



## TRYING TO TAME THE WILD: THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF HAND-REARING PARROTS

By Kelly Duker | Avian & Animal Care Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.

**B**reeder ads often contain phrases like “hand-reared and hand-tamed, docile and sweet,” implying that hand-reared parrots will be easier, better adjusted companions in captivity. Research shows, however, that this is far from the truth. Hand-rearing in parrots is parental and social deprivation for the perceived benefit of humans and aviculture. It is a breeding practice that has been documented as the origin of many health, behavioral, and psychological struggles in captive parrots, creating a “ticking time bomb” disguised by a baby bird’s initial, gentle nature.

Like any animal-exploitative industry, breeding practices in aviculture are established to increase profit and benefit the industry rather than the individual birds themselves. Hand-rearing is an industry standard because it’s more profitable and productive than breeding parent-raised parrots, and this practice is as detrimental to the natural parents as it is to the chicks. Parrots are not biologically equipped to continuously lay; in the wild, larger species like Macaws and Amazons typically nest only once annually. In captivity when eggs or chicks are removed to be hand-reared, it unnaturally stimulates the females to continuously lay, which benefits commercial productivity, but leads to serious health and reproductive consequences in laying females.<sup>2</sup>

In addition to negative health impacts on laying females, hand-rearing increases chances of many health issues in offspring, including slower growth rates, poorer immunity, and higher incidences of bone deformities, like splayed legs. Poor feeding techniques can also lead to crop burn, aspiration pneumonia, and malnutrition.<sup>1</sup> Behavioral problems are another ubiquitous consequence of hand-rearing due to parental and social deprivation. Hand-reared parrots don’t “learn initial, social developmental skills” and coping mechanisms from their parents, which leads to maladaptive behaviors.<sup>3</sup> The negative behavioral effects have a delayed onset, with most issues becoming apparent around sexual maturity. These problems are



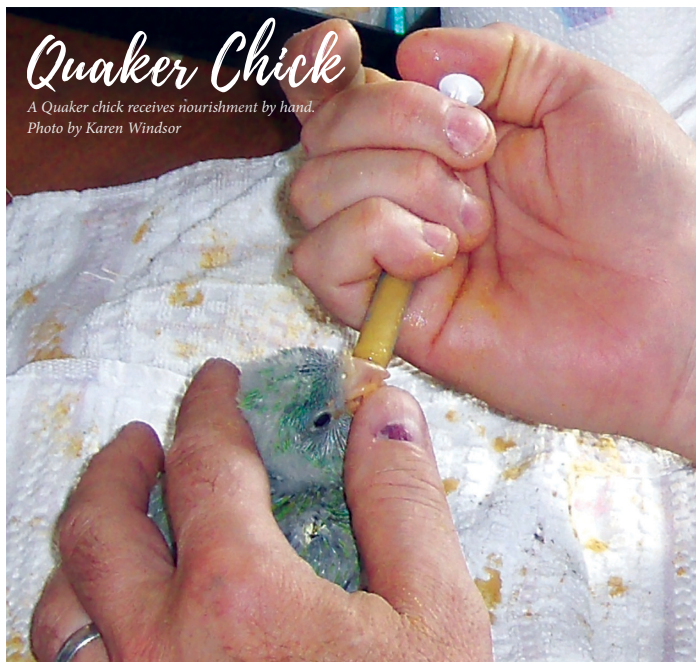
Photo by Chris Castles, MCCR

*Scarlet Macaw chick; in the wild her parents would have fed and cared for her for over a year.*

rooted in the fact that hand-reared parrots develop a ‘human self-identification’ in the absence of natural avian socialization. As a result of this abnormal human-parrot bond, parrots view humans as their flock, their families and their mates.<sup>3</sup>

In the wild, “a bird expects to never be more than a few yards from its breeding mate,” but people cannot spend 100% of their time with their parrot companions. In captivity, parrots can develop many maladaptive behaviors to cope with the frustration and confusion

# THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF HAND-REARING PARROTS (CONT'D FROM COVER)



of separation.<sup>3</sup> Confused, insecure, and frustrated over the frequent absence of their “human flock or mate,” parrots become prone to separation anxiety. Additional complexity is added once sexual maturity is reached, and parrots begin to view a favored human as their avian mate or breeding partner. This leads to further “sexually fueled separation anxiety.” Parrots experience sexual frustration, as people can never satisfy their breeding desires as an avian companion would in the wild. Caregivers unknowingly participate in “foreplay” with their birds when they physically caress or cuddle them, which worsens frustrations in the parrot. When parrots feel their needs aren't being met, they often develop ‘mate aggression,’ and lash out at their perceived mates for these confusing signals. Guardians don't know how to deal with this sudden onset of aggression.

Experiencing insecure, anxiety-filled upbringings, hand-reared parrots are prone to developing into insecure, anxious adults, exhibiting higher rates of “phobic behavior, biting behavior, feather picking and self-mutilating,” in attempts to self-soothe their anxieties.<sup>2</sup> Feather plucking is observed in 17% of hand reared individuals as opposed to 1% of parent raised birds, demonstrating the traumatic consequences of an absence of normal social

**H**and reared birds exhibit higher rates of “phobic behavior, biting behavior, feather picking and self-mutilating,” in attempts to self-soothe their anxieties.<sup>2</sup> Feather plucking is observed in 17% of hand reared individuals as opposed to 1% of parent raised birds...

development.<sup>4</sup> This form of self-mutilation is something simply not seen in the wild; it is a symptom of captivity.

Foster Parrots receives many hand-reared, human-bonded birds who are relinquished due to the fact that natural avian behaviors ultimately do not mesh with a home setting. These birds are stuck in a limbo between human-self orientation and being wild animals, of not fitting into a human social setting but not knowing how to truly ‘bird’ in a community aviary within our sanctuary. These parrots are our most challenging sanctuary residents.

Foster Parrots is a strong supporter of implementing legislation that would ban hand-rearing parrots in the US, similar to anti-hand rearing legislation passed in 2014 in the Netherlands. While we understand that hand-rearing can be necessary in rehabilitation situations or life-saving contexts, there are no advantages of hand rearing to individual birds in the commercial breeding industry; clearly the disadvantages are leading to overwhelming numbers of broken individuals stuck between who they



are and who we're trying to mold them to be. Hand-rearing can never compare to the well-rounded developmental benefits birds get from their own parents and the socialization and learned complexities they get from a flock. There is no magic fix to make a wild parrot thrive in captivity; they simply don't belong there. Trying to tame them crushes the very freedom that enamored people with parrots to begin with.

1. Glendell, G. (2008). Behavioural Problems in Companion parrots. *Veterinary Times (UK)*. 2. Hooimeijer, J. (2011). Negative Effects as a Result of Hand Rearing Parrots. (n.d.). AAV. Seattle. 3. Miesle, J. (2022). Hand-raised or Parent-raised: Which is Better for the Birds? *Avian Health and Disease*. 4. Pierluca Costa, Elisabetta Macchi, Laura Tomassone, Fulvio Ricceri, Enrico Bollo, Frine Eleonora Scaglione, Martina Tarantola, Michele De Marco, Liviana Prola, Domenico Bergero & Achille Schiavone (2016) Feather picking in pet parrots: sensitive species, risk factor and ethological evidence, *Italian Journal of Animal Science*, 15:3, 473-480, DOI: 10.1080/1828051X.2016.1195711

# A HEART & SOUL INVESTMENT AND THE PRICE WE PAY FOR LOVE: STORIES OF RESCUE AND RECOVERY

By Karen Windsor | Executive Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.

**The impact of captivity on the lives of parrots falls heavy on the shoulders and in the hearts of parrot rescuers.**

Every single bird coming into our care has a story, has been deeply affected by their relationships with humans and has suffered some level of pain and loss. Bearing witness repeatedly to the suffering of animals, rescuers pay a high price for the path they have chosen. Rescue work is about healing. **The work is hard, and the emotional toll can be overwhelming. But the balance is found in the success stories.**



Chief,  
before

© Foster Parrots Ltd.



Chief,  
after

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**Chief** was a wild-caught, **Red-Fan Parrot** (aka Hawk-Headed Parrot) who was surrendered to Foster Parrots in 2010. He was a mess. His wings had been destroyed by his chewing and plucking, his lower belly was bare and his feathers were ragged and dull.

We have observed Red-Fan Parrots in the wild in Guyana.

We have also observed them trapped by

the dozens in cages at the wildlife export station in Georgetown. We know of the horrors experienced by wild-caught parrots, and how their survival during capture is highly unlikely. Looking into the carrier at Chief upon his arrival, I knew that this bird had been through Hell on Earth. Adult Red-Fan Parrots are notorious for their aggression, and as I opened the carrier door and reached in, I braced myself for a vicious bite, but I felt I deserved to pay the price for all of the pain and abuse this bird had suffered at the hands of humans. Instead of biting, though, Chief gently stepped onto my hand.

This survivor became a special focus over the years to come, and all this attention, understanding and support helped to heal Chief's body. Somehow, despite the adversity of his past, Chief remained gentle and welcomed the love. He was older than we had guessed. Chief passed away from heart failure in 2019.



© Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue

Luca,  
before

Starvation, dehydration and predation take the lives of countless parrots who escape or are intentionally released. Those were the threats that almost took the life of Luca, a little Orange Fronted Conure who was rescued from the mouth of a cat by a good Samaritan, and brought to **Mickaboo Companion**

**Bird Rescue**, located in San Jose, California. "He looked truly awful," explained Robin Pugh, a parrot care specialist at Mickaboo. "He had cuts everywhere, puncture wounds and missing feathers. He was seriously underweight. Cat saliva is extremely dangerous to birds, so he was given emergency medical treatment immediately, which helped to save his life." Indeed, the fact that Luca, in his condition, had survived the bacterial assault, was almost inexplicable. He was a lucky little parrot. "Even after physical recovery, he was

## STORIES OF RESCUE & RECOVERY (CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)



Luca,  
after

an extremely skittish bird," says Robin. "It seemed unlikely he had any positive interactions with humans before. But several months of care led to a huge improvement, a happy adoption and a whole new life for Luca." There could not have been a happier outcome for a rescue that could have ended in tragedy.

Sometimes a parrot comes into a rescue organization so broken, recovery does not seem possible, but parrots continually surprise us with their resilience, their capacity for forgiveness, and their strength of

spirit. In 2007 when **Moluccan Cockatoo, Karly**, arrived at **Midwest Avian Adoption & Rescue Services (MAARS)**, located in St. Paul, Minnesota, his survival was unlikely. "He had multiple systemic bacterial and fungal infections and his body was starting to shut down from years of neglect and abuse," recalls MAARS Executive Director, Galiena Cimperman. "His skull had been crushed by blunt force trauma, and the force of the blow had permanently misaligned his beak, crushed one eye socket completely, and detached the retina on the other side, leaving him completely blind. He suffered seizures due to both the head trauma and the infections overwhelming his system. Despite all this, he had an amazing fighting spirit, so we decided to fight with him."

This was abuse on a scale so unimaginable, it shattered the hearts of the staff at MAARS, but sometimes the hardest won battles are the ones that touch us the deepest. Over the months and years to follow, Karly blossomed from a broken, withdrawn, silent bird into a bird who learned how to feel joy again, welcome friendship again, and use his enormous cockatoo voice again. "While the physical damage done to Karly would always be there, he was unrecognizable from the bird he was when he came in," says Galiena, recalling how he loved singing and laughing, being surrounded by humans and other birds, and using the full force of his voice, which became everyone's favorite sound in the building. He was a cherished member of MAARS' flock for 14 years. He passed away from congestive heart failure in 2021.

Healing a parrot who had seemed beyond healing both in body and spirit is a powerful motivator. It has to be. Burdened by the suffering they witness, the inevitable losses and the guilt of not being able to help every parrot in need, rescue professionals face enormous emotional challenges and are prone to depression, compassion fatigue and burnout.

There are more requests for the surrender of parrots than anyone can handle, there are never enough volunteers and there is never enough funding. But there is hope. Our success stories have the power to renew our commitment to the lives of the birds under our care and motivate us to fight for the freedom of those who still fly free.



Karly

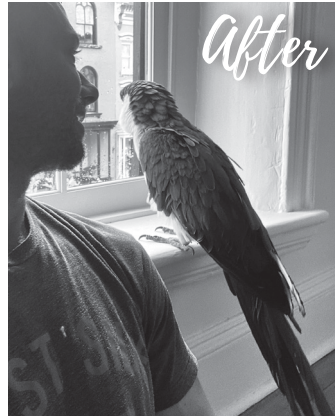


# ADOPTION SUCCESS STORIES OF 2022

By Amanda Coleman | Adoption Program Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.

Please enjoy these incredible adoption success stories from the past year! In 2022, Foster Parrots placed 63 birds into caring, loving homes. Highlighted here are four stories about birds who spent an extended time with us but eventually found wonderful homes!

**Rocco** Blue & Gold Macaw | **Rescued:** November 27, 2021 | **Adopted:** July 6, 2022

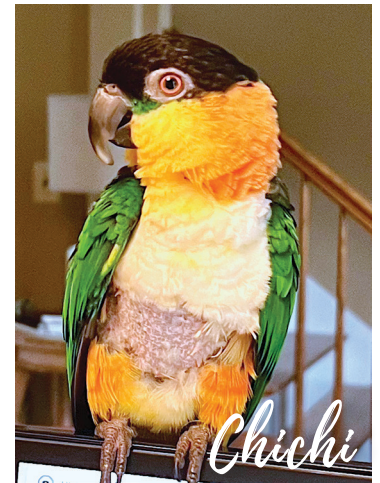


**Rocco** was surrendered to Foster Parrots in November of 2021 after his guardian became terminally ill and was hospitalized, leaving Rocco and several cats alone at home. A neighbor found Rocco alone in a dark room with nothing but moldy peanuts to subsist on. Rocco spent nearly 8 months in our adoption center, until he met Bryan, who had previously adopted from Foster Parrots. When Bryan stepped through the adoption center door, Rocco lit up, eyes pinning, and he immediately offered his head for "scratches." We had never before seen Rocco become so engaged and excited over a person! He chose Bryan that day and Bryan chose to spend the rest of his life caring for Rocco. Rocco's life has been completely transformed! We couldn't do the work we do without committed, caring adopters like Bryan. His life, like many of ours, has truly gone to the birds.

**Chichi** Black-capped Caique | **Rescued:** February 1, 2022 | **Adopted:** July 9, 2022

**Chichi** arrived at Foster Parrots in February 2022. Approximately 8 years old, this energetic Caique had already been passed through 4 different homes due to his behavioral challenges. He becomes agitated and aggressive when people leave, when he is caged for too long, and when his routine is disrupted in any way. Due to these behaviors, it was difficult to find Chichi the perfect guardian, but in July of 2022 he finally found his special human and a wonderful adoptive home. Chichi still exhibits some of his behavioral "tics" but through a new and consistent routine and by working closely with an avian behavior consultant, Chichi is thriving in his new home.

Caiques are a popular species in the pet trade due to their outgoing personalities and "clowny" behavior. They have been further popularized by social media videos which highlight friendly, silly, personalities. Unfortunately, many are surrendered due to the enormous amount of social, physical, and mental stimulation needed to meet the needs of this intelligent species. Ample exercise is a must for these high energy birds to keep them physically and mentally healthy.



**Lola & Twinkie** **Lola:** Umbrella Cockatoo | **Rescued:** July 8, 2021 **Twinkie:** Major Mitchell's Cockatoo | **Rescued:** March 5, 2022 | **Adopted Together:** August 3, 2022



**Lola and Twinkie** are two special cases who arrived at our doorstep 8 months apart! Lola was surrendered to Foster Parrots during the summer of 2021. Like many parrots living in captivity, Lola had guardians who loved her immensely but were not equipped to handle a cockatoo over the long-term. She came to us at the age of 30 and had lived in 4 previous homes that we are aware of.

When Twinkie arrived at Foster Parrots in March of 2022, he was a shy and skittish bird who did not venture out of his cage often and would flee to the back of the cage whenever any of our staff and volunteers approached. Twinkie maintained this behavior for months. During the early summer months of 2022, he began to take an interest in Lola. Whenever she approached, he would fan his crest, vocalize and make attempts to come out of his cage. She was the driving force behind his sudden boost of confidence. One of Foster Parrot's volunteers, Danielle, who had established a relationship with Lola, brought both Lola and Twinkie home in August. With the encouragement of both Danielle and Lola, Twinkie has matured into a confident bird who even enjoys being handled! When relationships form between birds in our Adoption Center, we wait for that special adopter who will take on two birds instead of just one. Protecting pair-bonds is critical for the psychological and social wellness of the pair. Thank you to Danielle and her family for creating an environment in which both birds are able to thrive.

# HOME SANCTUARY: A NEW CONCEPT IN RESCUE, PROVIDING HOPE FOR UNADOPTABLE BIRDS

By Karen Windsor | Executive Director | Foster Parrots Ltd.



There's an old saying about Amazon parrots: When they are good, they are very, very good, but when they are bad – run! **Yellow-naped Amazon, Chester**, was one of the latter, transferred to Foster Parrots by **Connecticut Parrot Rescue** because he defied any possibility of adoption. With a little bit of work we were able to integrate him into one of our Amazon aviaries, and he continues to impress us every day with his formidable propensity for human-focused aggression.

Sanctuaries fill quickly with parrots who, like Chester, are undesirable adoption candidates. While the New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary is equipped to accommodate aggressive parrots, most normal people are not. But not all parrots who have been deemed “unadoptable” have been labeled so because of aggression. Very often it is simply that they do not want to be handled. Most people are looking for a companionable parrot.

Bonded pairs of parrots who prefer one another's companionship and reject human socialization are of particular concern to us at the sanctuary. Many people do not understand that bonds between birds are strong and emotional. The risk of birds like this being separated is great. Older, wild-caught parrots who are fearful of people are highly likely to suffer in situations of

profound social isolation and poor care. These are the kinds of birds Foster Parrots prioritizes for rescue and for space in the sanctuary. Parrots in need of medical intervention are also a primary focus. Many can be healed with the appropriate veterinary care and soon become eager candidates for adoption, but sometimes health issues are chronic, requiring a lifetime of medical support that many potential adopters cannot commit to. The pressure put on sanctuaries by overwhelming numbers of unadoptable parrots in need of permanent care demonstrates an untenable avian/animal welfare crisis as we are forced to collectively triage an endless flow of surrender requests.



Our resident **Green-winged Macaws, Isaac and Hayes**, did not accept handling and could sometimes be fresh, but they enjoyed interacting with their human caregivers at the sanctuary. They just had a rule: Don't touch and we won't bite. These feisty macaws would have been sanctuary residents for life, but there were health issues at hand. Isaac had developed allergies stemming from hyper-sensitivity to bird dander at the sanctuary. Hayes was borna virus positive. As Isaac's episodes of respiratory distress began to increase, it had become evident that the pair would need to leave the sanctuary, but finding someone willing to take on two, giant, unhandleable parrots with health problems did not seem possible. Then one day our volunteer, Julian Trilling, walked into the medical room to sing to the birds with her beautiful voice, as she often did, and we knew we had our girl.

Julian brought the macaws home and her desire to care for them, get to know them, learn how to read them and sing to them became a primary focus in her life. She calls them her "dragons." Two years later, Isaac and Hayes are thriving under her care. "I love these crazy kids," Julian gushes. "They are so independent, but also really enjoy the company of humans, and I love the dynamic we have established, even though it's a little odd. One of my favorite things about them is that they have never been "pets," and they still aren't... I don't think these two will ever fall under the "pet" umbrella. My wonderfully wild, winged friends."



**Pumpkin Pie and Matey**, a strongly bonded pair of elderly **Sun Conures**, were in need of aggressive medical attention when they were rescued from a hoarding situation and brought into the sanctuary in 2019. Many years of poor care, malnutrition and vitamin deficiencies had left the aging birds frail, with permanent neurological damage that impaired their mobility and balance. Pumpkin's degeneration was particularly severe, requiring vitamin injections and medical support that helped to keep her comfortable for the next two years until her peaceful passing in 2021.

Without his partner, Matey was very much alone. He was too old and frail to be integrated into an aviary and he was resolutely resistant to human socialization. His loneliness was like a barrier around him that no one could breach, but long-time Foster Parrots volunteer, Ashley Nutini, was as persistent as Matey was stubborn. She slowly began to forge a bond with this ornery old man. Finally, although she knew his time with her would be short, Ashley brought Matey home in October of 2021. He was completely untouchable when he left the sanctuary with her, but at home, Ashley began a routine of love and handling despite his complaints, scooping him up in a fleecy wrap every day to gently preen him. He began to like it. Before long, he began to

anticipate it, and he would wait by his cage door for Ashley to come and pick him up in the cozy fleece blanket for his preening sessions.

The concept of offering Home Sanctuary was not new to Ashley and her wife, Jamie. **Felix and Bandit**, two older Amazons with strong social boundaries, had previously gone home with them from the sanctuary. Taking responsibility for these birds, Ashley and Jamie had helped to free up sanctuary space for other birds in need while providing a supportive environment where two old birds could be accepted on their own terms. Matey was in good company. But as had been expected, the old sun conure began to decline over time. Ashley and Jamie gave him an abundance of love and support until he finally passed at the start of December 2022, with Ashley by his side.

There are not enough parrot sanctuaries in the U.S., and not enough room in the sanctuaries that do exist for the volume of unadoptable, uncompanionable or medically challenged parrots in need of placement. Even rescue organizations that normally offer only adoption services find themselves holding parrots who cannot be placed. Introducing the concept of "Home Sanctuaries" may be a solution.

**Offering one's home as a Sanctuary means understanding parrots on a selfless level. It means accepting and respecting boundaries and behaviors that may not be altogether pleasant.** It's about making a choice to share one's home with a wild animal purely for their benefit and making a long-term commitment to the welfare of that animal. This is not a pet. This is a sovereign individual who needs a place to simply "be." Home Sanctuary transcends adoption not only for the chance it offers an otherwise unplaceable parrot, but for the service it provides to the rescue community as a whole, leaving space in sanctuary for parrots like Chester, who are at the highest risk of all.

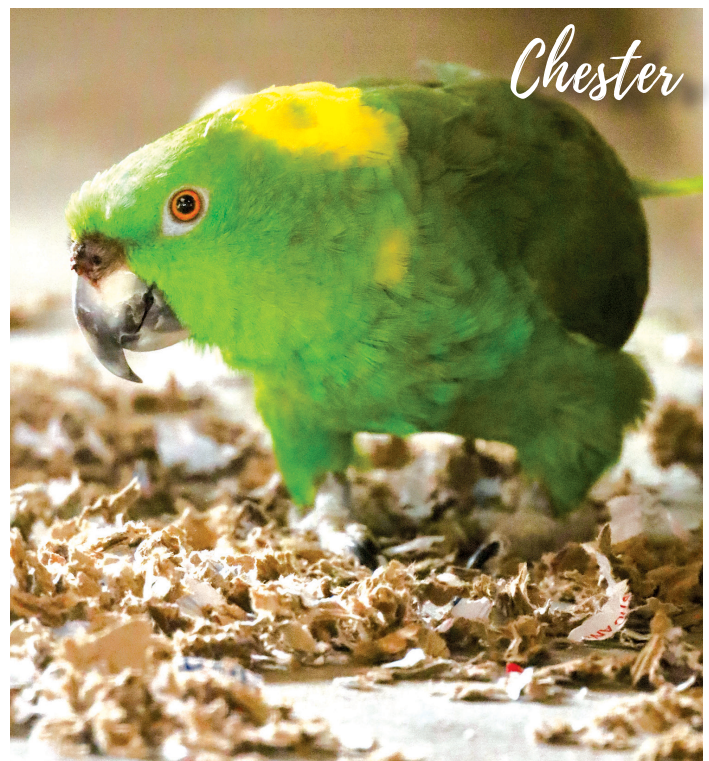




Photo by One World Conservation

## ENVISION THIS: ABDUCTION FROM THE WILD

By Briana Robertson | Avian Care & Enrichment Specialist | Foster Parrots Ltd.

**Envision this:** You are peacefully resting in your nest hole, when suddenly you are snatched from your home in pure darkness and shoved into a bag. You're bounced around for hours not knowing what is going on or where you are. You scream in fear. When the bag is opened and you finally see light, you're surrounded by unfamiliar faces and the reality sets in: you're no longer at home. There are no loved ones, no food. The things you knew are gone.

You're placed back into the darkness again, this time in a crate filled with many others who look like you. It stinks in there. The crate is filled with feces and old moldy food scraps. It's hot and it's hard to breathe. Light shines through cracks. When the crate is finally opened, you're being moved again. This time you're crammed into a small, filthy cage. You are unable to spread your wings or turn around comfortably. People walk up to your cage, banging the bars and poking at you, trying to get your attention, but you are too scared to move. You're ready to lunge and bite due to your fear and stress.

The next time that cage door opens is when you're thrown into a carrier and brought into a human home where people continue to try to touch you. They're yelling commands at you, but you don't understand why. You're stressed, uncomfortable and trapped. You want to hide but there's nowhere to go, so you fight back. It only gets worse.

Next thing you know you're alone again and still inside that filthy cage, but now it's covered. You hear sounds

in the distance, the familiar sounds of those who yelled at you every day. Sadly, although the human faces may change, this won't be the last time you'll feel like this. You'll be bounced from place to place until you take your last breath, all alone, stressed and in the dark.

**This darkness is one of the realities of the parrot trade.** Parrots in the wild are ripped from everything they know, inhumanly trafficked, and forced to endure situations and environments beyond their comprehension. **Ask yourself these questions: Why take a beautiful parrot from the sky, put it in a cage and clip its wings so it cannot fly? What makes our lives more important than theirs?**



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Logo design by Marc Johnson



# SCENES FROM THE SANCTUARY: *This is why you support us!*



*Fire survivor, Buddy, is thriving as a member of our Ed Hall flock!*



*Cosmo — Cutest & sweetest little Green-Cheeked Conure; surrendered for aggression!*



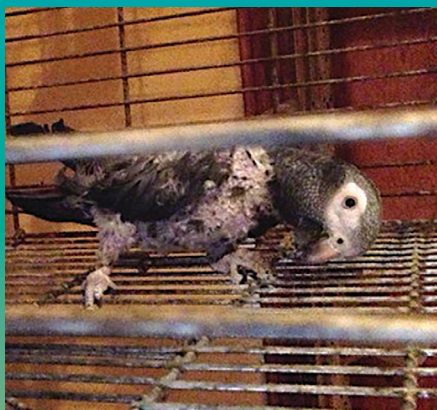
*A wild-caught odd couple, Phio & Brutus: Orange-Winged Amazon, Phio, is exclusively partial to African Greys.*



*Zest — Before and after; now a healthy and happy canary in our 'Keets and 'Tiels' aviary.*



*Gizmo and friend, Emily Stacy, one of many members of the "Gizmo Fan Club!"*



*African Grey Kai, before & after: Rescued by Foster Parrots and lovingly adopted by volunteer, Bev Lewis. Kai is now beautiful, well-adjusted and happy.*



*Scarlet Macaw Lucy is a sweet and gentle soul.*



*Eclectus Ozzie trying to feed Hyacinth Macaw Daisy: This could take all day!*



*Blue and Gold Macaw, Izzy: Give a bird a box...and the possibilities are endless!*



Photos by Brian Jones



Photo by One Earth Conservation

# UNCONDITIONAL SOLIDARITY

By Dr. LoraKim Joyner | Co- Founder & President | One Earth Conservation

There is no doubt that the earth's systems and beings are in crisis. Humans can respond to this by withdrawing into themselves, and by hunkering down to guard resources and protect themselves and those close to them. But there is another way. Solutions can come from recognizing that we are all interconnected in beauty and worth, and that it matters when another being suffers! Embracing that reality means embracing a sense of solidarity with all life on this planet.

Writing the book "Prion" was a way for me to share this vision in story form and show how people might come together in crisis and sorrow. I even imagined that "Prion" could inspire the movement that is described in the book: **Unconditional Solidarity, Solidaridad Incondicional (US/SI!)**. In "Prion," people join US/SI by celebrating the beauty and worth of life and mourning what has been lost.

They come together in a crucible of paradoxical love, both wanting to disengage from life and to embrace it. Out

of these tensions comes Unconditional Solidarity, which is a vision and a belief that all life matters. It means that we help each other maintain faith that life is woven of worth, beauty and tragedy, and we discover, over and over again, how life and the power of love know no bounds.

Parrots are the species to which people make their promises in "Prion". Why parrots? In my writing, I wanted the chance to spread more widely the message of the inherent worth, complexity, and beauty of parrots, as well as the harm of the wildlife trade that

our human demands engender. I also wanted to write about parrots to give hope, not just to parrot protection projects, but to myself. US/SI is the conservation approach used by One Earth Conservation, and it's hard to keep going without others to foster a vision based on life's wonders in the midst of such senseless loss.

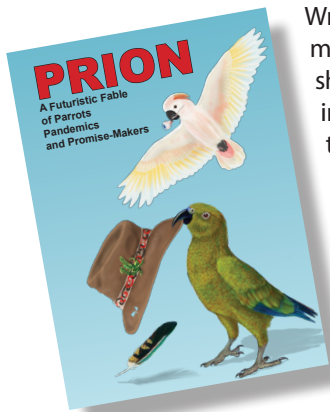
To promote the US/SI vision in Central America, we have created a unifying logo and have made US/SI stickers and patches to give out to people in our projects. I have been surprised to see people take so quickly to the concept, even despite the many different cultures and languages. In real life, people are reacting like the characters in "Prion," where there is a joy in belonging to such a movement and vision. Hands reach out eagerly to make US/SI part of their lives by immediately incorporating the stickers and patches onto clothes, uniforms, hats, books, computers, and phones.

**We would now like to invite you to use this emblem and join us in Unconditional Solidarity/Solidaridad Incondicional (US/SI), a commitment to uphold the beauty and the interconnectedness of all life on earth.** I imagine the US/SI concept being adopted all over the world, as in "Prion," where this symbol gave rise to a popular grass roots movement, as varied as the people and species on this planet.

May it be so.



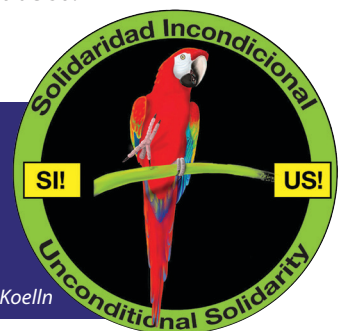
A Honduran soldier affixes the US/SI patch to his fatigues. Photo by One Earth Conservation



**Downloadable files of the US/SI logo are available on the One Earth Conservation and Foster Parrots websites. Stickers, patches and apparel soon to come!**

**Scan the QR code to read about One Earth Conservation's work featured in National Geographic.**

Logo design by Dr. Pat Latas and Gail Koelln



# FOSTER PARROTS MARCH MATCH\*



# WATCH WATCH

FEATURING A  
**\$20,000**  
MATCHING POOL!

\* All donations received during the month of March will be generously matched up to \$20,000!

We cannot do the work  
we do without YOU.  
Thank you for your support!



Photos by Brian Jones



## Your support is what makes this happen!

Each year Foster Parrots holds 3 major fundraising events:

- 1 Our March Matching Fund Drive, with its \$20,000 matching pool**, has been our longest-running fundraising initiative and a favorite for our long-time supporters. Helping to establish an unshakable foundation under Foster Parrots, it continues to be an essential source of support and strength.
- 2 Our Fall Fundraiser**, an unforgettable, annual celebration enabling us to give back to our supporters, bringing us all together at the sanctuary for a festival-style event.
- 3 Our Year-End Fund Drive**, has grown as our biggest and most indispensable annual fundraising event, closing gaps in our budget and helping to set us up for success in the year to come.

We hope you will choose to embrace at least one of these annual fundraising initiatives! YOU are the force behind the work we do.

### Because of you:

- ★ Over **320 Sanctuary residents** are provided with veterinary support, outstanding nutrition, beautiful aviary environments and an unsurpassed level of love and care by our staff and volunteers.
- ★ Our incredible **Adoption** program increases our capacity for rescue activity and enables us to place parrots in loving, committed homes.
- ★ Our dynamic public **Education** programs are helping to drive change in avian welfare.
- ★ Our **Conservation** partners in the field and the larger avian welfare community at home has the power to join together in **Unconditional Solidarity** to protect our birds, our animals and our planet.



Scan the QR code to easily donate online or go to [www.fosterparrots.com](http://www.fosterparrots.com)  
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# FOSTER PARROTS MARCH MATCH WATCH FUNDRAISER



# YES! I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ANNUAL MARCH MATCH FUNDRAISER! \$20,000!

\*All donations made in March will be matched up to

Your contribution to Foster Parrots, Ltd. helps provide care for over 300 parrots and animals at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary. It supports our humane education and adoption programs, and it helps to protect the freedom of wild parrots and natural habitat. **Help us rebuild our sanctuary and provide homes for animals in need. Thank you for your support!**

**Yes! I want to support the work of Foster Parrots, Ltd. with a tax-deductible donation of:**

- \$25
- \$50
- \$75
- \$100
- \$200
- \$300
- \$500
- \$1000
- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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Or, mail a check payable to Foster Parrots Ltd.  
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