Also, attached is a picture of Polo have fun with the boys and I in front of the house today. He

is doing so well. He has a lot of personality. It is amazing. He talks, whistles, crawls, sings, coughs, laughs, and much more. He is doing very well with everyone in the house. No worries, he is in good hands.



Parrot Education and Adoption Center

While many of our seminars are required for adoption, others are encouraged to attend to expand their knowledge in providing 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-Michael Cousteau

Required seminars for adoption eligibility include: Avian Basic Care, Parrot Personalities, and Behavior Problems. Our Avian Basic Care (ABC) seminar is available on-line; please e-mail parroted@peac.org for access.

San Diego Seminars

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|--|
| Sun, 1/29/12: | 1:00 pm
2:15 pm | Parrot Personalities <i>(required for adoption)</i>
Behavior Problems: Using Positive Reinforcement Training <i>(required for adoption)</i> |
| Sun, 2/19/11: | 1:00 pm
2:15 pm | Sex and the Single Parrot
Excessive Screaming |
| Sun, 3/25/12: | 1:00 pm
2:15 pm | Parrot Personalities <i>(required for adoption)</i>
Behavior Problems: Using Positive Reinforcement Training <i>(required for adoption)</i> |

Temecula Area Seminars

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|--|
| Sat, 1/14/12 | 1:00 pm
2:15 pm | Sex & the Single Parrot
Resolving Biting Behavior |
| Sat, 2/25/11 | 1:00 pm
2:15 pm | Parrot Personalities <i>(required for adoption)</i>
Behavior Problems: Using Positive Reinforcement Training <i>(required for adoption)</i> |
| Sat, 3/17/12 | 1:00 pm
2:15 pm | Parrot Body Language
Parrot Safety |

Seminar locations

Department of Animal Services Shelter,
5480 Gaines Street, San Diego, CA 92110

Animal Friends of the Valleys/Southwest Communities
Animal Shelter, 33751 Mission Trail, Wildomar, CA

Check-in: 12:30 – 1:00 pm. Foster birds are present when possible for “Meet and Greet” during seminar check-in.

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

SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ E-mail: _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Ph: _____

Date	Seminar Title	# Attending	Amount Due

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Total Amount Due: _____

Signature _____

Advance registration is due on or before the Wednesday prior to the seminar date.
On-line seminar registration is now available at www.peac.org, click on the ‘Calendar’ tab.
Though we love your birds, PLEASE leave them at home while you attend these seminars.

ANCHORAGE PEAC

Board and Volunteers
Anchorage, AK Chapter

Karen Webster
Managing Director

BOARD

Debbie Cather
Kathy Doty, DVM
Jackie Frederickson, DVM
Garry Wallan
Karen Webster

VOLUNTEERS

Debbie & Jeff Cather
Sarah Hill & Jim Power
Sydney & Tim Kaderman
Eric Kennard
Karen Ottenbreit
Elise Patkotak
Krys Traver
Garry Wallan

ADOPTION COMMITTEE

Jackie Frederickson
Karen Ottenbreit
Garry Wallan
Karen Webster
Liz Wilson

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

I don't know about you, but I'm seriously contemplating what new tricks I can teach my birds – and they are all variations on a theme involving a snow shovel. ENOUGH with the snow already! We all know how the long dark



days impact us, so remember that they could be affecting your birds too. Supplemental lighting should be part of your winter bird care plan, and if you're using lights/fixtures from previous years, remember that "full spectrum" lights lose their efficacy over time. It may be time to replace those bulbs. Mile 5.2 Greenhouse in Eagle River has some very nice plant lights that I've found work very well as bird lights. I recommend checking them out...I don't remember the brand but they look like giant

"light sabers" for want of a better description.

Seasonal foods now available are some of my birds' favorites...mini pumpkins and pomegranate. Oh they love their pomegranate!

A few changes to note for us – in an effort to save costs, we have given up our landline and fax. In the current level of technology we surround ourselves with, it was decided that we would move into the digital realm. We've had very little push back, people are still able to reach us via email and FaceBook, and it saves us a significant portion of money each month.

Another change is that we will be altering the structure of the seminars in 2012. Most notably, we're going to offer seminars quarterly. There are many reasons why we're having to move to this structure, but it's our hope that by doing so we can add some fun and educational topics to the seminar lineup this year. One of the things we tried last year that met with much enthusiasm was "movie night." If there is a subject or topic you would like to see included, please let us know by sending an email to akpeac@gmail.com. For the latest information, check out our website (www.akpeac.org) or follow us on FaceBook (AKPEAC – Alaska Parrot Education & Adoption Center).

We will again be hosting our Annual Holiday Open House, which will be held on Sunday December 18, 2011 at VCA Alaska Pet Care from 11am – 2pm. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for us. If you'd like to help out, or have items you'd like to donate for our silent auction, please contact us at akpeac@gmail.com!!

May you and your flock have a safe, peaceful holiday season.

With best regards,

Karen Webster
Managing Director, Anchorage



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

African Grey

Name: **Jayla**

Species: Red-tailed (a.k.a. "Congo")

Age: 3 years

Sex: Female

Notes: Jayla is a very young, very sweet little girl. Despite having the best intentions and making all the right moves and choices, life sometimes throws us humans a curveball.

Unfortunately, Jayla's owner developed a life-threatening allergic reaction to her, and it became necessary for Jayla to come to us to find her a new forever home. She's essentially a little Grey sponge, soaking up all life has to offer her, and will make someone a fabulous lifelong companion.



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, Sam 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 scratches only from favored people, he's VERY interested in getting attention from that person, as well as playing with toys, etc.



Poicephalus - Senegal

Name: **Sassy**

Age: unknown

Sex: unknown

Notes: Sassy was found and turned over to us. She can be social and outgoing when she wants to, yet, like a lot of 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.



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...

*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*

*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 do-
nations for the events we put on
throughout the year. If you
have an item you'd like to do-
nate, please call or email us!
907-929-BIRD (2473)
akpeac@gmail.com*

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
Grey Feather Toys
TOPS (Totally Organic Pellets)
VCA Alaska Pet Care

Jackie Frederickson, DVM
Robert A. Rehbock
Lin Westgard

Ginger Memorial Fund
Layne Dicker & Sally Spencer

*Mirror, mirror, on the
wall,
Who's the most spoiled*



Gimme Four!!





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 your convenience, you will receive an envelope each month in which to return your donation.



THE GINGER MEMORIAL SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FORM

Sponsorship Levels:

- \$50/mo. Macaw/Large Cockatoo \$25/mo. African Grey/Amazon/Eclectus
 \$15/mo. Conure/Parrotlet \$10/mo. Cockatiel/Budgie/Lovebird

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

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____
 VISA/MC/AMEX Card #: _____ Exp: ____ / ____

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

The birds are waiting and thank you for your contribution.

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

Letter from the Director, Pittsburgh Chapter

Fellow PEAC'ers:

Our editor, Jenna, has been asking me to write this message for several weeks now and I have successfully been procrastinating over it. I was lying on the couch watching the football game and hoping to continue my streak. I just didn't feel like doing any PEAC stuff! It seems I am always catching up on things instead of forging ahead. There are always 15-1/2 things vying for my time -family, friends, spouse, pets, house, yard, vehicles, work, etc., etc., ad nauseum. Two weeks ago my truck broke down and had to be towed home. My head gasket was blown. It turns out the head gasket was blown from it overheating from the freeze plug rotting out. So I have a completely disassembled engine in my unfinished garage (by unfinished garage I mean it has a footer with no walls, roof, or floor). This sits next to my unfinished front porch (by unfinished porch I mean it has a footer with no walls, roof, or floor). You get my point. ..Back to the couch... So all this stuff was running through my head convincing me to do pretty much nothing. As I lay there, feeling sorry for myself, a thought came to me. You too. I'm not special. We all live busy lives. We all have many, many things begging our attention. Yet many of you find time to come to seminars and volunteer at events to keep PEAC going here in Pittsburgh. Members, volunteers: You show up when needed and you pull through in a pinch. Thank You. I know last quarter I wrote a similarly themed article. And remember, we are always in need of more volunteers to keep this organization running.

Here we are approaching the holiday season again. In the past year we have managed to increase membership, donations, educational and informational sessions, and placed more than a dozen birds into forever homes. We have taken these beautiful creatures that have been put into our care, and improved their lives. We have increased the joy in many homes. We have furthered the knowledge of many who already keep companion parrots and in so doing elevated the quality of care for their feathered friends. The holiday season, for me, is a time of reflection and gratitude. I am grateful for this journey that I have begun here at PEAC. Despite the obstacles I have faced and the ones that lie ahead, it is a privilege to be able to do this work. I am sure many of you feel the same, otherwise you wouldn't be reading this.

(Continued on next page)

PEAC – Pittsburgh, PA

P.O. Box 741
Monroeville, Pa., 15146
724-378-7588

info@pitpeac.org
<http://www.pitpeac.org>

Board of Directors

Chris Wheat - President
Jeff Morneweck –
Vice President
Richard Aquino – Treasurer
Ellen Smith – Secretary
Steve Sarro

Executive Director

Scott Reichert

Adoption Coordinator

Tom Murphy

Education Coordinator

Tambri Iriti-Tiwold

Registration Coordinator

Karen Brown

Intake Coordinator

Carol Reichert

Membership Coordinator

Linda Mitchell

Public Relations Coordinator

Jaye Cantagallo

Volunteer and Event Coordina-

tor

Dawn Martine

Webmaster

Jeff Morneweck

Retail Team

Bette Jo Traggiari
Nancy Pierce
Marilou Welty

Staff Writers

Jenna Tyger
Denise Battista

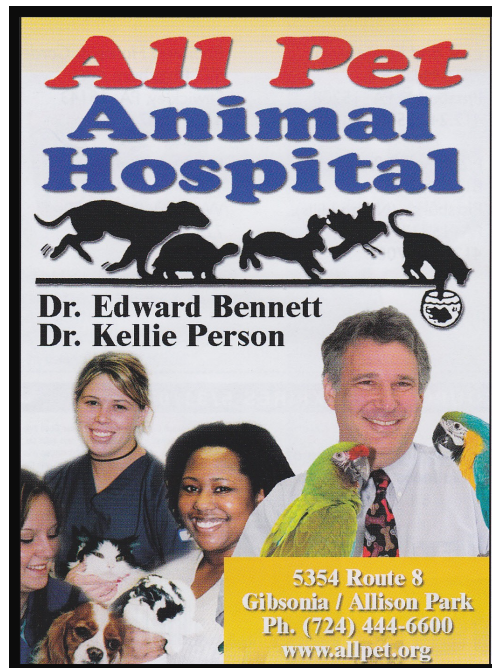
(Continued from previous page)

I received a request from a woman in New Jersey to accept her birds into our program upon her death. She doesn't have any particular ailment; she just wanted to make sure the animals she loved would be taken care of. Another woman, suffering from breast cancer, had the same request. This harkened me back to my motivation for seeking the director's position. I wanted to expand PEAC into an organization that will perpetuate itself. An organization that will be here for my "children" when it is needed. I have to remember this. When the din of life's beckoning calls me away from it; when I am asked to work with that really irritating person (no it's not you); when it's too early; when it's too late; when there is more to do than I can get done; when that couch (bed can be easily substituted here) is so comfortable; I have to remember why. It's not about personality, it's about principle. I have to keep my eye on the goal, and one day at a time, take what comes, forge ahead, and remember it's a privilege.

...and then there are days when it's REALLY COOL!!! HAPPY HOLIDAYS, SEE YA NEXT YEAR!

Sincerely yours,

Scott Reichert
Director, PEAC Pittsburgh



PEAC Pittsburgh's Primary Consulting Avian Veterinarian

Dr. Edward Bennett

All Pet Animal Hospital

5354 Rt. 8, Suite 203

Gibsonia, PA 15044-9650

(724) 444-6600

(724) 295-9933

616 S. Pike Rd., Suite 200

Sarver, PA 16055-9539



Available for Adoption in Pittsburgh
 Call 724-378-7588
 Or email info@pitpeac.org



Let Dizzy Izzy be your umbrella on a rainy day. She (we think) had a bad doo, but now that she knows that it's growing out, she's as happy as can be while she waits to be as beautiful on the outside, again, as she is on the inside. She knows that true beauty comes from within.



Benny, the Double Yellow Headed Amazon Parrot, is old enough to drive (16), but he would rather charm you with his talkative personality. He's had a rough time in the past, but his sweet personality hasn't been damaged. He is regaining his beautiful appearance and learning to eat a healthful diet.



Coffee is a Green Naped Lorikeet. He's not aggressive, in fact he's a bit timid, since he wasn't handled much in his former home. Lories and Lorikeets require a different type of diet than other types of parrots. This 12 year old boy mumbles, coos, whistles, and hops and jumps from one place to another.



African Gray Parrots come in two models. Those with red tails and those without red tails. Ajax is a medium-sized African Gray Parrot with a red tail, though we don't know if he came from the Congo. He's 22 and generally a nice boy, but sometimes he seems a little standoffish. Maybe it's just his natural dignity.



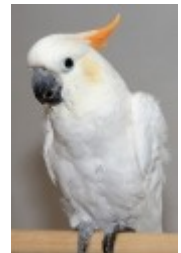
"Stanley" and "Stella" are a male and female bonded pair who came into our adoption program when their owner was no longer able to care for them. They prefer to remain in their cage together, but will provide you with entertainment as only two healthy, happy lovebirds are able to do!

THANKS TO OUR DONORS

We would like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals, organizations, and businesses that have donated to our Pittsburgh Chapter:

C&B Birds
 Lisa Baker
 Tammy Boka
 Karen Brown
 Jaye Cantagallo
 Christine Ebken
 John Fisher/Nationwide
 Parrot Place Organization
 L.H. Fuge, MD
 Whendy Godich
 Don and Marian Hayduk
 Bob and Lorraine Kalcevic
 Deborah Maliver
 Jeff Morneweck
 John O'Reilly
 Terry Parrinello
 Ellen Smith
 Jennifer Traficante
 Andrea Tillmann
 Fran Weber

Special thanks to PEAC Cleveland and PEAC San Diego for their invaluable assistance, advice, and patience during our transition.



Congratulations Keno, Baby, Mango, and Stella on their recent adoptions!

The S Files: Yogi: Biting
(continued from page 8)

B. Negative reinforcers removed, escaped or avoided:

Social: Avoids stepping up, being near Ellen, returning to cage.

IV. SUMMARY - FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INITIAL PROBLEM BEHAVIORS:

A: Background: Yogi is on a perch

Antecedent (A): Ellen turns her back

Behavior (B): Yogi jumps on Ellen's shoulder.

Consequence (C): Ellen yells and jumps.

Prediction of future behavior if nothing changes: Yogi will continue to jump onto Ellen's shoulder

Then

Antecedent (A): Ellen yells and jumps.

Behavior (B): Yogi bites Ellen.

Consequence (C): Ellen leaves the area.

Prediction of future behavior if nothing changes: Yogi will continue to jump onto Ellen and bite her.

V. REPLACEMENT BEHAVIOR - What alternate behavior(s) would meet the same function for the parrot? What behavior(s) do you ultimately want the parrot to do? Ellen wanted to teach Yogi any type of learned skill that would focus Yogi on things other than biting. Teaching most behaviors begins with learning excellent target skills. Ellen also wanted to teach Yogi a reliable step-up and step-down, behaviors Yogi had never done well.

PRELIMINARY STRATEGIES - How can you adjust the environment, including what you do, so that the behavior doesn't occur in the first place? What behavior can you teach or reteach so the parrot can successfully demonstrate the replacement behavior?

The S Files: Yogi: Biting

(Continued from page 20)

Antecedent Changes to Pre-empt the Behavior	Consequence Changes to Reinforce Alternate Behaviors	New Skills and Teaching Strategies
<p>Yogi is not allowed on the shower perch.</p> <p>Yogi is not allowed on anyone's shoulder.</p> <p>We do not pet/stroke Yogi anyplace on her body that sexually stimulates her.</p> <p>Yogi is not perched in close proximity to Merlin.</p> <p>Yogi remains in her cage unless Ray is home.</p> <p>Ellen does not turn her back to Yogi.</p> <p>Yogi is not out of her cage when the other birds are out.</p> <p>Ellen pays close attention to Yogi's body language at all times.</p>	<p>Reinforce acceptable behaviors, i.e. targeting.</p> <p>Reinforce step up and step down without these being the prelude to leaving or putting Yogi back in her cage</p> <p>Provide focused one-on-one attention twice daily for three-five minutes with training in place of petting</p>	<p>Teach expertise in targeting (variety of targets, locations)..</p> <p>Teach recall using step-up and targeting skills.</p> <p>Teach Yogi to remain on a perch until called.</p> <p>Gradual desensitization for Yogi to allow body handling without stimulation.</p> <p>Teach various simple tricks to develop a positive relationship between Ellen and Yogi.</p>

VII. PRINCIPLES, PROCEDURES AND OUTCOMES

Due to the serious nature of Yogi's last bites, she and Ellen had lost all trust in each other. Ellen began to work with Yogi only in her cage; both felt safer with bars between them! Ellen did not get Yogi out of her cage, nor was she in the area when Ray had Yogi out of her cage. Yogi was familiar with the concept of targeting, so Ellen began

working with this simple behavior. Shredded cheddar cheese is a high value reinforcer for Yogi, so this was used as a primary reinforcer. The clicker and verbal praise quickly became secondary reinforcers when they were associated with the primary reinforcer. A journal of training sessions was kept to record training plans, chart progress and adjust strategy as needed.

The S Files: Yogi: Biting

(continued from page 21)

Time was the biggest hurdle, but Ellen was able to work with Yogi for five minutes twice a day. Ray cleaned her cage and took her out for some individual attention. Antecedent arrangements were made to pre-empt biting by not allowing Yogi on her shower perch and successfully keeping her off Ray's shoulder the majority of the time. By the end of the first week, Yogi was following the target all over her cage.

After one week of safe targeting, Ellen began targeting out of the cage. Ray got Yogi out, Ellen sat next to them, and began targeting Yogi. Ellen then targeted Yogi to her arm for a successful step-up. This occurred one week after the last bite!

By the end of the second week, Ellen was targeting Yogi in her cage with the door open. Ellen also began to remove Yogi from her cage while Ray was home. Ellen, always aware of giving Yogi the choice and avoiding the application of force, continued to work on step ups and downs with Yogi. And just sixteen days after the last vicious bite, Ellen removed Yogi from her cage when Ray was not home. For the next two weeks, Ellen continued the twice daily sessions of targeting with various objects, in various locations. Ellen began to also teach Yogi the basic steps for her to allow nail trimming. The other birds remained in their cages when Yogi was out for her training sessions. Six weeks after Yogi's last bite, all three cockatoos were let out of their cages together. Ellen would initially spend time with Yogi: targeting sessions started on a table-top perch, then Yogi was moved to her regular perching tree (not the shower), so that the other birds could have their training sessions.

VIII. FOLLOW-UP

It is now ten weeks after the last bite. Two weeks ago, Ellen trimmed Yogi's nails with her voluntary participation. Yogi can do a few simple tricks (shake hands with either foot, stand on tippy-toes, turn-around, retrieve) and allows Ellen to perform a full body examination without melt-down. In addition, Yogi's loud, repetitive vocalizations have significantly decreased. Although nothing was done to directly address this behavior, positive reinforcement strategies directed at one undesirable behavior often resolve other issues. Trust was successfully restored between Ellen and Yogi with minimal time investment and careful attention paid to the most positively reinforcing, least intrusive strategies.

A personal note of thanks to Shauna Roberts for her expert cockatoo advice and moral support. Thanks also to Lee McGuire and Dr. S for their patience and dedication to teaching me all about positive reinforcement and keeping me parsimoniously honest.

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.

Note: PEAC does not particularly endorse any of the products sold on this page and is not liable for any damages resulting from the use of any of these products.

Advanced Avian Designs, Inc.
888-408-4967 - 10%

Artistic Avian Accessories
209-748-5631 - 10%

Avian Antics
734-782-5270 - 10%
www.AvianAnticsBirdToys.com
Coupon code: PEAC2010

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

Everything Birdie **NEW**
www.EverythingBirdie.com
15% off everything but cages
Use coupon code "peac"

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%

***** Parrot People **NEW!!!****
www.parrotpeople.com - 10%
toys, food, perches, etc.

Premium Pet Kitchen
1-800-945-2451
20% off first order

Puppy Paws
www.puppypaws.com
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 discount" on order form)

San Diego Stores
Feathers - San Marcos
The Purring Parrot - Point Loma
20% discount, 1st time boarders

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

January 14, 2012

Sex & the Single Parrot
Resolving Biting Behavior
(Wildomar)

January 29, 2012

Parrot Personalities
Behavior Problems
(San Diego)