



# COMPANION

SPECIAL EDITION!

THE WELFARE  
OF OUR AVIAN  
COMPANIONS

IF YOU FIND IT HARD TO THINK ABOUT LIFE WITHOUT YOUR PET...IMAGINE YOUR PET'S LIFE WITHOUT YOU.

MORE THAN 500,000 PETS ARE  
ORPHANED EACH YEAR  
DUE TO THE DEATH  
OR DISABILITY OF THEIR  
HUMAN COMPANIONS.  
2ND CHANCE 4 PETS FOCUSES  
OUR ENTIRE EFFORTS ON  
ADDRESSING THIS LONG,  
UNRECOGNIZED ISSUE.

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

When 2nd Chance 4 Pets was established, our volunteers focused on providing information on how to ensure *lifetime care* for our domesticated animal companions—cats and dogs. We quickly discovered that thousands of U.S. households have birds—and birds come with their own unique requirements.



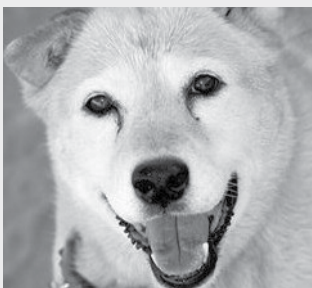
Birds are *wild, exotic animals*; they are not truly domestic. Birds are incredibly intelligent, beautiful, and long-lived creatures. Unfortunately, many become “homeless” when they outlive their human companions or when their human families find that they are too difficult to care for.

The good news is that help is out there. As you will find throughout this newsletter, there are many caring organizations committed to helping birds. The bad news is that there are not *enough* resources to help all the homeless and unwanted birds.

*You can help* by contacting a bird sanctuary, sponsoring a bird in their care, or supporting the sanctuary through donations and volunteer work. Educate others about birds, and always help a bird in need. If you are considering adding a bird to your family, read this newsletter and think carefully whether or not you can provide the long-term care and love a bird needs to thrive.

Best wishes from the 2nd Chance 4 Pets team,

Amy Shever  
2nd Chance 4 Pets



If you would like to donate to 2nd Chance 4 Pets, please use the enclosed envelope or visit our website, [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org), where you can donate through Network for Good. Simply click on the “Donate Now” button.



2nd Chance 4 Pets is a 501(c)3 organization.  
Our tax ID number 13-4280812.

## THE CARE AND SANCTUARY OF DOMESTIC BIRDS

### Important Considerations for Potential Bird Owners

According to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), exotic birds are the fourth most popular “pet” animal in the U.S. (ranking after dogs, cats and freshwater fish). Birds have captivated people for centuries. Even though they require a great deal of care, keeping these beautiful creatures as pets is commonplace. Is bringing a bird into your home the right thing to do? What will happen if a bird is no longer wanted? What will happen if the bird *outlives* you? A large, unknown number of birds are relinquished every year because their human caregivers found out that they were not meant to have a bird as a pet.



In 1998, an article appeared in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* presenting an extensive demographic study of pet birds. The study reported the U.S. pet bird population at 35–40 million. It indicated an annual growth rate of the bird population at 5%.

As the pet bird population grows, prospective caregivers should remember that captive bred and raised parrots are not truly domesticated animals. They are wild creatures. Even though many people are fascinated by the notion of owning a bird, too often people are not prepared for the significant responsibilities that come with caring for a bird. In addition to having long life spans, they soon realize that birds can be messy, noisy, and may require more responsibility than they bargained for.

According to the Midwest Avian Adoption & Rescue Services, (MAARS), some of the primary reasons that people turn their birds over to animal care organizations include: costly veterinary bills, long life spans, aggressive and loud behavior, difficulties in moving with a bird, difficulties experienced when new babies and new people move into a home with a bird.

When deciding if a bird will be a good companion animal for you, consider the following factors: as a general rule of thumb - the more exotic the bird, the more it will cost. You will need to budget to cover a bird's living area, equipment, toys, food, and ongoing veterinary care. Most birds require a very specialized diet for sufficient nutrition



-which typically consists of pellets, seeds, grains, and fresh greens or fruit – and can be costly. Determine what the bird will require to live a long, healthy life and if you can make the long-term commitment.

Another major factor to consider is the amount of time required to care for a bird. Species such as parrots, cockatoos, conures, and african greys are extremely social, highly intelligent and require a lot of attention. However, these birds have not undergone a long process of domestic captivity and genetic selection, which can create problems in an average household. If bored or neglected, birds may resort to neurotic feather-picking and self-mutila-

### THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Being a “grass roots”, nonprofit organization, we are grateful and overwhelmed with the support we have received. We appreciate your time and contributions. No donation is too small!

Thank you! Mary Jo and Hank Greenberg Foundation • PetSmart • Petsport USA • Clay Myers • Sarah Felchlin • Barb McCann • Mr. and Mrs. Meester • W. McConnell • E. Bosch • N.D. Marek • M. Covington • M. Lowe • Eva Vichules • Elizabeth Olson • Ellen Bond • Mel Chu • Kathleen Davidson • Ken Podgorsek • Cecelia Rose Foundation • M. Zechlin • N.D. Marek • M. Covington • M. Lowe • W. Bosch • Marie Reuter • Mr. and Mrs. Grutchfield • Jen Braim • S. Flippo • W. Garner • W. McConnell • R. O'Neill • J. Gunter • G. Thompson • Peggy Hoyt • Candee Pollack • Sue Stretch • Cheryl Oldroyd • Cheryl Romano • G. Valerio • Diane Weltzer • Deborah Cunningham • Deborah Huelsbergen • Debra Starr • Denise tLaw • Jana Owens • Hannah • Jaspal Singh • Jennifer Agnew-McManus • Katharine Moore • Ken Becker • Lisa Bradley • Lisa Frederick • Lisa Kerner • Cheryl Berry • Nicole Boals • Patricia Parten • Patty McIlvaine • Ruth Olsen • Shannon Banchemo • Shannon Berry • Suzanne Walenta • John Platt • Tam Patane • Brenda Biggers • Linda Wright • Teresa Glidewell • Susan Wolters • Todd Bynon • Paige Jobe • Julie Bae • Linda Thornton • Melissa Gonzales • Betty Skatoff • Betty Varga • Brandi Ottinger • Alfie and Andrew Kratz



tion which may result in a lifetime of suffering. If you don't have a lot of time to spend with your bird, you may want to rethink your selection.

You should also consider your surroundings and the level of noise tolerable in your household. Parrots, like macaws and cockatoos, are extremely loud and prone to screeching when left alone. If noise is a concern for neighbors, a better choice might be a finch, canary, parakeet, or lovebird. These species have a long history of selective breeding in captivity, are easier to care for, and are quieter.

If you still have your heart set on a bird, you should consider if their general messiness and energy level fits into your lifestyle. Many birds are accustomed to flinging

food from trees onto the forest floor to eat, and, therefore, they can make quite a mess at feeding time. Larger birds also need sufficient playtime and exercise. It is a good idea to set up a special area such as a play gym or stand. This may prevent not only destruction to your personal belongings but also protect the bird from injury or poisoning.

Understanding the nature of birds before deciding to bring one into your home is critical to reducing the number of homeless and unwanted birds. Many organizations, including The Association of Sanctuaries (TAOS) and the American Sanctuary Association (ASA), establish standards for animal care and accredit care facilities that meet strict qualifications, and educate the public about causes and conditions of displaced animals, encourage respectful relations between humans and other animals, and advocate for policy changes that will protect them.

Before you choose to bring home a bird, research this decision carefully. Keep in mind that birds are wild animals. The resources listed here will provide you with additional information. Help control the unwanted and homeless bird population by being a well-informed, well-equipped, and thoughtful animal caregiver.

Resources:

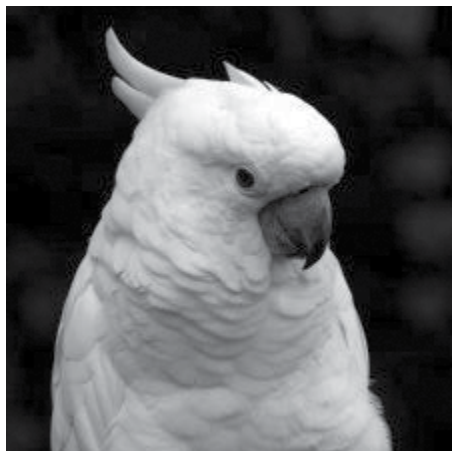
*The Need for Rescue and Sanctuary in the 21st Century*, Sybil Erden, 2006

Avian Welfare Coalition,  
www.avianwelfare.org

The Association of Sanctuaries,  
www.taosanctuaries.org

American Sanctuary Association,  
www.asaanimalsanctuaries.org

Midwest Avian Adoption & Rescue Services,  
www.maars.org



ESTATE PLANNING FOR PARROTS:  
*Meeting Your Commitment  
for Life and Beyond*

As a trusts and estates attorney, I am often asked, "Do I need an estate plan?" Often, the question is followed by statements like, "I do not have children" or "I do not have enough money to need estate planning." Estate planning is not about taxes or even money. Simply put, estate planning is essential because things may not work out the way you assume they *should*. And planning for your companion parrot is no different.

I. Financial Commitment

Two factors necessitate proactive estate planning for your parrot: the cost and longevity.

First of all, the proper care of a parrot is not an inexpensive proposition. To illustrate, I am the guardian of a 7-year-old African Grey Parrot and estimate that I spend the following amounts for her care:

|                                   |                 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Food                              | \$ 400          |
| Toys and other supplies           | \$ 500          |
| Pet-sitting during vacation       | \$ 300          |
| Veterinary checkups               | \$ 300          |
| <b>Annual out-of-pocket costs</b> | <b>\$ 1,500</b> |
| Cages (every five years)          | \$ 500          |

My investment in a healthy parrot is multiplied by its longevity. Consider the life expectancy of *your* parrot.

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| English Budgie                      | 7 years     |
| American Budgie                     | 14 years    |
| Cockatiel                           | 20 years    |
| Parrotlet                           | 20-25 years |
| Lorikeet                            | 20-30 years |
| Quaker Parakeet                     | 30 years    |
| Conure                              | 30 years    |
| African Grey Parrot                 | 50 years    |
| Amazon                              | 50-70 years |
| Blue & Gold Macaw                   | 70 years    |
| Other Large Macaws<br>and Cockatoos | 80 years    |

article continued on page 10



WHO WILL BE YOUR  
PET'S GUARDIAN WHEN  
YOU'RE NOT THERE?



PetGuardian

Providing loving care for your pet is a lifelong commitment. Who will be there to honor this commitment if you no longer can?

Year after year, thousands of helpless pets are euthanized after their owners have died. Visit us at [www.petguardian.com](http://www.petguardian.com) or call 1.888.843.4040 to find out how to establish an affordable PetGuardian Pet Trust Plan to ensure the lifelong care of your pet.



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ANIMAL SOCIETY

[WWW.PETGUARDIAN.COM](http://WWW.PETGUARDIAN.COM)

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM RESCUING BIRDS AFTER HURRICANE KATRINA

When hurricane season gets under way, many of us will reflect on the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. Katrina and the subsequent levee failures in New Orleans are estimated to have caused over \$75 billion in damages and are responsible for the loss of over 1,800 human lives. Sadly, the number of animal lives lost is substantially higher. Jeff Dorson, executive director of the Humane Society of Louisiana, estimates that the number of animals lost is "in the hundreds of thousands."

A combination of factors contributed to the large number of animals left behind in storm-damaged areas. Many loving and responsible pet owners left their pets at home because they believed they would be safe—after all, evacuations weren't uncommon and they expected to return within a day or two. In some cases, pet owners were not able to take their pets to safety because they did not have their own transportation or were unable to accommodate their pets in vehicles already packed with their families. Other residents were forced to leave their pets behind by rescuers who did not allow animals in the buses, boats, and helicopters being used to carry people to safety.

Animal welfare organizations from across the country responded to the crisis, and thanks to their efforts, hundreds of animals were rescued from floodwaters and abandoned buildings where they were struggling to survive. These animal welfare groups scrambled to set up shelters to accommodate rescued animals. The shelters housing Katrina animals ranged from existing shelters in nearby cities, to unused space at a university, to a horse-show facility, and even to make-shift shelters established in private homes. In addition to finding adequate supplies to care for the huge number of dogs and cats that were brought in, volunteers also had to meet the needs of the "exotic pets" that were rescued, including a number of birds.

Unlike dogs and cats, birds are not truly domesticated animals. They have not been bred for hundreds of years to live in the care of humans and they maintain most of the behaviors of birds living in the wild. Because of this, the emotional and physical stress of dealing with the crisis (which took a heavy toll on all of the animals) was even more difficult for the avian arrivals at various shelters. Moreover, avian medicine is very specialized, so locating qualified practitioners to provide seriously needed veterinary care for these birds was challenging.

Dr. Julie Burge, an avian veterinarian practicing in Kansas City, was among the volunteers who traveled to the storm-ravaged coast to assist in caring for the rescued animals. One week after Katrina came through the area, Dr. Burge visited The Louisiana State University Parker Coliseum (one of the area's temporary shelters). Volunteers at the Coliseum were overwhelmed. Dr. Burge found that the birds were among the groups of exotic animals that had not yet received care, as volunteers struggled to handle the many dogs and cats that had arrived. Among the birds were 50 finches, the survivors of a flock originally twice that number. Other shelters that also received a number of birds included Lamar Dixon, the Humane Society's "Camp Katrina," and Noah's Wish.



Space was crowded at all of the Katrina animal shelter locations. In some cases, birds were kept in cages stacked one atop another with their identifying paperwork stored between the cages—where it was within reach of the birds who were able to easily shred their own records. In many cases birds had to be removed from their original cages, which were rusted and damaged, and placed into larger cages with other birds. All of these conditions made keeping track of individual birds extremely difficult.

Donna Powell, founder of the online lost and found service for birds, 911ParrotAlert, lives in Baton Rouge. She offered up her own home as a shelter for avian rescues. At one point during the crisis Donna housed 325 birds. Birds housed in homes generally received better care than those housed in crowded shelters along with other animals. Managing the care of such a large number of birds in such a small space was quite a challenge, however. Furniture had to be moved, drapes and carpeting were destined to be dirty, and air quality was difficult to maintain. Care had to be taken to avoid the spread of contagious disease and to maintain medical records so that the appropriate medications and foods were distributed to each bird.

After the initial rescue efforts, several online services including Petfinder, Pet Harbor and the Animal Emergency Response Network stepped in to help animals reconnect with their owners. When owners could not be found, animals were eventually made available for adoption or, in some cases, were sent to sanctuaries. The process of finding new homes for the rescued birds was another area in which re-homing these animals proved to be more challenging than re-homing the rescued dogs and cats. Since birds are difficult to care for and represent a substantial commitment from a caregiver due to their long life spans, finding permanent homes for them would be difficult.

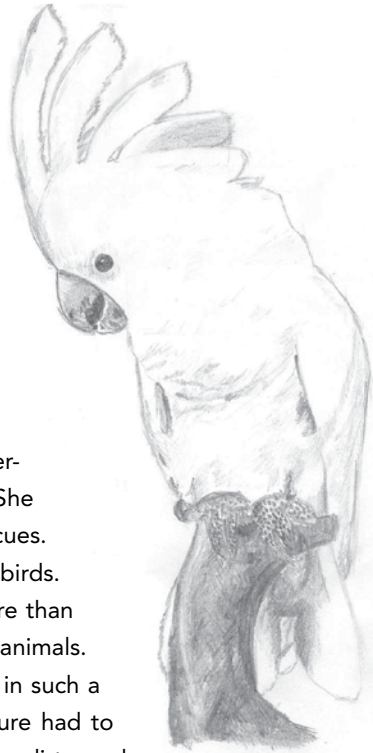
The challenges encountered in caring for the displaced birds and other animal species after the Katrina disaster provided a roadmap for improved response to future emergency situations. This difficult experience painfully demonstrated that the amount of planning and consideration given to the safety of our animal companions during a disaster was severely inadequate. Although we can hope that a scenario like Katrina will not happen again, in today's world, disaster preparedness is critical. After witnessing the devastating effects of Katrina including the subsequent flooding, we can not afford to put off the responsibility of planning ahead and taking steps to ensure the safety of our family members, including those with wings.

#### Resources

*American Avian Veterinarian Conference: Manuscript from Session "Hurricane Katrina and Avian Emergency Rescue" August 2006 (provided by permission of the author)*

*"Facts About Katrina," Discovery Channel Online, [www.dsc.discovery.com](http://www.dsc.discovery.com)*

*Jeff Dorson as quoted in "Rescuers Remember the Animals Killed in Katrina," Best Friends Network, April 9, 2006, [www.network.bestfriends.org](http://www.network.bestfriends.org)*



#### ANIMAL WELFARE RESOURCES

*2nd Chance 4 Pets would like to recognize these organization who work to help improve the quality of life for our avian animal companions.*

Avian Rescue Online - an animal care project of Coventry Companion Bird Survival Center located in Redding California (530-275-8188), [www.avianrescue.org](http://www.avianrescue.org)

Avian Rescue Association (ARA) - a non-profit organization established in 1998 to create guidelines in which avian rescuers should operate. ARA works to unite all ARA certified rescuers to ensure that birds have safe environments. ARA, P.O. Box 183, Medina, OH 44258-0183, [www.geocities.com/avianrescueassociation](http://www.geocities.com/avianrescueassociation)

Bird Adoption.org - addresses the homeless bird problem with the goal that the issue does not reach epidemic proportions. [www.BirdAdoption.org](http://www.BirdAdoption.org)

Parrots Online - rescue organizations and general avian welfare issues. [www.parrotsonline.homestead.com/rescue2.html](http://www.parrotsonline.homestead.com/rescue2.html)

The Parrot Protection Agency (PPA) - a nonprofit organization based in San Diego, California with the goal to educate the general public on threats to parrots, [www.parrotprotection.org](http://www.parrotprotection.org)

Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF) - a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving biodiversity through grass roots conservation programs rooted in sound science. RSCF provides consulting services to governments and conservation organizations engaged in conservation initiatives, and forms educational, scientific and economic partnerships to expedite habitat and species preservation projects. RCF, P.O. Box 1371, Loxahatchee, FL 33470, [www.rarespecies.org](http://www.rarespecies.org)

World Parrot Trust - with thousands of members in more than 50 countries, the organization works to aid the survival of parrot species in the wild, and the welfare of captive birds everywhere. Founded in 1989 at Paradise Park, Hayle Cornwall, UK. Mr. Michael Reynolds, Glanmore House, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4HB, [www.worldparrottrust.org](http://www.worldparrottrust.org)

## ONE PARROT AT A TIME: LUCKY PARROT SANCTUARY

Choosing a parrot as your pet is not just a lifetime commitment -- it's a commitment that could last well past your lifetime.

With a lifespan of up to 80 years in captivity, the average parrot is hardly your average pet. As indicated throughout this newsletter, a parrot can not only outlive its human companions, it can do so several times during its life, resulting in orphaned birds with nowhere to go.

Enter sanctuaries like the Lucky Parrot Sanctuary in Naples, Florida. The sanctuary's motto is "One Parrot at a Time."

### A Second Chance

"In many cases, peoples' lives change, they marry, divorce, have children, grow old, or become ill. No thought is given to what happens to their companion parrots," says Ethel Buchbinder, President of the Lucky Parrot Sanctuary.

"The average length of time that a parrot spends with a family is between five and eight years," reveals Buchbinder. "Considering that some of the larger parrots can live upwards of 80 years, over time, parrots can live in many homes. Some parrots become resentful of being bounced from home to home and they misbehave. Before long, no alternative exists but to kill perfectly healthy parrots because there is no loving and/or understanding home or shelter to take them in. We as a civilized society must ensure that these magnificent creatures have a suitable place to live out their lives. Homelessness should not equate to death."

### Lucky Parrot Sanctuary – The Beginning

Buchbinder's involvement with parrots began years ago, when she started to think about bringing home a parrot to share her New York City apartment. Hoping to adopt a pair of older parrots, she answered an advertisement and came to the rescue of Elderly JoJo (a partially blind and arthritic Yellow Nape Amazon) and Woodstock (a White-Eyed Conure). After being saved from



Madison a Blue Front Amazon (given up because of his loudness)



Three Macaws at Breakfast

filthy cages filled with droppings and roaches, JoJo and Woodstock became the first fortunate residents of the Lucky Parrot Sanctuary in New York City.

"We found a niche because no one at the time—and too few now—are rescuing parrots. We joined a local bird club to learn more about caring for parrots, and pretty soon people just started to call us, asking us to take in their unwanted parrots."

Over the years, Buchbinder adopted many parrots. Keeping them caged seemed cruel, so platforms, ropes and perches were constructed to provide a more appropriate environment for the birds. Realizing that captive parrots needed more space and freedom than they could provide in New York, a search began for a location in Florida where the parrots could be as free as possible in captivity.

### Lucky Parrot Sanctuary – Today

After 10 years of planning, Lucky Parrot Sanctuary now operates on a four-acre site in Naples, Florida. The sanctuary currently cares for 18 Amazon parrots, 5 large Macaws, 2 Conures, and 6 African Grey parrots—a total of 31 birds. These birds otherwise would have had their lives cut short. All of these birds live and thrive outdoors in a warm, sub-tropical climate and are spread among several aviaries to ensure compatibility within each flock. Buchbinder explains that although they didn't intend to specialize or remain small, they learned that it is better to care for fewer parrots properly than to take in every homeless parrot and risk upsetting an existing flock.

Today Lucky Parrot offers permanent sanctuary for hard-to-place older parrots and those who no longer make good pets. The sanctuary does not breed, buy, sell, or broker parrots, and they do not process adoptions (although they can suggest potential adoption sources). Lucky Parrot is a 501(c)3, nonprofit humane organization staffed by volunteers. 100% of all donations are used for the benefit of the parrots. The organization has been accredited.

ited by both The American Sanctuary Association (ASA) and The Association of Sanctuaries (TAOS).

#### One Parrot's Painful Journey

KD is a 50-something Double Yellow-Headed Amazon parrot, now living at Lucky Parrot Sanctuary.

"We heard that KD lived with a man and his wife. The wife hated KD because she was jealous of the man's affection for the parrot. She poked sticks and rattled KD's cage. If KD screamed, she took him out of the cage, put him in the sink, and soaked him with water. This abuse went on for 20 years."

After leaving this family, KD was placed in several other homes, including other abusive situations. KD was finally saved by a rescue organization in Illinois. "KD was treated by several veterinarians and was put on many medications to treat his depression, but the drugs didn't work."



Bubba, an 18 Year Old Blue and Gold Macaw

Eventually, KD made his way to Naples. "When he first arrived, KD was a mess, with permanent damage from self-mutilation. He attacked us, he attacked his toys, he attacked his food, and he attacked himself. We placed him in an aviary with a few other needy parrots, and over the course of a year he became a member of a flock. He has calmed down and, to our surprise, trusts us enough to take an occasional hand-held treat. Clearly, KD needed to be a member of a flock of parrots."

#### Lucky Parrot Sanctuary - Future Plans

Lucky Parrot is working on long term plans now, having completed arrangements for short term financial and sanctuary operations. They are considering merging with another organization or identifying a qualified person to permanently run the sanctuary. They do not plan to create a huge sanctuary, as they have seen too many other organizations unable to physically or financially care for a large number of animals. Lucky Parrot plans to provide the best life possible for the birds in their care.

#### Volunteering at the Sanctuary

Lucky Parrot Sanctuary's birds are fully-flighted and not in cages, and they can attack and bite inexperienced caregivers or people they don't like. Because insurance is expensive and the birds behavior can be unpredictable, hands-on volunteering by outsiders is not feasible. However, volunteers can donate their labor and expertise for special tasks such as installing water systems to help clean and cool the parrots, building aviaries, and performing similar one-time tasks.

The sanctuary welcomes your tax-deductible donations, either by mail or online. Because the facility is strictly a labor of love, 100% of your donations will directly benefit the parrots.

#### Rethinking Parrots as Pets

Buchbinder says, "One way individuals can help is to become educated on the plight of parrots in captivity. Don't buy! Don't breed! Most people view parrots in cages at pet stores and think it is all right to keep a parrot all day in a small cage. But it's not. Parrots are as intelligent as chimpanzees and dolphins, but they cannot speak for themselves. If you see a parrot being mistreated, speak up for the parrot! If you have a parrot as a pet, consider building your parrot an aviary or create a bird-proof room."

Another organization, The Avian Welfare Commission, offers cautionary advice about adopting parrots: "Whether captured in the wild or born in captivity, parrots are not domesticated animals like cats and dogs. They are still wild animals. Their natural curiosity, sensitivity, intellect, playfulness, and ability to form bonds with humans can tempt people to keep them in captivity. Unfortunately, the traits that make parrots so intriguing are the same ones that make them extremely difficult to live with as companion animals. Many parrots find themselves displaced as their natural behaviors and needs clash with human expectations."

Moreover, a report published in *New Scientist* magazine suggests that the continued trade in parrots as pets places species at risk in the wild, as both legal and illegal trading cause serious damage to indigenous populations (Norris, Scott, "Sick As A Parrot," *New Scientist*, Vol. 170, Issue 2294, June 9, 2001).

Buchbinder offers a final piece of advice, "We generally believe that society keeps criminals in cages (jail cells). Parrots are not criminals. People would not think of keeping a robin or a blue jay in a cage in their living room, why then parrots?"

#### Contact Information:

Lucky Parrot Sanctuary  
PO BOX 110334 • Naples, FL 34108-0106  
Phone: 239-348-1991

Email: [luckyparrot@swfla.rr.com](mailto:luckyparrot@swfla.rr.com) • Web site: [www.luckyparrot.org](http://www.luckyparrot.org)

#### Resources

Bird Adoption -- [www.birdadoption.org](http://www.birdadoption.org)  
The Avian Welfare Commission -- [www.avianwelfare.org](http://www.avianwelfare.org)

## SANCTUARIES ENSURING LIFETIME CARE FOR OUR AVIAN COMPANIONS

Unlike their wild counterparts, most domesticated animals, such as cats and dogs, have a difficult time fending for themselves, and unlike humans, cannot make decisions about where they will live. The same holds true for birds kept as house pets such as parrots and cockatiels. An abused or neglected bird can't choose to migrate to a new environment, nor can it choose to remain in its current home when its caregiver is no longer able to care for it. Too often, these beautiful birds may end up surrendered to animal control agencies where they may be euthanized if a new home isn't found for them. As a result, the fate of these birds relies on animal welfare organizations, shelters, and sanctuaries which can provide them with safe, suitable new homes.

Fortunately, locating such an organization is just a keyboard stroke away. For those seeking assistance in finding a new home for an exotic bird, a visit to the website of The Association of Sanctuaries (TAOS) at [www.taosanctuaries.org](http://www.taosanctuaries.org) is one resource. TAOS is a nonprofit organization and provides information on accredited sanctuaries for several different species, including exotic birds.

Outlined within this article is information about four sanctuaries that are all recognized by TAOS and are dedicated to providing safe, life-long homes for birds that have been abandoned, abused or can no longer be cared for by their human companions. Many of these facilities offer adoption services for abandoned or neglected birds, permanent retirement sanctuaries for birds that have been identified as unadoptable, and educational services to promote responsible pet caregivers. No matter what form their assistance takes, these organizations share one goal: the welfare of these amazing animals.

Foster Parrots Ltd. has provided a safe haven for abused and abandoned parrots since 1999. Located in Rockland, Massachusetts, its mission is caring for

parrots and other exotic birds whose owners have neglected or abused them or are unable to care for them for a variety of reasons. In addition to their rescue obligations, director Marc Johnson, co-director Karen Lee, and the staff established an education program to help prospective and current bird guardians plan for life with a parrot. Foster Parrots Ltd. also has an on-site sanctuary for birds who are no longer suitable for adoption. For families who are interested in welcoming a tame and friendly parrot into their home, the organization provides placement services. Future plans for Foster Parrots Ltd. include *The Lola Project*, designed to create a large-scale permanent parrot sanctuary for unadoptable birds located in central Florida. Please visit [www.fosterparrots.com](http://www.fosterparrots.com) for more information.



Midwest Avian Adoption & Rescue Services (MAARS) is located in Minneapolis, Minnesota and was founded in 1999. MAARS is the largest organization in the Midwest providing education and consultations, surrender, rescue, sanctuary placement and adoption services for our avian friends. They are a no-kill, nonprofit organization funded solely through adoption fees and donations. Birds arrive at the facility for many reasons, including mistreatment, injuries, behavioral problems, or outliving their human caregivers. Over 1,000 birds have been successfully placed in loving homes thanks to the ef-

forts of the 60+ volunteers and staff at MAARS. To learn more about MAARS, visit their website [www.maars.org](http://www.maars.org).

Founded in 1997, The Oasis Sanctuary, located near Benson, Arizona, is a facility committed to the welfare of captive exotic birds who would otherwise would not be considered appropriate for adoption. As a true sanctuary, they do not offer adoption services; however, they work with and help place birds suitable for homes to legitimate adoption programs around the country. They currently care for more than 400 birds, many with special needs, including physical handicaps or challenges requiring unique living or feeding situations. For more information, please visit [www.the-oasis.org](http://www.the-oasis.org).

Raven's Haven Exotic Bird Rescue, based in Vienna, West Virginia, was established in 2001. The organization offers an alternative environment for birds whose owners need to find a caring, permanent home for their bird, and to offer a retirement home for birds unsuitable for adoption. They also offer adoption and placement services for friendly and tame birds. To learn more about Raven's Haven, visit their website [www.ravenshaven.org](http://www.ravenshaven.org).

To maximize their impact on the unwanted bird population, these sanctuaries work to provide safe, healthy and happy homes for as many birds as possible. Thanks to their efforts – and to the generous donations and volunteers that support them – numerous birds have been saved from neglect or abuse and guaranteed a safe environment to live out their long lives. We encourage your support of their efforts as they have a very critical job at hand to help the hundreds and thousands of birds that need their help.

For more information about sanctuaries as lifetime care options and a list of U.S. avian sanctuaries, please visit our website, [www.2ndchance4pets.org](http://www.2ndchance4pets.org), and go to the "Resources" tab.

## IS A PERPETUAL CARE PROGRAM THE RIGHT LIFETIME CARE SOLUTION FOR YOUR BIRD?

As you may have learned after reading the first several articles in our newsletter, many birds can live very long lives — 60 to 80 years in some cases! Have you considered what might happen to your bird if it should outlive you?

If you die, your bird may sense your death, grieve the loss, and feel the loneliness that comes from your absence. This is especially true of birds in the parrot family, which can form strong bonds with their human caregivers and can take months or even years to adapt to a new home.

Many pet birds are wild creatures that live in domesticated surroundings under our care. They require long-term caregivers and veterinarians with specialized skills. Moreover, they can be difficult to manage and expensive to maintain. Sadly, many birds that outlive their human caregivers are euthanized in local shelters, or they may end up in an overcrowded sanctuary or a home that is not equipped to care for them properly.

### What is an Avian Perpetual Care Program?

Responsible, loving guardians try to ensure that, in the event of their death or disability, their birds will not be neglected, abused, or abandoned. Although some pet owners manage to find a qualified friend or family member to care for their bird over a long lifetime, many must seek other alternatives.

Recognizing the need to provide long-term care for birds that have lost their guardians, several veterinary schools offer “perpetual pet care” programs that promise lifelong care for birds and other companion animals. Using endowments set up by the bird caregivers, the schools provide shelter, food, companionship, and medical attention for the rest of the bird’s life.

### Would a Perpetual Care Program Provide an Acceptable Environment for Your Bird?

Parrots and other long-lived birds are sensitive, demanding creatures who require space to fly freely, a varied diet that includes fresh foods, trees to perch on, plants to investigate that can safely accommodate their innate need to chew, and friends of the same species allowing them to form a close-knit flock.

When considering a perpetual care program for your bird, look for a program that has experience caring for exotic birds and that can provide the type of environment they need to thrive. Consider your bird’s unique personality and any special medical needs, interview the staff and tour the facilities before making the decision to utilize their services.

Two types of perpetual care are offered through veterinary schools:

- Complete, on-campus care at the veterinary school or a nearby facility
- Long-term foster care by carefully pre-screened caregivers or caregivers designated by the bird’s owner, with veterinary care provided at the veterinary school.

### What are Pros and Cons of Perpetual Care Programs?

Avian perpetual care programs offer many benefits. A good program will guarantee your bird a lifetime of appropriate housing, nutrition, companionship, and veterinary care. Moreover, your bird’s participation in the program can help fledgling vets hone their medical and nurturing skills, while any funds left over from your endowment will benefit the veterinary school. One downside of such programs is their expense, which can range from \$10,000 to \$100,000, depending on the arrangements and the facilities provided.

## PERPETUAL CARE PROGRAMS THAT ACCEPT BIRDS

These veterinary school perpetual care programs accommodate domestic birds. More information, including a complete description about the programs and program addresses, can be found on our website on the “Resources” tab.

### CALIFORNIA

University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine  
Tender Loving Care for Pets Program (TLC)

Website: [www.tlcforpets.org](http://www.tlcforpets.org)

Contact: TLC Coordinator, Phone: 530-752-7024, Email: [tlcforpets@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tlcforpets@ucdavis.edu)

Cost: \$1,000 enrollment fee, plus \$30,000 for the lifetime care

### KANSAS

Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Perpetual Trust Program

Website: [www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/development/perpet/perppet.htm](http://www.vet.ksu.edu/depts/development/perpet/perppet.htm)

Contact: Sharon Green, Phone: 785-532-4013, Email: [perpetualpetcare@vet.k-state.edu](mailto:perpetualpetcare@vet.k-state.edu)

Cost: \$25,000 per bird

### OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Cohn Family Shelter for Small Animals

Website: [www.cvm.okstate.edu/development/CohnFamilyShelter.htm](http://www.cvm.okstate.edu/development/CohnFamilyShelter.htm)

Contact: Cathy Shuffield, Associate Vice President for Development

Phone: 405-744-6728, Email: [cshuffield@oshuf.org](mailto:cshuffield@oshuf.org)

Cost: Minimum \$10,000 per bird plus a 5% reservation fee

### TEXAS

Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, The Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center

Website: <http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/petcare/>

Contact: Dr. Henry Presnal or Mrs. Ellie Greenbaum

Phone: (979) 845-1188, Email: [spresnal@cvm.tamu.edu](mailto:spresnal@cvm.tamu.edu)

Cost: Enrollment fee \$1000, endowments based on age at time of enrollment

### WASHINGTON

Washington State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine, Perpetual Pet Care Program

Website: [www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-prd/pc.asp](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-prd/pc.asp)

Contact: Lynne Haley, Director of Development

Phone: (509) 335-5021, Email: [lhaley@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:lhaley@vetmed.wsu.edu)

Cost: Fees for one bird are \$25,000. A fee of \$500 is due at time of enrollment

continued from page 3,

### Estate Planning for Parrots

Assuming that the interest earned on the caretaking funds set aside will roughly equal the rate of inflation, the guardian of my parrot would need at least \$70,000 to provide the same standard of care for my parrot. Suffice to say, caring for a healthy parrot demands a financial commitment that will very likely continue after the original guardian's lifetime.

#### II. Finding the Right Guardian for the Parrot

The financial commitment to providing for your parrot is only half the picture. As a guardian of a companion parrot, you also need to consider the things that money cannot buy.

Dan Hill of The Lilly Sanctuary ([www.lily-sanctuary.org](http://www.lily-sanctuary.org)) relates the story of two Blue and Gold Macaws and a Blue-Fronted Amazon, which shared a room with a 12-foot ceiling and a beach-front view in a house on the Strand in Manhattan Beach, California. Within 18 months of their owner's demise, approximately \$6 million in the estate had been expended by the heirs, but the parrots were discovered by the Lilly Sanctuary in the back room of a pet store that did not even sell birds. One of the Macaws had plucked its own feathers. Sadly, the guardian incorrectly assumed that his beloved birds would be cared for because his estate had sufficient assets.

Ultimately, the best guardian for any companion animal is the person who is willing *and* able to care for it. But with respect to parrots, the term "able" takes on a particular significance.

Parrots are exotic animals. Specifically, the behaviors of parrots are not tempered by centuries of domestication and specialized breeding. A parrot *will* make noise. A parrot *will* make a mess. A healthy companion parrot without a mate *will* demand a guardian's hands-on time. No amount of training will change the instincts that precipitate these needs. In this sense, you need to be very careful about whom you

consider as the guardian for your parrot. Avian Care and Behavior consultant Nikki Moustaki puts it best in her book, *Parrots for Dummies*: "Timewise, think dog, cat, hamster, turtle, and fish tank combined." For this reason, parrots are not suitable companion animals for most people—even those who are good with dogs or cats. More accurately, most people are not suitable guardians for your parrots.

The best choice of a parrot guardian is the person who already knows your parrot and is already familiar with the responsibilities of parrot companionship first hand. On the other hand, adding another member to an already burgeoning flock may not always be a good idea. Regardless of whether your chosen guardian already owns birds or is just familiar with your bird, Anna Gonce, Executive Director of The Gabriel Foundation, recommends keeping a "day in the life" of your bird to apprise the guardian of your parrot's special needs. Such a document is also a valuable resource for pet sitters.

Another option is leaving your parrot and the necessary caretaking funds with a sanctuary. Although all nonprofit 501(c)(3) sanctuaries have a legal duty to care for parrots, you need to understand that not all of them take the same approach. Some sanctuaries only have room for the most abused or neglected parrots. Other sanctuaries have procedures and recommendations for taking in a parrot as part of an estate plan, but these vary from organization to organization.

For example, the Gabriel Foundation in Colorado ([www.thegabrielfoundation.org](http://www.thegabrielfoundation.org)), will either place the bird in an appropriate adoptive home or may keep the parrot with others of its species within the sanctuary, depending upon what it deems to be in the best interest of the bird. By contrast, the Oasis Sanctuary in Arizona ([www.the-oasis.org](http://www.the-oasis.org)) does not offer its parrots for adoption, but maintains a facility where the parrot will live out its life with other members of its species. In any case, Sybil Erden, President of The Oasis, rec-

ommends that you actually make a visit *before* making a sanctuary part of your estate plan. She also points out that if you do name a sanctuary as guardian, you also need to make short-term plans for transportation and care for the parrot while it is being screened by a veterinarian for admission.

#### III. Putting It All Together, Legally Speaking

Once you have secured the financial means and at least one guardian who is willing and able to care for your parrot, the next step is putting it all together in a legal document. Depending on the level of trust you have in your guardian of choice, this may be as simple as leaving your parrot and the necessary caretaking funds to the guardian in your will. But your last will and testament will not address what would happen if you were to become incapacitated or disabled. Nor would a will cover the situation where your designated guardian (or guardians) are unable to serve, which is a very real risk considering the longevity of parrots.

If you live in a state with a "pet trust" statute, you can create a trust for the benefit of a companion animal for its lifetime. The "trustee" would receive both the parrot and the caretaking funds, and any person who has an interest in the welfare of the parrot could enforce the terms of the trust against the trustee if necessary. The statutory pet trust offers protection against disgruntled heirs who could traditionally challenge the validity of such gifts on the grounds that there is no human beneficiary. However, the statute does not address who would enforce the terms of the trust against the trustee. Nonetheless, a statutory pet trust offers somewhat more protection than leaving your parrot and the caretaking funds outright to the designated guardian.

A well-drafted traditional legal trust offers a more secure, albeit more complex, vehicle. Under this technique, the trustee owns and manages the caretaking funds,

and the guardian is the beneficiary of the trust, who is entitled to distributions for costs or compensation. If necessary, the trustee may always remove the parrot and appoint another guardian-beneficiary (other than the trustee). Because the parrot is, legally speaking, property of the trust and there is always a human beneficiary, this option is available in every state.

Whatever option you choose, understand that there is more to estate planning for parrots than filling out legal documents. To ensure a long, healthy and happy life for your parrot after you're gone requires a complete understanding of the options available, adequate financial resources, and a network of people who understand your concern for the well-being of your pet and can be relied upon to make sure your wishes are carried out.

#### Resources

Moustaki, *Parrots for Dummies* (Wiley 2005)

For a spreadsheet computing how much will be needed for your parrot, with variables for expenses, life expectancy, and interest rates, see [www.estateplanningforpets.org/calc\\_caretaking\\_funds.xls](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org/calc_caretaking_funds.xls).

For a list of states with pet trust statutes (or pending legislation), see [www.estateplanningforpets.org/legal-statutes.htm](http://www.estateplanningforpets.org/legal-statutes.htm).



## FUNDING OPTIONS FOR PET TRUSTS

What does it mean to "fund" your pet trust? Funding means to transfer money or other property into your trust for the care of your pet. Without funding, the trustee will not be able to provide your pet with care after you die.

How much property do I need to fund my pet trust? You need to consider many factors in deciding how much money or other property to transfer to your pet trust. These factors include:

- The type of animal requiring care
- The animal's life expectancy (especially important in the case of long-lived animals, such as parrots)
- The standard of living you wish to provide for the animal
- The need for potentially expensive medical treatment
- Whether the trustee is to be paid for his or her services

Adequate funds should also be included to provide the animal with proper care, be it an animal-sitter or a professional boarding business, when the caretaker is on vacation, out-of-town on business, receiving care in a hospital, or is otherwise temporarily unable to provide for the animal.

The size of your estate must also be considered. If your estate is relatively large, you could transfer sufficient property so the trustee could make payments primarily from the income and use the principal only for emergencies. On the other hand, if your estate is small, you may wish to transfer a lesser amount and anticipate that the trustee will supplement trust income with principal invasions as necessary.

You should avoid transferring an unreasonably large amount of money or other property to your pet trust, because such a gift is likely to encourage your heirs and beneficiaries to contest the trust. If the amount of property left to the trust is unreasonably large, the court may reduce the amount to what it considers to be a reasonable amount.

When do I fund my pet trust? If you create an *inter vivos* pet trust, that is, a trust which takes effect while you are alive, you need to fund the trust at the time it is created. You may also add additional funds to the trust at a later time or use the techniques discussed herein.

If you create a testamentary pet trust, that is, the trust is contained in your will and does not take effect until you die, then you need to fund the trust by a provision in your will or by using one of the techniques discussed below.

How do I fund my pet trust? Direct transfers: If you create your trust while you are alive, you need to transfer money or other property to the trustee. Be certain to document the transfer and follow the appropriate steps based on the type of property. For example, if you are transferring money, write a check which shows the payee as, "[name of trustee], trustee of the [name of pet trust], in trust" and then indicate on the memo line that the money is for "contribution to [name of pet trust]." If you are transferring land, your attorney should prepare a deed naming the grantee with language such as "[name of trustee], in trust, under the terms of the [name of pet trust]."

If you create the trust in your will, you should include a provision in the property distribution section of your will which transfers both your pet and the assets to care for your pet to the trust. For example, "I leave [description of pet] and [amount of money and/or description of property] to the trustee, in trust, under the terms of the [name of pet trust] created under Article [number] of this will."

Pour-over will provision. If you create your pet trust while you are alive, you may add property (a "pour over") from your estate to the trust.

Life insurance: You may fund both *inter vivos* and testamentary pet trusts by naming the trustee of the trust, in trust, as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy. This policy may be one you take out just to fund your pet trust or you may have a certain portion of an existing policy payable to your pet trust. This technique is particularly useful if you do not have or do not anticipate having sufficient property to transfer for your pet's care. Life insurance "creates" property when you die which you may then use to fund your pet trust. Be sure to consult with your lawyer or life insurance agent about the correct way of naming the trustee of your pet trust as a beneficiary.

Pay on death accounts, annuities, retirement plans, and other contracts. You may have money in the bank, an annuity, a retirement plan, or other contractual arrangement that permits you to name a person to receive the property after you die. You may use these assets to fund both *inter vivos* and testamentary trusts by naming the trustee of your pet trust as the recipient of a designated portion or amount of these assets. Be sure to consult with your lawyer, banker, or broker about the correct way of naming the trustee of your pet trust as the recipient of these funds.

*This article was written for this newsletter by Gerry W. Beyer, Governor Preston E. Smith Regents Professor of Law, Texas Tech University School of Law*

Only 40% of dogs and 30% of cats brought into animal shelters are adopted. Plan for your pets should you no longer be able to care for them.

## INCLUDING 2ND CHANCE 4 PETS IN YOUR WILL

Many supporters have asked us how they can include our organization in their estate plans. Including 2nd Chance 4 Pets in your will is one of the most commonly known ways in which to make a lasting gift to charity – and one of the simplest. After ensuring that your family and friends are taken care of, you can name 2nd Chance 4 Pets in your will so our organization receives a gift from your estate. You can give a specific percentage of your estate, a specific dollar amount, a gift of real estate, or specific assets such as stock, coins collections, or works of art.

How do I leave a gift to 2nd Chance 4 Pets? You should first decide what type of legacy you wish to leave to 2nd Chance 4 Pets: The residue of your estate, or a percentage of the residue, after your debts have been settled and

any legacies you leave to other people have been paid; Your whole estate;

A specific sum; A specific item of value – e.g. jewels, works of art.

Let your attorney know what you want to do. He or she will need to know that the following words are typically used when including 2nd Chance 4 Pets in a will: *"2nd Chance 4 Pets, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation organized under the laws of California and having its principal mailing location at 1484 Pollard Rd, No 444, Los Gatos, CA 95032."*

Why Should I Make a Will?  
Frequently Asked Questions

*I don't have much and my savings do not add up to a great deal – is it worth making a will?*

Yes, if you don't have much to give, it is all the more important to make sure it doesn't get split up. To make sure your money goes to the people and charities you choose, you must make a will.

## When should I create a will?

As soon as possible. You should review it from time to time to make sure it clearly expresses your current wishes. You can make small changes to your will by adding what is known as a codicil; major changes call for a completely new will.

## Can I leave my pets to the care of 2nd Chance 4 Pets?

Our organization can not coordinate the care of your pets; however, we can provide you and your attorney with information to help you determine the most appropriate plan to ensure the lifetime care for your pets.

For more information, please contact us at phone (408) 871-1133, email: [info@2ndchance4pets.org](mailto:info@2ndchance4pets.org), website: [2ndchance4pets.org](http://2ndchance4pets.org), mailing address: 1484 Pollard Rd, No 444, Los Gatos, CA. 95032. Our Tax ID#13-42800812.



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