



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

September 2017
Volume 20 Issue 9

Bird Droppings



UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

SEPT. 24th – Fourth Sunday

OCT. 29th – Fifth Sunday

NOV. 10th 11th 12th Pet Expo

No Meeting in November

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
- Yearly Pet Expo
- 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

Secretary – Kathe Cote 313-728-2211

Email – gardenfrog1967@comcast.net

Treasurer and Membership Secretary –

Tammy Carol 734-422-5981

Email – sweettweeters@comcast.net

Board of Trustees –

Mary Perva 517-618-7008

Susan Dixon 248-330-6938

Email- [mail to:susanhdixon@hotmail.com](mailto:mail:susanhdixon@hotmail.com)

Henry Jedrzejek-734-427-3187

E-mail 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 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 them to him at 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 Potluck

Not too long ago 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.
- ❖ Clean up after yourself and your bird(s) before you leave.

FROM THE PREZ:

\$1020.00 that is how much we collected in donations at the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival, it is the most we have collected at any of the events we do. There were several factors that worked in our favor, one was the weather it was absolutely perfect, second were the amount of birds that were there just so many different kinds but most important was the club members that helped out to make it a total success. People were very impressed at how we went



into the crowd and made sure people got to not only see the birds but interact with them as well no one was left out. Also, the amount of birds that they held during a picture caused a chain reaction and we did so many pictures in a row before a lull occurred; where we could at least take a breath and it started all over again. We by far were the most popular booth at the festival and the crowds we drew were a testament to that. I would like to thank all those who came out and gave up their free time to help us out we could not have done this without you, you made this a success with your hard work and dedication it really shined through. What truly amazed people was how friendly and open we were to everybody making everyone feel welcome and making sure they all had a good time and left with a smile. I had comments from the other booths that they needed to get some birds to boost up the people at their booths. Well that might work but we have our secret weapon that is the members that were there. You may have something very cool but if your people are not friendly and welcoming like ours were it will do you no good; people will just look and walk by. So once again to all the members who came out to help; you guys did an outstanding job and I can't thank you enough, **I LOVE THIS CLUB!!!** Now we are looking forward to our next event The Guardians for Animals Pet Expo October 21st and 22nd and we do need help there but we will talk about that more at the meeting and The Novi Pet Expo November 10th-11th-and 12th. It is because of the members of this club that we are able to do these events and you are the reason they are such a success your friendliness and enthusiasm are contagious and it spreads out to everyone we meet. So once again a huge **THANK YOU** from the bottom of my heart

for a job well done and this is so very true
YOU GUYS ROCK!!!!!!!

Until Next Time,
Your Prez,
Dave



Voice of the Veep

Well, the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival was on the last weekend of August and what an event it was. Our club was once again one of the most popular attractions at the festival. This was possible because of all the support and help from our members. I have to give personal accolades to the Greenwood's (Joe, Kim, Faith, Jessica and Mark); Jeremy & Courtney Earms; Mike Gyamati; Susan Dixon; Tom & Marie; Emma; Mary Margaret; Larry and Theresa. From set-up until tear down, opening until close the help from our members was tremendous. Thankfully, we did not have to endure any excessive heat, rainstorms or public showering this year. The weather was perfect all day every day and our donation jar was stuffed more than it has ever been for any event we have participated in. We took one hundred forty-six photos which is more requests for souvenir pictures than ever. If you have a desire to become privy to all the goings on you'll have to plan on attending next years' festival.

We're not done yet on Sat. & Sun. October 21st and 22nd We are going to be at the Guardians for Animals Pet Expo at Madison Place 876 Horace Brown Drive in Madison Heights, MI 48071 Sat. times 10:00AM to 5:00PM Sun times 11:00AM to

4:00PM. We need as much help as we can get: Our club is going to be taking souvenir photos for guests but in order to accomplish this we need members to help with the birds staging the photos.

The Guardians for Animals Pet Expo is a free event for all the pet rescues attending. All the recues receive a portion of the donations from raffle ticket sales also. We have plenty to sell so don't be shy step up and buy a raffle ticket today. Then in November it's the **PET EXPO at the Suburban Collection Showplace** 46100 Grand River Novi, MI 48374 Nov. 10th 2pm to 8pm Nov. 11th 10am to 8pm Nov. 12th 10am to 5pm.

As usual, I encourage everyone to join us not only at the multi-day festivals but at the senior shows also. We can always use your help even if you don't want to bring your bird there will be other birds there for you to help with as well as assisting with watching the other birds. If you have any questions feel free to call me at home, Steve 734-513-0030

Your Veep
Steve

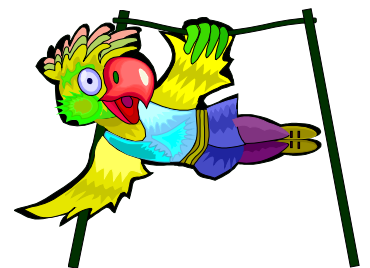
FALLING INTO AUTUMN

Wow it is hard to believe that it is September already the kids are back to school and the seasons are changing very quickly. With that brings those fall holidays that we love Halloween and Thanksgiving.

Now we may love them but many of our birds do not simply because of all the strange things going on. Halloween with its costumes can downright send a bird into fit of terror worthy of the best scary movie and then there are the other hazards the decorations. Lit candles, fake spider webs, and many other things that ooze, smoke or mist can be dangerous to our feathered kids. Plus the biggie the candy we give out to the trick or treaters. Chocolate is so poisonous for all pets and the darker it is the more toxic it is. Also the wrappers can pose a hazard as well so keep them away from all pets. Now let us move on to Thanksgiving. First if you are hosting a big dinner the extra commotion can really stress out a bird if they are not used to it. Then there are those hot pans, dishes and pots that look inviting to a bird to come an check out. Also there are in some houses decorations that look pretty tempting to a bird but can really hurt them especially lit candles with their flames and hot wax. So it is important we keep our birds safe during these fall holidays and get ready for the two winter ones.

PET EXPO

Here is
tentative Pet Expo
information; the hours are as follows:
Friday, November 10th, 2pm - 8pm



Saturday, November 11th, 10am - 8pm

Sunday, November 12th, 10am-5pm

The Suburban Showcase has the operation of the pet expo again this year. Our club has been given the same generous space that we had last year and vendor badges will be available same as last year. We do know that no birds will be allowed through the front door; **if your bird is going to attend we must get you a pass to enter in the rear doors.** This can be accomplished in

multiple ways; 1) Be sure to wear your club badge 2) Go to the vendor desk at the rear doors to either receive a vendor badge or to be allowed access to our booth to receive a badge. 3) Call Dave, Tammy or me on our cell phones to bring you a badge.

The club will be getting parking passes for you if you have signed up to work. If you are scheduled to work and have to pay an admission to enter or park your car keep your receipts and the club will refund your admission and parking fees. **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR RECEIPTS!** Entrance to the expo as a club member means you plan on working at least three hours at our booth. If you intend to shop and look around plan on arriving early or staying over after your scheduled work times please.

If you signed up to work and haven't heard any details feel free to call Tammy 734-422-5981 or Steve 734-513-0030 for last minute information

For those of you who want to look around at the Expo, you can come early or stay after your scheduled time. The schedule will be as follows; Set-up is Thursday 9am-untill finished, we will be arriving at the church to move tables into our vehicles about 7:45 AM then to Suburban Showcase at 9am to set up. Friday's show schedule is: 2pm-5pm, 5pm-8pm, Saturday's schedule is 10am – noon, noon-3pm, 3pm-6pm and 6pm to

8pm. Sunday's schedule is 10am-1pm, 1-3pm and 3-5pm, and after the expo closes we will need help to clear out our space and return the tables to the church.

Tammy



Bits from Baby

Baby is unable to submit the latest and greatest news this month.

Therefore, in lieu of his normal column we have presented an article from a different source.

Bits from Baby Sept 2017

Hello everyone this is Pookie sitting in for Baby this month and do not worry Baby is just fine. The main reason he has not been submitting articles and member attendance totals is that his companion human, Henry, has been a bit under the weather the past few months.

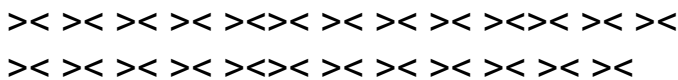
There have been open requests for a feathered member to step up to assist Baby but sadly, no one has done so. We (the African Greys of the club) decided to step fourth and help Baby last month. Even though we did not receive any complements for our honest and heart felt efforts, we did receive many complaints; however, we did not receive any volunteers. Therefore, in view of the facts, it has been decided that we will continue to tally the members present and deliver this vital information to our readers.

In our sincere efforts to deliver honest and germane numbers we have hired the

accounting firm (Bleedum, Grabit & Runne) recently retained by Bird Droppings. The accounting firm will then hand the tallies over to the law firm of Dewey, Cheetum & Howe for verification. This process will continue until one of our feathered members decides to step forward to help Baby out.

All this being said what an awesome showing at the Heritage Festival there were five African Greys some cockatoos, macaws and other feathered members. The African Greys were without a doubt the hit of the festival!

The month of September is going to be a very busy one; there are seven senior shows and The Canary & Finch fair this month.



RESCUE UPDATE

The adoption side of our rescue was average this month. There were four adoptions; two Cockatiels, Senegal and a Green cheek Conure were all adopted. They all went to their new homes with cages, toys, and food thanks to the generosity of you, our club members.

There is also another announcement to make. We have sworn in four new junior rangers who have been assisting Steve and Dave. The new Rangers are Mike & Carol who will be operating the northern branch of our rescue; Jeremy &

Courtney Earms who will be assisting with western Wayne and Washtenaw county rescues



**Guardians for Animals Pet Expo
Raffle Tickets**

The Guardians for Animals Pet Expo is fast approaching on October 21st and 22nd and the way our rescue benefits from this event is from raffle ticket sales. All the rescues receive an equal cut of the total raffle ticket sales with the rescue that sells the most tickets receiving an extra cut.

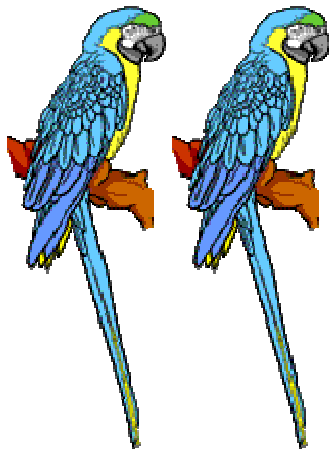
Tammy has received our club's first box of 500 tickets to sell; the price of the tickets is \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00 we could sure use everyone's help selling and buying tickets over the next couple of months. We will have tickets available at all of the upcoming events or you can call Tammy for arrangements to obtain some.

Talk to your friends and neighbors and ask if they would be interested in helping our rescue out. Let's all do our best to sell all of our tickets!



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to:

CHUCK JAMIESON	OCT. 1
EVA HAASE	OCT. 3
INGA BUSCH	OCT. 5
NADA JURISICH-FONTANA	OCT.11
ISABEL FONTANA	OCT. 11
MIMI GRZYMALAA	OCT. 11
JEFFR PASEK	OCT. 12
BRIGETTE FELIX	OCT. 15
JOHN BUSCH	OCT. 16
JOSEPH GREENWOOD	OCT.17
STEVE PLAFCHAN	OCT. 17
EDWARD FRACZEK	OCT. 19
MIKE BURGESS-KRZESOWIAK	OCT. 20
JENNIFER PLAGENS	OCT. 25
FAITH GREENWOOD	OCT.30



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 birds!

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in California (818) 503-4YUM. Fax (818) 765-4895

SPECIAL BREEDER PRICING



Out and About with Pookie

Hello everyone, last month was the Ypsilanti heritage festival and even though I was unable to attend, JJ and Sparky were there and filed a complete report. Their report for the three days of the festival was taken in and recorded to assist Baby with the count of feathered members in attendance and the activities that took place.

Over the past, few months there have been some complaints about the feathered member counts in attendance at our meetings. We here at Bird Droppings in order to insure the accuracy of the tallies have enlisted the accounting firm of Bleedum, Grabit & Runne to tally the numbers; and the certification of these counts were performed by the law firm of Dewey, Cheatum & Howe. We have also created a new position to lead our new department.

The new department is for complaints and objections; it will be under the management of the toy testing division. In case you are not aware, the toy testing division is under control of Ricky the Umbrella Cockatoo and he is recruiting associates to join this expansion of his department. He has been filling positions with some very impressive and talented-feathered members in our club. So far, he has hired Ozzie, Buster, Izzy, Max, Zeek, Packo, Zoey, Logan, Tuna, Whinny and Boogie. All of these new recruits are either Macaws or Cockatoos and he assures me that these are the proper members needed to

accept and process any and all complaints. He also put fourth an open request for any feathered members that are interested in joining his team to contact him at the Bird Droppings office. In particular, he is looking to hire members with large beaks and members that enjoy shredding and chewing paper. Members that enjoy destroying wood, plastic and cellular phones are needed to. He has positioned a large bin by the front entrance for the new recruits to receive complaints and process them. Once they have been processed and the sheer volume reduced to a more manageable size the complaints will be sent to a large circular bin for additional filling and classification.

If anyone has any objections to this process, they may complain in person to Ricky the Umbrella Cockatoo by submitting an offer of peanut butter on your index finger. Slather your finger with crunchy peanut butter and present the petition of your objections to his office; it will be time stamped and marked as received. Acceptance of your petition will be verified when the peanut butter is removed and your fingertip is still attached. Denial of the petition and complaint will be verified if he removes your fingertip with the peanut butter.

Chirps and Squawks
Pookie



Avast ye Mates



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Well I must say the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival was a blast and Stella (Mother Nature to you) gave us an outstanding weekend and I know we all thanked her. There has been one development that I feel needs our attention and that is Sparky, Pookie and J.B.'s pet human Steve. My sources tell me (a not so little bird) that he has been cavorting with Cockatoos. He not only has pink but also white fever and there are several pictures to prove it. In fact, at the heritage festival he was seen with what appeared to be loving on a, GASP, Cockatoo and his gray nation is not pleased. In one picture, he is seen wearing an African Gray shirt while holding an Umbrella Cockatoo, am I the only one who sees the irony in this? Now my pet human seems to be equal opportunity and will cavort with ANY parrot (what can I say he is easy) and I am OK with that but a gray guy going to the dark side is more than his gray nation can handle.

Now personally I can see the fascination with Cockatoos after all they are the drama queens of the parrot world and are well suited for it with their flamboyant actions and that crest that just draws attention to them but that is just how they are wired. Sparky, Pookie and J.B. are just a tad concerned about these disturbing chains of events backed up with pictures. They feel he may just need an intervention but they also feel it may be too late. In any case I will keep apprised of the situation and give you reports on these very unsettling chains of events. I do believe the heritage festival pushed him (Steve) over the edge after all there was all three of the pink Cockatoos in attendance on Sunday and I'll bet this was all planned!

Cheers
Captain Morgan



FESTIVAL FOLLIES

As always, the Ypsilanti Heritage Festival brings out some very strange and outlandish comments and being true to form I am here to share them with you, so here goes:

A woman looks at Aurora our Rose breasted Cockatoo and says, "What a pretty pigeon". A first for her and she was none too pleased.

Another woman looks at Sparky and J.B. and says, “those are well trained Pigeons”. I mean really!

Another woman chastised me for “my group” as she called us taking these birds out of the wild just to have them here and asked what would happen to them after the festival.

Still another woman was so angry that we would disrupt the lives of these birds to take them out of their natural habitat just to exploit them. I gently explained that they were born and bred here and that doing and taking them out of the wild was against the law.

One gentleman asked me if we left them there in the tent at night.

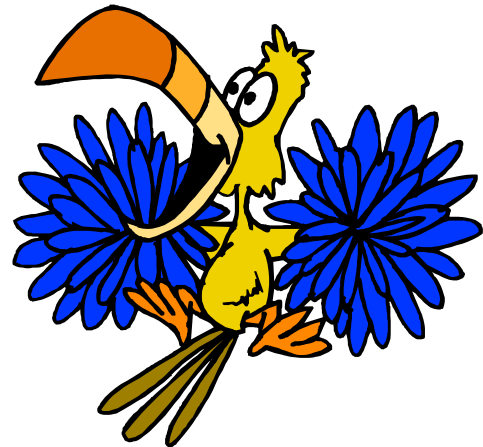
One guy asked me what we did with their poop.

One couple asked me if you could breed Captain Morgan the Blue and Gold Macaw with Logan the Major Mitchell’s Cockatoo. Of course, I said no because they come from different countries plus the fact they are both male didn’t help either.

The best happened after the festival from a woman who saw us there but could not stop because, of the fact we dyed a Cockatoo Pink just upset her so much. So, I ask which one because we had three there on Sunday at which she became even more horrified. She thought we dyed a Sulphur Crested Cockatoo pink to draw attention to our booth and threatened to turn us over to the Huron Valley Humane Society. I told her before you embarrass yourself get on google and look up Major Mitchells Cockatoo and you will see that is how they come and there

are three pink Cockatoos plus we value our fingers way too much to dye a bird pink!

So, these are just the highlights of some of the comments we get from the public and I am very sure they will not be the last!



Upcoming Events As of

September 6th 2017

Sept 8th
Fri

Senior Show
American house carpenter
3470 carpenter road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Set-up 1:30 pm
Start 2:30 pm

Sept 9 th Sat	Canary & Finch Breeder Bird Fair Livonia Elks Lodge #2246 31117 Plymouth Rd. Livonia, MI 48150 \$3.00 admission 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Sept 22 nd Fri	Senior Show Oakmont Livonia 14265 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 Set-up 1:00 pm Start 2:00 pm
Sept 10 th Sun	Family Day (No Official Program) American House 777 East Woodward Heights Hazel Park, MI 48030 From 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm	Sept 23 rd Sat	Senior Show Waltonwood at Carriage Park Independent Building 2000 N. Canton Center Rd. Canton, MI 48187 Set-up 12:30 pm Start 1:30 pm
Sept 12 th Tue	Senior Show Oakmont Rochester 3466 S. Boulevard West Rochester Hills, MI 48309 Set-up 1:00 pm Start 2:00 pm	Sept 26 th Tues	Senior Show American House Elmwood West auburn Road Rochester Hills, MI 48309 Set-up 2:00 pm Start 3:00 pm
Sept 13 Wed	Senior Show Lockwood of Waterford 1407 Skipper Dr. Waterford, MI 48327 Set-up 1:00 pm Start 1:30 pm	Oct 6 th Fri	Senior Show Advantage Living Center of Armada (new Name) 22600 West Main St. Armada, MI 48005 Set-up 1:00 pm Start 2:00pm
Sept 18 th Mon	Senior Show Woodland Village St. Joseph Mercy Senior Communities 7533 West Grand River Road Brighton, MI 48114 Set-up 2 pm Start 3 pm	Oct 11 th Wed	Senior Show Novi Lakes Health Campus 41795 Twelve Mile Road Novi, MI 48377 Set-up 2:00 pm Start 3:00 pm

Oct 16th Senior Show
 Mon American House
 Freedom Place
 3565 South Adams Road
 Rochester Hills, MI 48309
 Set-up 1:30 pm
 Start 2:30 pm

Oct 20th Senior Show
 Fri Glacier Hills
 Senior Living Community
 1200 Earhart Rd.
 Ann Arbor, MI 48105
 Set-up 9:00 am
 Start 10:00 am

Oct 21st Guardians for Animals
 Oct 22nd Pet Expo
 Madison Place
 876 Horace Brown Drive
 Madison Heights, MI 48071
 Sat. Times 10:00AM to 5:00PM
 Sun Times 11:00AM to 4:00PM
 We hopefully will be setting
 up on Friday like last year

Oct 24th Senior Show
 Tue Oakmont - Northville
 42000 Seven Mile Road
 Northville, MI 48167
 Set-up 2:00 pm
 Start 3:00 pm

Oct 28th Senior Show
 Sat Huron Woods
 Towsley Health Building
 5361 McAuley Dr.
 Ann Arbor, MI 48106
 Set-up 1:30pm
 Start 2:30 pm

PET EXPO

Nov. 10th 2pm to 8pm
 Nov. 11th 10am to 8pm
 Nov. 12th 10am to 5pm
 Suburban Collection Showplace
 46100 Grand River
 Novi, MI 48374

We will be setting up on Thursday Nov. 9th
 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.

THE ADVENTURES OF STEVE AND DAVE
THE
RESCUE RANGERS
IN
FEET OF STONE IN CLARKSTON

This month's adventure is one that we all hate to read but the Rangers had to deal with this one head on. It involved a poor little Cockatiel in Clarkston Michigan that had a very disturbing and also heart wrenching problem. It started out as a normal everyday rescue the Rangers were going to rescue a male Cockatiel something they had done so many times before but this one would be different. When they arrived, they were lead back to a room with several birds in it and a cage full of Cockatiels. On the bottom of the cage full of Cockatiels was one right on the bottom and all he did was stay there. It seemed strange to the Rangers that he stayed on the bottom all the time, then Ranger Steve noticed that this poor little bird could not close his feet at all but other than that he seemed fine so they packed him up and away they went. When they got back to Ranger Headquarter once they examined him closer and found that his little feet were like stone and he could not move any of his toes at all. Baffled Ranger Dave took him to Ranger Headquarter two for a little closer observation and a trip to the vet. This poor little Cockatiel seemed fine except for his feet of stone and it really puzzled Ranger Dave, even the vet was a little puzzled at first but then had a breakthrough. They ran all the test for everything under the sun and the test confirmed he was suffering from an advanced case of Gout! It was so bad that it fused all the joints in his feet until his feet

were like stone. Unable to climb or perch properly which made it hard for him to get food or water. Feeling so very bad for this little guy a special cage was outfitted with all the thing necessary for him to live as comfortably as possible. One thing was for sure he could never be adopted by anyone because of his advanced condition. He was even given pain meds to make him more comfortable and he began to come out of his shell. He would sing and whistle like a happy normal Cockatiel but time was not on his side and because of his advanced condition being neglected for so long after about 6 happy months he peacefully crossed the Rainbow bridge. Now his pain was gone, his feet of stone were gone and he could do all the things he could not do for however long he was like this before the Rangers came to his rescue. He was now at peace but the Rangers could not be because this made them more determined to rescue all birds who needed their help and they would continue their mission without fail because they are **THE RESCUE RANGERS!!!**

Stay tuned for our next thrilling adventure An August Double Dip!!!





Establishing Control with Nurturing Guidance

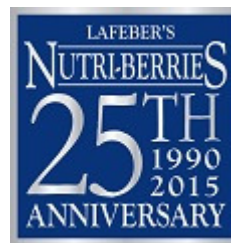
By Liz Wilson, CVT

Nurturing guidance is a training concept developed by Sally Blanchard, and it is critical to enjoying cohabitation with a parrot. Without it, a parrot is often unclear as to his position within his human flock. Genetically an exotic bird is a wild animal, whether domestic-bred or not, and he understands little about cohabiting with people. With patient teaching and guidance, he can learn how to be a good companion. Nurturing guidance is established by teaching and using basic commands. By setting these parameters, a parrot will have a better understanding of what is expected of it.

The first command is “Up,” which means step onto my hand. The second command is “Down,” which means step off my hand onto an inanimate object (like a perch). This is not a directional command. Onto the hand is up, off the hand is down. Teaching these commands requires a neutral room and a neutral perch. Ideally, the bird should have no experience with either the location or perch. This minimizes distractions and maximizes learning. Lessons should be short and upbeat, held once or twice a day for 10-15 minutes. Make sure you are relaxed before you begin, and smile and be patient. Under NO circumstance is aggression acceptable. Training a parrot is like teaching nursery school. You must keep your student involved or it won't learn. Sessions should be fun, not boring or frightening. Simply put,

behavior modification uses positive reinforcement for good behaviors and no reinforcement for bad behaviors. Instead, misbehaviors are ignored. If the parrot follows a command, smile and praise the bird. If it doesn't, ignore the transgression and repeat the command, pushing gently at his legs with the side of your hand. If you don't expect him to behave, he won't. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCE is aggression allowed with parrots. If approached with respect and love, parrots learn quickly and happily. Aggression begets aggression and is absolutely unacceptable. Experienced parrot behavior consultants agree that allowing a parrot to shoulder is asking for trouble. In this position, you cannot see a bird's body language, so you don't know if he's getting frightened or upset. You also can't anticipate and prevent a bite—and you DON'T want to be bitten in the face. If you follow these guidelines and use these commands clearly and consistently, life with your parrot should improve immensely.

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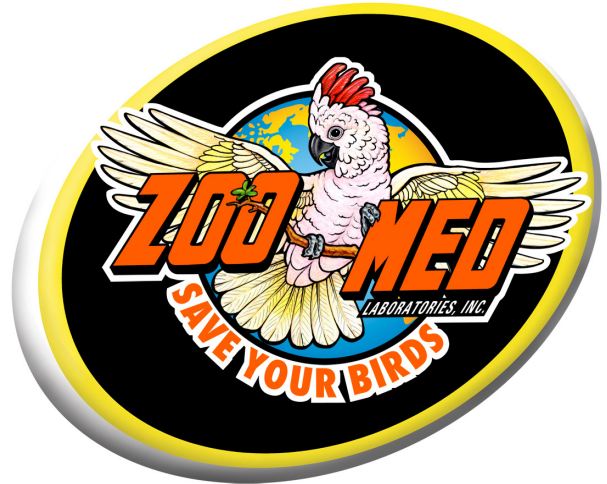
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Ann Arbor, MI 48104

All Creatures Animal Clinic
3382 Washtenaw Avenue
(734)973-1884
(Drs. Lewis & Alexander)

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Animal Kingdom Vet Hospital
4920 Ann Arbor-Saline Road
(734) 913-0003
(Dr. Daldin-Marsh)

Birch Run, MI 48415

Frankenmuth-Birch Run Veterinary Hospital
9339 Gera Road
(989) 652-6689
(Dr. Kimberlee Buck)

Birmingham, MI 48009

Birmingham Veterinary Clinic
33788 Woodward Avenue
(248) 647-5474
(Dr. Christine Glikis-Fernandez)

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Ross Animal Hospital for Animals
880 W. Long Lake
(248) 642-2050

Canton, MI 48187

Canton Center Animal Hospital
5900 Canton Center Road North
(734) 459-1400
(Drs. Grzanowski & Moran)

Clinton Twp., MI 48038-2794

Parkway Small Animal & Exotic Hosp
39321 Garfield Road
(586) 416-8800
(Drs. Bankstahl, Pope, Golombek & Engel)

Commerce Twp., MI 48382

Lakeside Animal Hospital
2645 Union Lake
(248) 363-0822
(Dr. J.A. Brooks)

Commerce Twp., MI 48390

Vet Select Animal Hospital
1010 W. Oakley Park Road
(248) 926-9696
(Dr. Andrea Maceri)

Dearborn, MI 48124

Dearborn Family Pet Care
24909 Michigan Avenue
(313) 561-5920
(Dr. Cheryl Good)

Detroit, MI 48214

Harvey Animal Hospital
18479 Mack Ave.
(313) 882-3026
(Dr. Rebecca Coll)

Detroit, MI 48214

Jefferson Veterinary Clinic
11300 E. Jefferson Street
(313) 822-2555
(Dr. Schacht)

Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Jeffrey Animal Hospital
20720 Middlebelt Road
(248) 471-3636
(Dr. Demetriou)

Highland, MI 48357

Highland Veterinary Hospital
1255 South Milford Road
(248) 887-3755
(Dr. Wilson & Groehn)

Howell, MI 48843

Countryside Veterinary Hospital
2745 East Grand River Avenue
(517) 546-5714

Jackson, MI 49201

Crossroads Animal Hospital
3232 North Dettman Road
(517) 784-1111
(Drs. Howe & Harshbarger)

Livonia, MI 48152

Sheehy Animal Hospital
18790 Middlebelt Rd.
(248) 615-7670
(Dr. Sharon Sheehy)

Livonia, MI 48154

Strong Veterinary Hospital
29212 5 Mile Rd.
(734) 427-6360

Novi, MI 48375

Breckenridge Veterinary
21524 Novi Rd.
(248) 344-8649
(Dr. Joseph Osbourne)

Plainwell, MI 49080-1067

Bluegrass Animal Hospital
594 10TH St.
(269) 685-5894
(Dr. Mary Cambell)

Plymouth, MI 48170

Roose Animal Hospital
509 W. Ann Arbor Trail
(734) 451-2870
(Drs. Roose & Knight)

Redford, MI 48239

Five Mile Animal Hospital
25920 Five Mile Road
(313) 532-4440

Rochester Hills, MI 48309

Rochester Animal Clinic
2155 Crooks
(248) 852-3650

Royal Oak, MI 48067

Woodside Animal Clinic
27452 Woodward
(248) 545-6630

Salem, MI 48175

Salem Veterinary Services
9629 W. Six Mile Road
(248) 348-5075

Southfield, MI 48076

North Branch Animal Hospital
17630 West 12 Mile Road
(248) 557-7773

Southgate, MI 48195

Southgate Animal Hospital
13697 Dix-Toledo Road
(734) 284-9122
(Drs. Keith & Eileen Cook)

Warren, MI 48088

Warren Woods Veterinary Hospital
29157 Schoenherr
(586) 751-3350
(Dr. Cappel)

Westland, MI 48186

Westland Veterinary Hospital
7610 N. Wayne Road
(734) 261-5900

Williamston, MI 48895

Cedar Creek Veterinary Clinic
2295 N. Williamston Rd.
(517) 655-4906
(Dr. Beasley)

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If emergency services are needed, call to confirm if Avian Veterinary is currently on call.

Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

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1400 Telegraph Road
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Madison Heights, MI 48071

Veterinary Emergency Service East
28223 John R
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Milford, MI 48380

Veterinary Care Specialists
205 Rowe Road
(248) 684-0468
(Dr. Stephanie Schmidt)

Novi, MI 48375

Animal Emergency Center
24360 Novi Road
(248) 348-1788 or (248) 697-2557

Plymouth, MI 48170

Veterinary Emergency Service West
40850 Ann Arbor Road
(734) 207-8500

Rochester, MI 48307

Animal Emergency Center
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