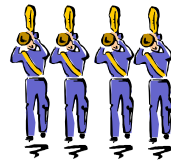
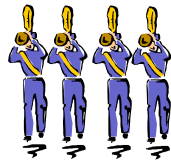




This newsletter  
Devoted to pet bird  
Enthusiasts is  
Published monthly by  
The Rainbow Feathers  
Bird club of Michigan  
A 501(c) (3) club

May, 2016  
Volume 19 Issue 5

## *Bird Droppings*



### **UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

MAY 22<sup>nd</sup> –Fourth Sunday

JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> – Bird Fair

JUNE 26<sup>th</sup> –Fourth Sunday

JULY 31<sup>st</sup> – Fifth Sunday Picnic

### **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

#### **Rainbow Feathers Bird Club Elected Officers:**

President – Dave Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Vice President – Steve Plafchan 734-513-0030

Email – [splafchan@twmi.rr.com](mailto:splafchan@twmi.rr.com)

Secretary– Kathe Cote 313-728-2211

Email – [Gardenfrog1967@yahoo.com](mailto:Gardenfrog1967@yahoo.com)

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – [sweettweeters@comcast.net](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Email- [maryperva@rocketmail.com](mailto:maryperva@rocketmail.com)

Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

Email – [susanhdixon@hotmail.com](mailto:susanhdixon@hotmail.com)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

Email- [bigduke@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto:sweettweeters@comcast.net)

## EDITORS BULLETIN BOARD

Susan Dixon is now doing the newsletter. All ads and articles will be due the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of the month for publishing in the current month's newsletter. Please send all items to her at: [susanhdixon@hotmail.com](mailto:susanhdixon@hotmail.com) or 8529 Sandy Crest Drive, White Lake, MI 48386.

Members are encouraged to submit interesting, bird-related articles to the newsletter for the benefit of our club members.

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.

The 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](mailto:bigduke@comcast.net) if you know of any club member who is in the hospital or has lost a loved one.



## Monthly Potluck

Early last year, we stopped soliciting volunteers to bring food to our meetings. Instead, it was agreed that the format be a potluck venue. We ask that "Everyone", please join in and contribute a main dish, veggie, salad, or dessert. Our meetings will be a potluck fair enjoyed by one and all.

## 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.
- ❖ **PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOURSELF AND YOUR BIRD BEFORE YOU LEAVE.**

## From the Prez:



Oh my goodness time is flying and our bird fair is only a month away, I can't believe it. That is why this meeting is so important we are finalizing everything for the fair. We ask that you come and see what is going on. There is also the Garden City Flea Circus the day before but we will have more info on that at the meeting. We need help bright and early (the doors will be open at 6 AM) to get the vendors in and set up also to help unload the U-Haul of the used cages that usually sell before the fair opens. The vendors start arriving around 7 AM so it is all hands on deck. Also we need help setting up the first raffle so we can sell tickets as soon as the

fair opens. The throughout the day to help set up the other raffles we always have three. Then at the end to help the vendors get packed up and ready to head home. This is something we do and the vendors love it because it gives them some time to relax before the fair opens. I never worry about getting because you guys always prove how awesome you are but the most important thing is to have fun like we always do. So let's get ready to get the last details hammered out for the fair and as always **YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!**

Your Prez,

Dave

vendors bring in their wares and be on hand to help anyone who needs it. All the help we can muster is needed, especially on Sunday morning at the hall. So anyone that can lend a hand please plan on helping. Last year after the fair we ran very short of help. There were only three members assisting with the clean-up and clearing out of the hall. So we will need additional help when the fair ends. Our club has established a reputation of providing more assistance to the vendors than almost any other fair and that is a reputation we would like to keep and build upon in any way we can.

Your Veep,

Steve



## Voice of the Veep

One month away! Our annual bird fair is next month on Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

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 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. At my house on Saturday, the night before the fair, 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 6:30 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



## BIRD FAIR

Our annual bird fair is going to be on Sunday June 12<sup>th</sup> and will be at the same location as last year. The address is VFW Post 345 at 27345 Schoolcraft (I-96 service drive) Redford, MI 48239.

We will be getting access to the hall at 6:00 AM Sunday. 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 done 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 need help at the admission desk, assisting at the raffle and rescue 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. 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.

#### Avast ye Mates



## CAPTAINS CORNER

Greetings I hope that everyone feathered and non-feathered are doing well I know I am. The season has gotten into full swing and the programs are coming fast and furious and of course we are a huge hit. Now I have seen that we are about to embark on our outdoor events and I am getting really excited about them. I guess it could be all the junk food we get to eat and what I mean by junk is carnival type food, you know what I mean. Plus we get to meet a gazillion people who will oohhh and aaahhh over us as it should be. Right now they are more focused on the bird fair that we never get to go to but they do that is not fair! Why call it a bird fair if we can't go and it is only for the pet humans in our lives call it something else then. I think while they are having their "fair" we should have

our own party and really make one to remember. Well there are other ways we can get even with them for leaving us home and I am sure our Blackbirdie 100's will be going off the charts with ideas. So to all my feathered friends watch squawker, featherbook and now instabird for more details.

Cheers  
Captain Morgan



## Out and About with Pookie

There were serious meetings and consultations with the physician, Dr. Maxine, about the complications that Steve is suffering because of his contracting the Cockamaw virus. It was decided that the most efficient course of action to spur his recovery would be to repair his physical injuries as best as they can be repaired then overwhelm the virus with a massive influx of African Grey love.

The first item on our agenda was getting Steve to the dentist where he had a tooth extracted that had been infected then he was sent to the Ophthalmologist where they removed the cataract in his left eye; successfully I might add. He is also scheduled to see (no pun intended) a retinal surgeon to schedule more laser surgery. More important that that I contacted all of the feathered members of our club to increase the attendance of African Greys at the meeting. This maneuver was a stellar success! Not only did we aid in Steve's recovery but the attendance of African Grey parrots far exceeded the count of any other

parrot genre at the meeting. The Macaw faction was our closest competitor but more significant than their count is the fact that the Cockatoo contingent was regulated to the rear of the flock.

Steve has also gained great energy since this time last year; his new bionic hips allow him to walk with ease and take us out and about with him. We have been to two farmer's markets and a few trips to the park this past month and just in case any of you think I might have lost some of my mojo; I have not. I'm still thought of as a baby because I'm so cute with my fluffy featherless body. Anybody that inquires about what happened to my feathers I tell them that I live an alternative lifestyle.

Another thing that is of paramount importance is going to be refreshing Steve's training. His car driving with us upon his shoulders or even on the car perches is in need of some serious refreshing. He has completely forgotten all of his protocols and the hard and fast rules of driving with us on his shoulders and on the car seat. Firstly, and most importantly he passed McDonalds® and Arbys® twice and not once did he stop and buy us French Fries! He knows that when we're riding with him, he has an obligation to stop at least one fast food restaurant for fries and a cool beverage. Did Steve stop for snacks? Did Steve wait patiently while we had our pictures taken; did he buy us Kettle corn and sweet tasty goodied at the markets? No, not at all.

His re-training will begin soon!



Chirps and Squawks  
Pookie

THE ADVENTURES OF  
STEVE AND DAVE  
the

## RESCUE RANGERS

IN

Due to technical difficulties this month's Rescue Rangers will appear in Junes newsletter. Sorry Ranger Fans!!!

Stay glued to your mailbox for our next thrilling adventure "A Little Pepper in Canton"!



### **BITS from BABY**

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

April's meeting had only Forty-five people there, due to the beautiful summer like weather. There were forty-one members and four guests, of which two joined our flock.

We also had twenty-six feathered members of which Eight were African Grays, [Which made Steve very happy] Six Macaws and three Cockatoos, plus twelve other type Parrots in attendants

Looks like it going to be a busier year than last year was! We had five programs already in April and five booked for May so

far, plus twelve more to go in June and July this year as of when this Newsletter came out. There are program being called in every day.

Guys we are in for lots of fun this year. That's not even counting events both indoors 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 all for now.  
God bless, till we meet again,  
Your friend Baby

><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><><>



### **Rescue update**

There were three adoptions last month; Oliver a Green Winged Macaw, a Male Cockatiel, a Lutino Red Rump Parakeet and English Budgie. All these birds went to their new, forever homes with food, cages and toys thanks to you, our generous members. Your donations and support of our monthly raffles enable us to do this.

We are in need of members who are willing to foster rescued birds. The duties of a foster parent are four fold. You must be able to quarantine the rescued bird from your own flock (in case the rescued bird has an illness that it could pass to your own birds). You have to convert the rescued bird to a healthy (pelleted) diet along with fruits and veggies. You have to be willing to take the bird to the rescue vet (Roose Animal Hospital). The vet bills and pellets will be paid for by the club's rescue. When the time comes that the bird is ready for adoption you may have to have the prospective new owners come to your home to meet the bird

and see how they interact with it. A portion of the decision as to whether the bird is going to the correct home will be up to the foster home. This is because you will have the best judgment of the bird's personality and how it interacts with people.

We would like to extend a great big thank you to all of our club members for their support at the monthly club raffles and for the donations of food and toys. It is your participation that funds our rescue and allows us to send the adopted birds to their new homes with cages, toys and food. Our rescue could not do this without you.

**KUDDOS and a great big THANK YOU to everyone.**



### **HEY, YOU CALLED US!**

Oh how I love getting the calls from someone turning in a bird that go like this;

Hi I have a Parrot I need to turn in but I need to be sure it is going to the right place. Now you do understand this is a parrot not a Parakeet and he has certain needs. First I only buy the best parrot seed the pet store has to offer it is full of the things he loves especially Sunflower seeds. Also I need to know his wings won't be clipped he loves to fly back and forth to his cage and play stand. He also gets peanuts about six times a day and always one before nite-nite time. You also understand he can get nippy when he is in a grumpy mood, you are writing this

down? Anyway he gets up at 7 AM and goes to bed at 7 PM. No he won't eat pellets I have tried and he just ignores them. Vet Care? Why he has never been sick and you really don't have to take a bird to the vet anyway. I also need to be guaranteed if you cannot find him a home he won't be sold to a snake breeder for snake food. The most important thing is I have to know who is going to adopt him and approve of them. What do you mean you don't do that, well I don't think I can deal with you then you must truly know nothing about birds and you call yourself a rescue I don't know why I wasted my time!

This is an actual phone call we received but it is also one of many like it we get from these internet bird experts. Sadly it won't be the last.

**Bird Center of Washtenaw  
County  
Wild Birds and Waterfowl Rescue**

The Bird Center is a 501(c) (3) non-profit wild bird rescue. If you are contacted by anyone or have found a Songbird or Water Fowl that is need of rescue, please refer or contact the Bird Center. They have provided us with contact numbers.

Bird Center (Songbirds) 734- 761-9640  
Mallard Marsh (Water Fowl) 734-482-8187

**What to do when a bird needs help:**

Fledgling birds should be left alone. The parents are near and will take care of it.

If a baby has little or no feathers return it to the nest if possible.

Baby ducks, geese and swans walking with parents should be left alone.

If you have an injured bird of any type please contact the Bird Center or Mallard Marsh at the phone numbers listed above for instructions. Proper food, care and handling are critical for the survival of an injured bird. The Bird Center will advise you on what to do and how to proceed. Some birds, such as hawks, owls, herons, cranes and geese can cause injury to you even though you have the best of intentions.

More information is available at their website: [www.birdcenterwashtenaw.org](http://www.birdcenterwashtenaw.org)

Bird Center of Washtenaw County  
2229 Needham  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:**

BRENT BEAVERS	JUNE 1
JANIE LYNCH	JUNE 2
MIA LYNCH	JUNE 5
JESSICA GREENWOOD	JUNE 7
RUTH MALACHOWSKI	JUNE 8
SHANNON SCHRIEFER	JUNE 15
JOHN JACJSON	JUNE 19
EUGENE MALACHOWSKI	JUNE 23
CINDEE ROSENTHAL	JUNE 23
JASON MILLER	JUNE 25
JILL DOMEIER	JUNE 28
CARA WARD	JUNE 29



**UP COMING**  
**EVENTS**

**As of**  
**May 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**

May 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Sun. Waltonwoods at Twelve Oaks  
27475 Huron Circle  
Novi, MI 48377  
12:30 PM Set-up  
1:30 PM Start

May 19<sup>th</sup> School Show  
Thur. Arbor Wood School  
1008 Riverview  
Monroe, MI 48162  
12:30 PM Set-up  
1:30 PM Start

May 21<sup>st</sup> Critter Care  
Sat. Redford Jaycees  
Western Graham Field  
14841 Beech Daly  
Redford, MI  
7:30 AM Sign In/Set-up  
9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
\*\*Note: These are the times we had as of  
5/11/16 times may be slightly different  
check the website or call Steve or Dave

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

June 2<sup>nd</sup> Senior Show  
Thur. Caretel Inns of Brighton  
1014 E. Grand River Ave.  
Brighton, MI 48116  
1:30 PM Set-up  
2:30 PM Start

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

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



June 11<sup>th</sup> Garden City Flea Circus  
Sat. Parking Lot at the Corner of  
Middlebelt & Ford Rd  
Runs from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
We will be setting up our pop-up  
about 8:00AM

July 7<sup>th</sup> Library Show  
Thu. Farmington Community Library  
23500 Liberty Street  
Farmington, MI 48335  
1:00 PM Set-up  
2:00 PM Show

June 12<sup>th</sup> Rainbow Feathers Bird Club  
Sun. 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Bird Fair  
\$3.00 Adm. 10AM to 4PM  
VFW Post 345  
27345 Schoolcraft Rd.  
Redford, MI 48239  
10:00AM to 4:00PM

July 18<sup>th</sup> **2 PROGRAMS !**  
Mon. Jewish Community Center  
Shalom Street Museum  
6600 West Maple Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
Set-up 8:40 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Show Runs from 9:40 - 10:40 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Show Runs from 10:50 - 11:50 am

June 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Fri. 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

July 21<sup>st</sup> **2 PROGRAMS !**  
Thur. Jewish Community Center  
Shalom Street Museum  
6600 West Maple Road  
West Bloomfield, MI 48322  
Set-up 8:40 am  
1<sup>st</sup> Show Runs from 9:40 - 10:40 am  
2<sup>nd</sup> Show Runs from 10:50 - 11:50 am

June 28<sup>th</sup> Library Show  
Tues. River Rouge Public Library  
221 Burke  
River Rouge, MI 48218  
2:00 PM Set-up  
3:00 PM Show  
\*\*\*\*NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\*\*\*

July 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Sun. Waltonwoods at Twelve Oaks  
(Independent)  
27475 Huron Circle  
Novi, MI 48377  
1:00 PM Set-up  
2:00 PM Start  
\*\*\*\*NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\*\*\*

July 5<sup>th</sup> Library Show  
Tues. Ecorse Public Library  
4184 West Jefferson  
Ecorse, MI 48229  
12:00 PM Set-up  
1:00 PM Show

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

Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 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  
\*\*\*Our Club Has a Booth at This Event\*\*\*

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

Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Tues. Caretel Inns of Brighton  
1014 E. Grand River Ave.  
Brighton, MI 48116  
1:30 PM Set-up  
2:30 PM Start

July 31<sup>st</sup> CLUB PICNIC  
Sun. GARDEN CITY PARK  
MAIN PAVILION  
10:00 AM TO ???  
\*\*\*\*\*NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\*\*\*\*

Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Sat. Huron Woods  
Towsley Health Bldg.  
5361 McAuley Dr.  
Ann Arbor , MI 48106  
1:30 PM Set-up  
2:30 PM Start

Ypsilanti Heritage Festival  
Riverside Park  
Aug 26<sup>th</sup> Noon to 8:00 PM  
Aug 27<sup>th</sup> 10:00AM to 8:00 PM  
Aug 28<sup>th</sup> 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Motor City Bird Breeders  
Sat. 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\*\*

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Show  
Wed. Independence Village  
White Lake  
935 Union Lake Road  
White Lake, MI 48386  
12:15 PM Set-up  
1:15 PM Start  
\*\*\*\*\*NOTE DATE CHANGE\*\*\*\*\*

Oct 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> Guardians for Animals  
Sat. & Sun. 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  
We hopefully will be setting up on Friday  
like last year

## PET EXPO

Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 2pm to 8pm  
Nov. 12<sup>st</sup> 10am to 8pm  
Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 10am to 5pm

### Suburban Collection Showplace

46100 Grand River  
Novi, MI 48374

**We will be setting up on Thursday  
Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> most likely around 9:00 am.  
Please remember no birds will be allowed  
through the front door.**

### \*\*\*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.

### Rambling With Rambo



Things have been rather slow around here. Having a tough time coming up with a topic this time.

Well, there is one thing I have noticed. A few of my good friends have not been to a meeting in quite a while. No I’m not pointing a toe at

any particular non-feathered friends. I’m well aware you humans like this warm weather as much as we do.

However, you must remember this. We magnificent wonders of nature are the center of the universe. The center of your lives. Your very existence should focus on us birds, and other caretakers. And besides that we love all of you.

Now what better purpose in life is there? Ok I have vented about that. The meetings have been wonderful these past few months. Every meeting we have new people visiting, and new members. At the April meeting, there was a new couple visiting. They were so taken by this gathering of wonderful, spectacular, amazing creatures, they joined our club right then. Ok, they did like our humans.

Now Michael was holding both Packo, and myself. He spent a long time talking with them. The lady said, “My, you are certainly knowledgeable about birds.” Well naturally, I (Rambo) taught him everything he knows. Why without me he would not know how to properly train, and care for a pet human. Michael thinks he has been training me. Wrong buddy.

At the April meeting we had a great time. As usual, Packo got car-sick on the way there. He is such a wimp. Or maybe, I actually have the better riding position.

Maybe his seat, up high, is much bouncier than my spot on the floor, in my carrier. But he must have not been too sick. He ate well. He also didn’t get sick from getting trimmed, or on the way home.

There I go, rambling on again. Well, after the meeting, Michael took Packo, and myself, to Sub-Way. He bought us some of those yummy Oatmeal Raisin cookies.

What a wonderful way to end a wonderful day. So, I’m going to end my

talk, and leave some print space for Packo. As always, Have fun, (try to) Be Good, and Never Forget, Macaws Rule, Rambo.



## Pondering with Packo

Well unlike Rambo, I've had lots of excitement in April.

I made it to four different Educational Shows. Rambo was being a brat one day and would not come with me. Better for me. I got all the attention. As it should be. We small Macaws are very special. For we have wonderful colors.

The only bad thing about these shows is this. As usual, I get car-sick. And get this. Because Rambo is such a spoiled brat, he will not let anyone else hold him. So Daddy is the only one that can show him. So of all things Dave has to show me. Now if one of those pretty, though smaller Yellow Collar Macaws would show up, Michael could show both Rambo, and me, together.

Lately I have been very good around Rambo. Daddy still doesn't trust Rambo to get too close to me. I'm so sweet I would never bite at Rambo, or anyone else. At the April meeting I did have fun. And thankfully, even though I did get car-sick on the way there, I was not as sick as usual. This time when we arrived at the meeting, I was actually hungry. I was not too sick to eat. So Michael gave me 'Bird Balls'. That is those yummy Nutra-Berries'.

Oh, and since I was able to eat this time, Daddy gave me pizza. That is some good stuff. I never get pizza at home. Daddy always gets that pizza with lots of garlic, and those little biscuits, that are

dripping with butter. He tells me these are bad for me. They smell so good. I think he just does not want to share.

Oh and after the meeting, Michael took Rambo, and myself, to Sub-Way. The girl remarked how pretty my colors are. Then she gave us some cookies to take home. Daddy has not been to Sub-Way in a long time. So we birds have not had cookies in a long time.

Here is something interesting. When showing the Sub-Way girl my colors, Daddy noticed something. I have a two color tail. It is green and blue on top and red underneath. So daddy went home and checked his books. This is what he found out. Everyone puts me in the Mini-Macaw category, because of my red shoulders. It turns out I am in the Genus of Ara. That means I am one of the Big Boys. Look this up. So I am more special than everyone thought.

Till next time, Love You All. Packo

## Select the right bird for you and your family



By Don J. Harris, DVM

Exotic birds can be delightful pets—just ask any of the millions of companion bird owners throughout the world who enjoy a rewarding and satisfying relationship with their feathered friends. Creating a long-lasting positive relationship with your bird may be the result of

Choosing the right bird *for you and your family* in the beginning. This crucial first step is part of being a responsible pet owner, but it is often overlooked in the rush to acquire a new bird. Identifying what characteristics you want in a bird,

and researching different species and their characteristics can go a long ways in helping establish a long and happy relationship. Rarely will one bird fit more than a few of the desired characteristics. You may acquire a bird and expect it to speak, only to eventually realize this particular species never talks. Others may discover that a large colorful macaw is also a large intolerably noisy creature. Many potential owners have expectations that cannot possibly be fulfilled by the species they choose. The best way to obtain the "perfect" pet is to first determine which

**Low maintenance**

Amazon and smaller

**Cleanliness**

Most smaller species

Some bird owners may want to avoid certain "unpopular" characteristics like those listed below. Others may not see these same characteristics as undesirable. It's up to bird owners to weigh all characteristics of a species or an individual bird to make the best decision.

**Loud**

Macaws, Cockatoos

**Messy**

Macaws, Mynahs, Toucans

**Aggressive**

Female Eclectus, Male Amazons

In the end, individuals interested in owning a bird should first decide what they expect from a pet bird.

Once this question is answered, an appropriate species can be identified and researched. Only then can the potential for a long and mutually beneficial relationship be realized.

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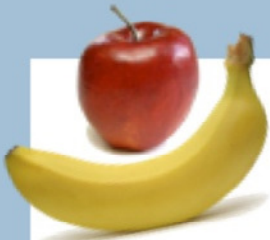
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