



This newsletter
Devoted to pet bird
Enthusiasts is
Published monthly by
The Rainbow Feathers
Bird club of Michigan
A 501(c) (3) club

April 2016
Volume 19 Issue 4

Bird Droppings



UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

APRIL 24th -----Fourth Sunday
MAY 22nd -----Third Sunday
JUNE 12th -----BIRD FAIR
JUNE 26th -----Fourth Sunday

RAINBOW FEATHERS BIRD CLUB

Who we are and what we are about

- Non Profit club with members throughout the tri-county area, single bird owners, or just thinking of getting a bird, families, breeders, exhibitors, all are welcome.
- Support scholarships for avian vet students
- Yearly Bird Fair
- Club Library for members
- Grooming available
- Avian rescue/relocation programs
- Monthly meetings with programs of interest to members.
- Monthly newsletter
- Periodic Service projects
- Field Trips
- Educational Programs upon request
- Make-it-take-it workshops and more.....

Come join us and have your feathers preened by other Pet Bird Enthusiasts

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – sweettweeters@comcast.net

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – splafchan@twmi.rr.com

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Email – Gardenfrog1967@yahoo.com

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

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Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-672-9528

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Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

Email – susanhdixion@hotmail.com

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- bigduke@comcast.net

ALL HEALTHY AND CLIPPED BIRDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ACCOMPANY THEIR HUMAN COMPANIONS TO THE MONTHLY MEETINGS. WE MEET AT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 6443 MERRIMAN ROAD BETWEEN FORD AND WARREN IN GARDEN CITY. MEETINGS START AT 2:00 PM.

Anyone interested in becoming a member please contact Tammy Carol @ 734-422-5981 or by e-mail sweettweeters@comcast.net

EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Steve Plafchan is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1st weekend of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to him at 11021 Henry Ruff Livonia, MI 48150 or email to splafchan@twmi.rr.com

Everyone is encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter – this is YOUR newsletter.

Articles and/or pictures copied from other publications must be accompanied with written permission from original publication and author; this needs to be provided to the editor along with the article and/or picture.

Editor reserves the right to approve and/or edit any articles submitted prior to publication.

Ads will be run free for members having a one-time sale (baby birds, etc.). Those wishing to run ads multiple times or for a business must purchase a business membership.



CLUB WELFARE

. Please contact Jean Jedrzejek at 734-427-3187 or e-mail her at bigduke@comcast.net if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



MONTHLY SNACK LIST

We have decided to stop soliciting for snack volunteers for our meetings and make the format a potluck venue. The reasoning for this is two fold; there have been very few members signing up for snacks and many members just bring dishes and deserts without signing up. So from now on our meetings will be a potluck fair, YUM!!

BIRD CLUB ETIQUETTE

- ❖ Ask owner's permission to handle/feed bird(s) and remember to return bird to the owner.
- ❖ Wash hands prior/after bird handling.
- ❖ When bringing companion birds to club meetings, only bring birds that you have had vet checked and in your possession for at least 30 days.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.



FROM THE PREZ:



Wow we had another great meeting and I noticed that more than a few of you were sweating very profusely, could it have been Brent's 20 alarm chili I'll bet it was. You guys liked it because I saw a few of you go back for seconds. It is great that our flock keeps growing and that is a good thing we welcome all the new members to our flock of birdbrains. Before I forget to

tell you they have thrown us a curve ball and moved the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival to the last weekend in August so we had to move the picnic to July 31st and the Novi Pet Expo is now two weeks before Thanksgiving instead of just one but we will keep you posted on these changes. I am so glad that we are flexible and can change things when we need to. Also our bird fair is quickly approaching and it looks like it will sell out again this year so remember to mark June 12th in your calendar as a save the date. If it seems like we are busy we are with events and programs it is like we are running at 100 miles an hour but this is what we do so we should be used to it. I am just glad for all the enthusiasm that everyone brings to the club and what a great time everyone has even those attending for the first time that's what we want. Our goal is to make everyone feel welcome and make this an island of birds and fun even though things in our lives can make us crazy. So I look forward toward seeing you guys at the April meeting and we will have all the information on all the events we are involved in. As always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!**

Until Next Time
Your Prez
Dave



Voice of the Veep

Two months away! Our annual bird fair is next month on Sunday June 12th.

I'm hoping all of you are as excited as I am. The fair is at the same venue in Redford and we're going to need as much assistance from all of you to make it a success. In case anyone isn't sure the address is: VFW Post 345, 27345 Schoolcraft Road (I-96 service

drive) Redford, MI 48239. On Saturday, the night before the fair, at my house we will be loading a U-Haul ® truck with used cages, raffle prizes and anything else that needs to go to the hall. We will probably be at my house about 6:00-7:00 pm to start the loading.

The real work starts at 6:00AM on Sunday when we have to unload the truck, set up for the raffle, cover tables, run extension cords, set-up used cages and play stands and put lawn signs up around the neighborhood. At 7:00AM the real work starts because we have to start helping vendors bring in their wares and be on hand to help anyone who needs help. One area of help that we fell short at last year was after the fair. We lost all our help! I know it's a long day but please, we still need help after the fair helping vendors load and clearing out of the hall.

Saturday June 11th is also going to be a busy day for us. We are attending the Garden City Flea Circus being held in the Kroger parking lot at Ford Rd. and Middle Belt. This is an event with rescues, vendors, food & snacks and rescued pets of all types up for adoption. The set-up is between 8:00am and 9:00am; the event runs from 10:00am until 3:00pm. We will be setting up our pop-up in the morning and taking it down after the flea circus ends then head to my house to load the truck. If you're a newer member of the club this event would be an awesome opportunity for you to join us at an open event. Don't worry about bringing one of your own birds because there will be plenty of our birds there that you can assist with.

Your Veep
Steve



MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION

As you know we are approaching a very busy season of both outdoor and indoor events, the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival and the All American Family Pet Expo to name two of many events that we will be attending. Along with doing these events comes something that we have become accustomed to and that is drawing huge crowds. With that being said there are certain rules that must be followed to insure that birds do not go missing and the owner does not have heart failure wondering where that bird is. So I would like to pass on to you the rules of etiquette for doing high traffic events. If you have someone else's bird other than your own always follow these rules. First let the owner of the bird know that you have that bird so they know where and who the bird is with. Second stay within eyesight of the bird's owner. We love the fact that many of us can handle each other's bird and it gives the owner peace of mind when they can see where their bird is. Third and most important never ever hand a bird to someone and then walk away. With the huge crowds we attract it would be very easy for someone to steal a bird if you take your eyes off of it for even a few seconds. Fourth, always take the bird back from the person you have handed it to and never let them hand it to someone else. Finally, return the bird either back to the owner or its time out stand, if

you put it on the stand let the owner know that you have done so. This will help avoid the owner having panic attacks and keep everyone happy, relaxed and the event fun for all!



BUT YOU'RE A RESCUE AREN'T YOU?

Many times we get rescue calls but they don't involve anything even remotely resembling a bird so here are some of the best.

A man calls and asks if we can take his 3 year old Iguana complete with cage and everything to quote him "it creeps his fiancé out".

Another need us to take a year old German Sheppard because it has too much energy for them.

One woman calls and wants us to take her Ferret because she didn't realize you had to get it shots just like a dog plus it kind of smells.

One man called and asked if we take large fish he had two Oscar in his fish tank that had gotten way too big.

Another guy calls pleading we take his Sugar Gliders because they are extremely mean and he is tired of getting bitten by them.

A woman called us to take her cat because it keeps killing her finches. Really!

The best one happened when a woman called asking us to take her Golden Retriever and its 5 puppies that were about 4 weeks old. She didn't want to turn them over to the Humane Society because she feared they would kill the puppies. I assured her they have transfer partners that would take mom and her babies until they were ready to be adopted.

The common factor is all of these calls ended with "but you're a rescue aren't you" cage birds yes, but things with fins fur and scales sorry but no.



Rescue update

The rescue continued to have success on placing foster birds in new homes. This past month we placed fourteen rescued parrots in new forever homes. (5) Finches; (2) Cockatiels, Sunshine and Grayson; (1) Meyers Parrot, Zoe; (1) unnamed Parakeet; (4) Macaws, Boca and Murdock, (Greenwings), McGee a Blue & Gold, Sapphire a Scarlet and Keekers a Sun Conure.

We also rescued a number of gently used cages which will be available at our bird fair in June. If you are interested be sure to stop by "Honest Steve's Used Cages" table at the fair

As is standard for our adopted birds they went to their new homes with cages, toys and food. We are only able to do this because of you, our members.

We want to thank all of our club members for your generous participation in our monthly raffles and your donations of toys and food. It is you, the members that enable us to send our rescued birds to their new adopted homes fully outfitted with cages, food, and toys. Your generosity also allows us to pay for vet care if needed and have made our rescue the success that it is. THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



Attention Kroger Shoppers

We received a note from Kroger that anyone in the club that signed up for the community rewards program must reenroll 4/1 thru 5/1 for the May 1st start. All members **do** need to re-enroll between **April 1st 2015 and May 1st 2015** for the May 1st start of the program.

- To re-enroll on-line they just simply go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- click "sign in"
- enter their email and password
- click "enroll now"

- put in the NPO number or part of the organizations name
- check the correct group
- click “enroll”

Once completed they are then enrolled for the charity earnings during May 1st 2015 to April 30th 2016.

If someone re-enrolls after May 1st they will only earn from the day they enrolled until April 30th 2016.

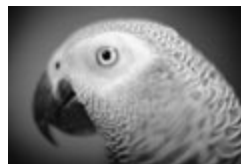
If it is the first time a member is enrolling they will be prompted to register their Kroger card into the program.

Anyone having an issue with their email address or password can call 1-800-KROGERS for customer service.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

PAT GREENWOOD	MAY 2
JOSEPH FONTANA	MAY 5
MICHAEL GYARMATI	MAY 5
MICHAEL SCHAAP	MAY 9
JIM KAMINSKI	MAY 11
DAVE CAROL	MAY 13
SUE GOUIN	MAY 13
DALE DOMEIER	MAY 15
LANCE KNUDSON	MAY 16
RANDY BRATCHER	MAY 20
KRIS MLAK	MAY 21
ANTHONY MEGGISON	MAY 24



Out and About with Pookie

Well, Steve’s recovery and retraining from his bout with the Cockamaw virus is continuing although the retraining is doing better than the recovery. First I’ll talk about his recovery issues.

If you recall last month’s article, one of the more severe side effects of the Cockamaw virus (aside from the desire to hold, handle and keep a Cockatoo in our home) are the medical side effects; the worse of which is blindness. Yes, because of his handling and snuggling with Cockatoos prior to his body creating antibodies to fend off the virus Steve went blind in his left eye. After undergoing laser surgery to reattach his retina his vision has somewhat recovered; however, there are at least two more surgeries possibly as many as four to go yet. By the time this article goes to print he will have had cataract removal surgery in his left eye. If that is successful, then he will have to have additional laser retinal surgery in his left eye followed by cataract removal in his right eye. Oh, and before I forget he also must squeeze in some oral surgery. I haven’t mentioned teeth prior to this time because we are parrots and we don’t have to worry about teeth, we have beaks. Problems with a human’s teeth are also a rare side effect of contracting the Cockamaw virus; they become soft and brittle and have a tendency to break and fall out. I will do my best to keep everybody apprised of how Steve is coping with his medical issues.

We also have another plan of action; we have enlisted the help of an expert in the hazards and recovery of having the Cockamaw virus. His name is Doctor Max

or Maxine (we're not sure) and he is proficient in assisting with the recovery of humans that have this affliction. According to Dr. Max the best thing to do is increase Steve's exposure African Grey affection. So we had Dr. Max move into the back room by Steve's computer so regardless of what he is doing there is a grey nearby. We have African Grey parrots in the family room and in the computer room spreading grey dust throughout the entire house. Hopefully his exposure grey dust all day long every day will wean him off of the desire to handle Cockatoos. He will still have to undergo surgeries to correct the blindness and dental problems but with any luck maintaining a close proximity to a true grey all day every day will assist Steve in his recovery and place the Cockamaw virus into remission. I will do my best to keep everyone abreast of his progress.

Chirps and Squawks
Pookie

Avast ye Mates



CAPTAIN'S
CORNER

Well I guess there are some people who think just because Sparky, J.B. and I are as he put it great specimens and we are of breeding age we should get a mate and make babies. He says that we are being wasted I think it is he who is wasted! This guy I feel is well nuts if he thinks for one minute that we are going to give up our great life to be spreading our DNA all over the place he has another thing coming! Sparky J.B. and I are

perfectly happy with the way we have our pet humans trained to get us the stuff we want. My pet human always makes sure there are plenty of those raw Cashews at his disposal for my enjoyment and I know that Pookie, Sparky and J.B. also have their pet human trained in the same manner. So why would we want to give all this up to be moms and dads? I think our pet humans have the right idea let someone else do it and I certainly second that. Still I know we are magnificent specimens and would make some mighty fine looking babies but I am not ready for all that responsibility and sharing my home with another well I think the bachelor life suits me just fine. So I think I will be staying single a long, long, time but that's OK by me. So do not look for me getting hitched in like forever! Oh good here is my pet human now yeah they are right there, yes, SCORE got my Cashews now I am one happy camper good training works every time!

Cheers
Captain Morgan



BIRD
FAIR

Our annual bird fair is now going to be on Sunday June 12th and will be at the same location as last year. The location is VFW Post 345 at 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239. We will be getting access to the hall about 6:00 AM. The tentative plan is load a U-Haul® truck the evening before with Cages and stuff at Steve's house. In the morning before the fair starts we

will bring in all the cages, raffle items and supplies.

We will need as much help as we can get at 6:00 AM to cover tables, price cages, run electricity and set up the raffle. Hopefully this will mostly be finished by 7:00 AM when the vendors will start arriving. We need help holding doors open and assisting vendors move in at this time. They really appreciate this; it's something that rarely occurs for them at other fairs and keeps them coming back. During the fair we will need help at the admissions desk, assisting at the raffle, rescue, and bake sale tables. Another time when help is needed is after the fair doing the clean-up.

This is our rescue's largest fundraiser of the year, so please; one and all come and make this fair the success of past years. We have rented out a record number of tables this year with many first time vendors. Let's show them what a dynamic group we are by assisting them in every way possible.

Come on out and lend a hand even if you haven't signed up. You don't have to stay all day; any time you can help would be wonderful.



CLUB T-SHIRTS

Good news! Tracy Hilka who is Bella

Embroidery is now going to make our club shirts. The price for t-shirts, including our logo embroidered on it, is \$10.00 for sm. to XL and \$12.50 for 2xl to 5xl. These are

Gildan brand #8000 50/50 t-shirts, there are lots of colors.

What you do is go our website www.rfbirdclub.com and click on the tab "RF GEAR" or to her website.

www.sportswearcollection.com/bellaemb
Then type Gildan in the search box (this will put you on the Gildan page).

Look down the page and find Gildan DryBlend 50/50 T-shirts #8000

Click on the icon and this will open the page with all the colors and sizes.

Choose your size and color(s) and add it to your Cart.

On the cart page there is a place for comments when you place your order, in this box tell Tracy you would like your shirt embroidered with the

Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Logo

When she receives your order she will send you a PayPal® invoice

In a short time you will receive your new club shirt in the mail.

If you don't have internet access or a PayPal® account you can contact me, Steve Plafchan and we'll figure out a solution to get you a shirt.

She has many items available (hats, tote bags, etc.) that she can put our logo on if you wish. She has given us a catalog full of things you can order, all the prices are retail and she receives a wholesale price so you will have to talk to her about pricing. (IE prices will be less than what's listed in the catalog.)

BITS from BABY



HOWDY to all my feathered and non-feathered Members, this is your roving reporter Baby with the latest and greatest news.

March's meeting had fifty-nine people there, which fifty-two were members and seven guests and two joined our flock. I am happy to say that I was there this month and enjoyed seeing all the feathered and non-feathered friends that were there.

We also had thirty-three feathered members of which nine were African Grays, [Which made Steve happy] eight Macaws and three Cockatoos, plus thirteen other type Parrots in attendance.

This year looks like it is going to be as busy as last year if not even more! We had three programs already in March and six booked for April, Plus nine more to go this year as of when this Newsletter came out, and we are just getting started. Hang on to your feathers guys we are in for lots of fun this year. That's not even counting events both indoor and outside like Ypsilanti's Heritage Festival and the Novi Pet Expo.

If you have never done one of the Bird Programs before, come and join us and see how much fun they are!

Well that's all for now.
God bless, till we meet again,
Your friend Baby

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THE ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND DAVE
THE

RESCUE RANGERS

IN

A PARAKEET IN PLYMOUTH

This month's adventure takes us to Plymouth Michigan to confront an all too familiar story. It is one that is played out over and over again and sadly will continue to do so. It involves a child and a Parakeet. While there is nothing wrong with that it is the combination that eventually causes trouble down the road. So our heroes fly off to Plymouth to rescue this sad little bird that was basically tossed away as the child became interested in other things as most kids do. The Parakeet that this child begged her parents to buy her soon became a burden as the child expanded their interest into soccer and other things. This meant the bird began to live a life in solitude for the child didn't have time for him anymore but his fortunes were about to change. Enter the Rescue Rangers and soon he was off to a new life but little did he know just how much it would change. He would soon find himself with others of his kind in a huge playground of a cage and he would be lonely no more. Still our story does not stop there this Parakeet and two of his buddies would soon find themselves at a senior community being doted on by the residents who were more than happy to have them. He and his buddies would live the life he always dreamed of being wanted by not one but a whole community of new friends. This indeed is a happy ending but there are still

more birds like him out there and our heroes will not stop until they have all found their forever home for they are the **RESCUE RANGERS!!!!**

Stay glued to your mailboxes for our next exciting installment Not Feeling the Love in Howell



UP COMING EVENTS

As of
April 10th, 2016

April 12th Senior Show
Independence Village Frankenmuth
255 Mayer Rd.
Frankenmuth, MI 48734
11:30 AM Set-up
12:30 PM Start

April 16th Senior Show
Huron Woods – Towsley Health Center
5361 McAuley Dr.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
1:30 PM Set-up
2:30 PM Start

April 17th Senior Show
Westlake Health Campus
10735 Bogie Lake Road
Commerce Twp., MI 48382
12:30 PM Set-up
1:30 PM Start

April 26th Senior Show
Brighton Gardens
15870 Haggerty Rd.
Plymouth, MI 48170
1:00 PM set-up
2:00 PM Show

April 30th Motor City Bird Breeders
Bird Fair
\$3.00 Admission 10 AM to 4 PM
876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
NOTE: We **DO NOT Have a Booth**
at This Event

May 9th Senior Show
The Village Rehabilitation Center
22600 W. Main St.
Armada, MI 48005
1:00 PM Set-up
2:00 PM Start

May 12th Senior Show
Lourdes Nursing Home
2300 Watkins Lake Rd.
Waterford, MI 48328
1:30 PM Set-up
2:30 PM Start

May 14th Senior Show
Maple Village
6257 Telegraph Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
12:30 PM Set-up
1:30 PM Start

May 15th Senior Show
Walton Woods at Twelve Oaks
(Assisted Living)
27475 Huron Circle
Novi, MI 48377
12:30 PM Set-up
1:30 PM Start

June 24th Senior Show
The Village Assisted Living
(building on right when pulling in driveway)
22600 West Main St.
Armada, MI 48005
1:00 PM Set-up
2:00 PM Show

June 2nd Senior Show
Caretel Inns of Brighton
1014 East Grand River
Brighton, MI 48116
1:30 PM Set-up
2:30 PM Start

July 7th Bird Show
Farmington Community Library
23500 Liberty Street
Farmington, MI 48335
1:00 PM Set-up
2:00 PM Show

June 9th Senior Show
St. Joseph Care Center for the
Felician Sisters
36800 Schoolcraft Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150
1:00 PM Set-up
2:00 PM Start

July 12th Bird Show
River Rouge Public Library
221 Burke
River Rouge, MI 48218
2:00 PM Set-up
3:00 PM Show

June 11th Garden City Flea Circus
Parking Lot at the Corner of
Middlebelt & Ford Road
Starts at 10 AM til 3 PM
Set up is between 8 & 9am
We will be setting up a pop-up
This is an outdoor event

July 24th Senior Show
Waltonwoods at Twelve Oaks
(Independent)
27475 Huron Circle
Novi, MI 48377
1:00 PM Set-up
2:00 PM Start

****NOTE DATE CHANGE****

June 12th Rainbow Feathers Bird Club
19th Annual Bird Fair
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM
VFW Post 345
27345 Schoolcraft Rd.
Redford, MI 48239
10:00AM to 4:00PM

July 27th Senior Show
Oakmont Sterling
41155 Pond View Dr.
Sterling Heights, MI 48314
1:00 PM Set-up
2:00 PM Start

July 29th Senior Show
American House Stone
3741 S. Adams Rd.
Rochester Hills, MI 48309
12:30 PM Set-up
1:30 PM Start

Sept. 20th Senior Show
Caretel Inns of Brighton
1014 East Grand River
Brighton, MI 48116
1:30 PM Set-up
2:30 PM Start

July 31st CLUB PICNIC
GARDEN CITY PARK
MAIN PAVILION
10:00 AM TO ???
*****NOTE DATE CHANGE*****

Sept. 24th Senior Show
Huron Woods – Towsley Health Center
5361 McAuley Dr.
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
1:30 PM Set-up
2:30 PM Start

Aug 3rd Senior Show
Independence Village White Lake
935 Union Lake Road
White Lake, MI 48386
12:15 PM Set-up
1:15 PM Start

Oct. 1st Motor City Bird Breeders
Bird Fair
\$3.00 Admission 10 AM to 4 PM
876 Horace Brown Dr.
Madison Heights, MI 48071
NOTE: We **DO NOT Have a Booth**
at This Event

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival
Riverside Park

Aug 26th Noon to 8:00 PM
Aug 27th 10:00AM to 8:00 PM
Aug 28th 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM
More details will be posted
as they become available
Our Club Has a Booth at This Event

Oct 15th & 16th
Guardians for Animals
Pet Expo
Madison Place
876 Horace Brown Drive
Madison Heights, MI 48071
Sat Times 10 AM to 5 PM
Sun Times 11 AM to 4 PM

Sept. 10th Society of Canary and Finch
Breeders Bird Fair
\$3.00 Adm. 9AM to 3 PM
Livonia Elks Lodge #2246
31117 Plymouth Rd.
Livonia, MI 48150

We hopefully will be setting up on Friday
like last year

Our Club Has a Booth at This Event

NOTE**NOTE*****NOTE***

There has been some confusion from
the loyal readers of Bird Droppings as to
which events they are allowed to bring their
own bird(s) to. As a point of reference and

for future information please we want everyone to be aware that when you see the line:

Our Club Has a Booth at This Event following or “Educational Show” preceding an event listing it means we are attending the event in an official capacity representing our club and rescue. At these events all club members are welcomed to bring their feathered companions with them. Also please note that our space is very limited at some of these events but don’t let this stop you from joining us, we will find a way for you and your birdie buddy to fit in and enjoy the fun.

NOTE**NOTE*****NOTE***

****CANCELTION CONFUSION ****

A few of our scheduled events have been canceled at the last minute by the group staging the event. If you do not regularly participate in the shows but plan on attending please call Steve (734-513-0030) to make sure the event is still a go.



Rambling with Rambo

Finally spring is here. I can get outside again. I can go for walks, and sit out back with Daddy. All winter, Daddy has been talking about getting a stroller for us birds. He tells me it is this chair, with big soft wheels. We can ride in this thing while Daddy walks around the neighborhood. He said this way we can go for longer walks. He said, there will be water, and food, cups in there.

Having this stroller thing, will be fun. When I get tired, thirsty, or hungry (when am I not hungry), I can get in this thing. There I can have a snack.

He said the one he wants for us is really nice, and expensive. Well naturally. We birds deserve only the best of everything. Besides, he always get us birds something nice, instead of a ‘toy’ for himself. I don’t understand this latest thing he wants. All I know is Mommy is not happy about it. She is thankful us birds use up his money first. Well of course, we should come first.

I heard that Packo was real good at that meeting I would not go to.

I have to agree with him. Every time we go there, someone always does something to us. Sometimes, we get our wings trimmed, or nails cut, or our beak filed down. Daddy told me this. He said, “Rambo, now that we will be going outside, you are going to have your wings trimmed at every meeting.

I will not like that. But, he knows I’m not wearing that harness thing.

Other than this, there has not been much going on around here. Show season is here. So I’m getting out more. And Daddy always takes me on other adventures. And now with the warm weather, I can go see the girls at the bank, Subway, and Taco Bell. “Yummy”.

Here is another thing. Daddy has been having a hard time finding our food at the stores. He knows we will only eat certain flavors. Last month, Daddy tried to give us a different flavor of bird balls (Nutra Berries). You can’t fool us.

Now I will eat Almost anything. Packo will not. He threw his out on the floor.

Well friends, I will see you at the next meeting. I also hope to see some new faces at our Educational Shows.

As always, Have Fun,

Be Good and Remember
Macaws Rule Rambo



PONDERIN' WITH PACKO

Welcome all my fine feathered, and non-feathered friends. Seems like spring is here now. Actually, it was here a short time ago. But you know how it takes a little while to write these things.

Let me tell you has been happening. Daddy has been making me come out of my house. He has been taking me places, and making me sit with him.

I did not get car sick on the way to, and from, the last meeting. So I am getting better riding in the car. I even rode nice. The last few times before that, I squawked the whole time. This time I rode real nice for him.

Look you people, I have a real problem with these meetings. Every time I go there, someone does something to me. Last time they trimmed my wings and nails. Well, I didn't get so upset as to get sick over it, and barf. When I get home, I have to sharpen my nails all over again.

He had me come to the last meeting with him. For some reason Rambo really did not want to go. Daddy made him go this time. I still have not been to one of those shows he takes Rambo to. Give me some time yet.

By time you read this, I may have been outside. Daddy keeps talking about it. We will see if he can get that harness thing on my. All winter long, he has been talking about getting a stroller for us birds. Thankfully, he does not have the money for the one he wants. Nothing but the best for us ever pampered birds. He insists on getting one with nice big soft tires. He does not want us bumping around on one those cheap strollers.

Otherwise, there have been a few things happening around here. Rambo keeps getting into things. The other day mommy was going past his cage. He reached out and grabbed her sweater. She did not notice, and kept walking. Rambo went flying to the ground. That was funny. He just walked over to his ladder and climbed up it.

Mommy has been talking to me several times a day. The other day, while Daddy was holding me, he took me into Mommy's room. Man, is there lots of cool stuff to get into in there.

Packo.





10 steps to a better relationship with your parrot

By Liz Wilson,CVT

- 1) Ensure your companion bird is healthy by doing annual check-ups and routine diagnostics with your experienced avian veterinarian. Since birds hide the obvious signs of illness, allowing basic annual testing is critical to the early detection of medical problems.
- 2) Ensure your companion bird is consuming a good diet. This is critical to the proper functioning of its immune system and increases its potential for a healthy life, as well as eliminating nutrition-based problem behaviors, such as some cases of feather destruction
- 3) Ensure your companion bird lives in a sufficiently large cage, allowing it lots of room for exuberant wing-flapping exercise and energetic play; allow it daily out-of-cage time on play stations other than just the cage to minimize territorial behaviors. Encouraging healthy exercise can decrease problem behaviors like excessive screaming, since a tired parrot is a quiet parrot.
- 4) Establish controls with your parrot by lovingly teaching it to respond to the simple commands of Up and Down, and setting clear and consistent limits on its behavior. By teaching manners and setting boundaries, parrots can become better companions.
- 5) Give your parrot quality interaction daily, no matter how busy your life gets...even if for just

10-15 minutes of one on one time. Psittacines are biologically wild animals, and won't retain their "tameness" without daily contact with people

6) Make your companion bird a member of the family, since it is a flock animal and extremely social. Single birds should not be housed in rooms by themselves.

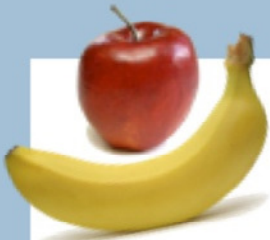
7) Socialize your parrot to family and trusted friends, thereby teaching it to adapt to the society in which it lives. It should be comfortable interacting with and being handled by other people. Do not allow it to become over-bonded to one person.

8) Assure your companion bird gets adequate rest, with 10-12 hours of dark, uninterrupted sleep time nightly. Sleep deprivation often leads to problem behaviors like biting, excessive screaming and feather destruction.

9) Establish trust with your companion bird by teaching it that it is safe with you. Consistency is critical to establishing trust, as your parrot learns what to expect from you and what you expect from it.

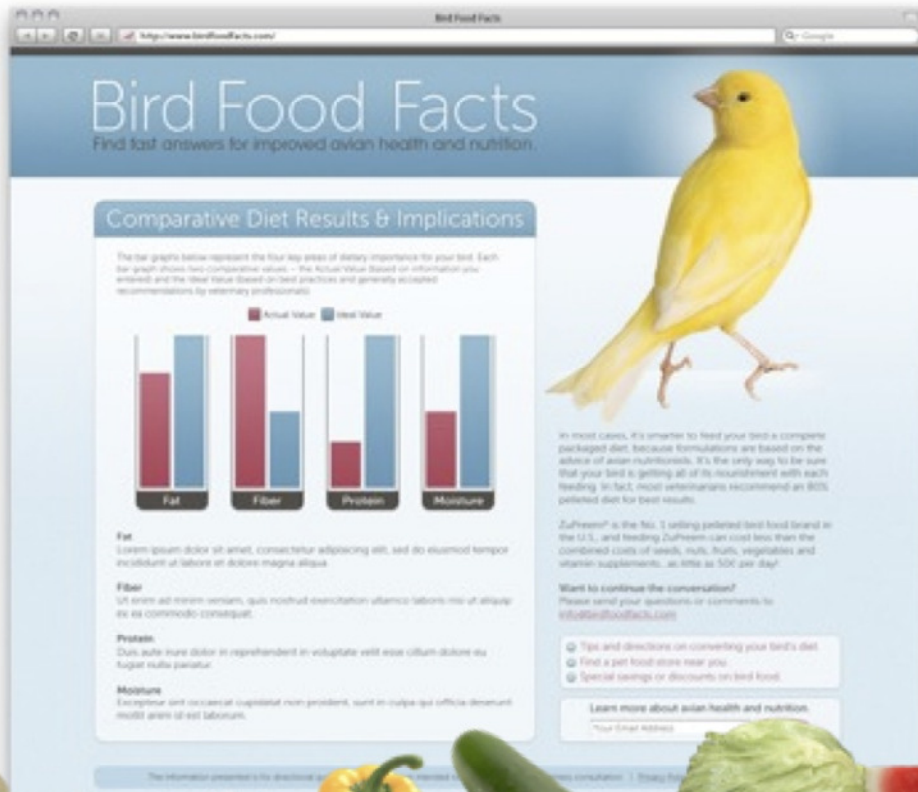
10) Accept your parrot for what it is, not what you want it to be. No matter how well trained it is, a healthy parrot may still be noisy messy and destructive because it's a parrot!

This article was funded by an educational grant from ZuPreem®, the makers of exceptional diets for extraordinary animals. ZuPreem® is committed to the advancement of knowledge regarding avian husbandry and nutrition. Working together, ZuPreem® and bird clubs with similar interests can support high-quality avian health in our worldwide community



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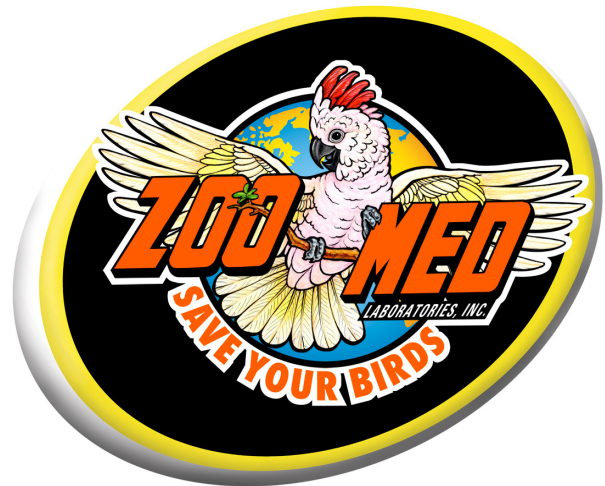


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